

School Integration – FAQs

Q. What kind of schools do BLS work with?

A. We work with all types of schools. Some public but most state sector. We will send a list as a guideline but this list is not set in stone and only a guide.

Q. How does BLS select the partner schools for integration?

A. We meet with schools that are warm and welcoming and interested in international students joining as guests. We do not base our selection on Ofsted reports.

Q. Which age group will students be in?

A. Students will be placed into year groups of equivalent age or close - this might mean joining classes up or down by one year.

Q. How far are the schools from the homestay / Bury St Edmunds?

A. It is a maximum 40 minutes from homestay to integration.

Q. How will students get to the integration school?

A. If the schools are in Bury St Edmunds, the children will be walking. However, if the schools are outside of Bury St Edmunds, transport will be provided by either the host, BLS driver or coach / minibus from central meeting point. Included in the fees.

Q. Can we choose our school?

A. No. We select based on availability and match as best we can with age and nationality. We will split across different schools if needed.

Q. Do students have buddies assigned?

A. Yes local schools will be aware of this requirement. It is usually one per student but can be 2-1 ratios in some situations.

Q. Do students get end of course certificates?

A. Yes, BLS present these towards the end of the programme.

Q. Do students have hot lunches at school?

A. They usually do. However, if a school requests the children to take packed lunch, this will be supplied. All lunches are covered in the fees.

Q. Do students need school uniform?

A. Yes, in most cases they will. Once school is selected, we will issue the guidelines on uniform. It is usually just colour coordinated clothes so nothing expensive.

No trainers are allowed for any school. We suggest pleated plain trousers or skirt (black or navy dark blue) and plain white shirt or blouse. Jumpers optional but again must be plain. No logos and no jewellery. If unsure, please ask first.



Q. Are Mobile Phones Allowed?

A. Primary schools – no mobiles allowed on site and are not required. Secondary schools it may be okay to have them but switched off in bags and not used while in school. Only to be used when off the school site.

Q. Are group leaders allowed to stay in the integration school?

A. Some schools insist on this – especially primary schools. Secondary schools usually do not allow this. BLS can usually arrange a tour on one of the first few days to take a look around. BLS will always be notified if there are any problems and group leaders can then access the school quickly.

Q. Do group leaders require any special paperwork?

A. Yes, they do. Police certificates and passport copies are required in advance of arrival. integration school and for BLS junior sites.

Q. What would happen if the local school cancels the arrangements?

A. Although extremely unlikely, there is always a risk when working with other schools. BLS would do everything possible to make alternative plans. However, ultimately this would be out of our control and the worst-case scenario would be a replacement English language programme.