

UK Law and Customs

Coming to a new country is quite strange - there are lots of laws and customs that might be different from your country.

Here are a few things you need to know about living in London and the UK.

- You cannot buy alcohol, tobacco or e-cigs until you are 18 years old. Shops and pubs might ask you for ID.
- You cannot smoke in any public buildings, including stations.
- You cannot drink alcohol in most public spaces, including buses and underground trains.
- You cannot have any weapons with you.
- Do not drop rubbish in the street (including cigarette ends) - always use a bin. You may be fined if you are caught dropping rubbish.



London and the UK has people of many nationalities, cultures and ethnicities. It is important that we all respect each other, and it is against school rules (and against the law) to discriminate against people because of their:

- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion
- sexual orientation or gender identity
- marital status
- age
- disability



Students who are guilty of any of these or any other criminal offences in the UK may be asked to leave the school and/or their accommodation with no refund.

Some other customs we have in this country include:

- standing on the right. On the underground and at stations, stand on the right on escalators. If you want to walk up or down the escalator, walk on the left.
- queuing. It is very important to queue in shops, cafes and other places - do not push in.
- putting toilet paper in the toilet. Discard toilet paper in the toilet - do not put toilet paper in the bin. Put anything else in the bin.



Cars drive on the left in the UK, so make sure you look both ways before you cross the road. It is best to use pedestrian crossings. There are two types:

- Zebra Crossings: pedestrians have right of way, but be careful of traffic driving fast.
- Pelican Crossings: push the button and cross the road when you see the green man.

