



Student Roost

UNDER 18s POLICY

Scope of the policy

This policy applies to all persons housed by Student Roost who are under the age of 18, the persons with parental responsibility for them, Student Roost staff, Student Roost's contractors who come into contact with under-18s, and Student Roost's nominations and head leasing partners.

Objective of the policy

The policy aims to set out what young occupiers and their parents or guardians can expect from Student Roost, and what Student Roost expects in return. The objective is to enable young occupiers and their families to make an informed choice about their accommodation.

Applications for accommodation

Student Roost will consider applications from students who will be over the age of 16 but under the age of 18 at the start of their chosen letting period.

Allocation of accommodation

Student Roost's accommodation is an adult environment, where most tenants are aged over 18. Student Roost does not accept parental responsibility for occupiers under the age of 18. Allocations are not based on age, gender or religious belief. Students sharing a flat with a person under the age of 18 will not have been specially vetted. Students under the age of 18 will not share their sleeping accommodation with another person (unless they have a disability and share with their carer). They will share living accommodation and kitchens with other students, and may have to share a bathroom. Student Roost does not have facilities for accommodating a student's household staff.

Contracts for accommodation

Successful applicants will be asked to enter into a tenancy agreement. It is the role of the person with parental responsibility to make sure that the student understands the terms of the tenancy agreement and is willing to comply.

Parental responsibility

Student Roost does not accept parental responsibility or act *in loco parentis*. The Children Act 1989 outlines who has parental responsibility, as follows:

- (a) A mother always has parental responsibility for her child.
- (b) A father only has parental responsibility if he is married to the mother when the child is born or has acquired legal responsibility for his child by:
 - (i) Jointly registering the birth of the child with the mother
 - (ii) A parental responsibility agreement with the mother
 - (iii) A parental responsibility order, made by a court
- (c) The child's legally appointed guardian who has been appointed either by a court or by a parent with parental responsibility in the event of their own death. (This is different from a professional guardian, who does not automatically have parental responsibility, but has the responsibilities set out in the guardianship contract.)
- (d) A person in whose favour a court has made a residence order concerning the child.
- (e) A local authority designated in a care order in respect of the child (but not where the child is being looked after under section 20 of the Children Act, also known as being 'accommodated' or in 'voluntary care').
- (f) A local authority or other authorised person who holds an emergency protection order in respect of the child.

When an international student under the age of 18 applies for Student Roost accommodation, they will be asked to provide the name and contact details of a responsible adult in the UK. This may be a family member or a professional guardian, and they will be deemed to have parental responsibility for the applicant.

Foster parents and grandparents do not automatically have parental responsibility.

Children who are wards of court will need to have their 'important steps' approved by the court. This may include approval to live independently in an adult environment before they reach the age of 18.

In England, all parents (including adoptive parents) have a legal duty to financially support their child, whether they have parental responsibility or not.

Welfare and support

Students and their families should make sure that the student has the English language skills they will need to live independently, or that they have a contact in the UK who can help them out if required. This may be someone at their place of study.

The responsible adult will need to agree a plan with Kaplan and the student's family as to who will take responsibility for the student in the event of a serious incident.

All accommodation is self-catering. It is the responsible adult's role to ensure that the applicant has the skills to feed themselves properly and stay healthy.

At Student Roost, students under the age of 18 are allocated to a Tenancy Support Officer (TSO), who will be the main point of contact. The TSO will arrange to meet the student once a month. If the student does not attend the meeting, the TSO will inform the responsible adult.

The responsible adult must provide Student Roost with their address, telephone number and, if available, e-mail address. The responsible adult will be the first point of contact in an emergency, and Student Roost must therefore be notified promptly if these details change. Student Roost will not accept liability for any problem which arises because the responsible adult has failed to provide up-to-date contact information.

Student Roost does not accept parental responsibility for students. We encourage students under the age of 18 to remain in contact with the person who has parental responsibility for them, but we cannot force them to do so if this is not what they want. Student Roost respects students' wishes for privacy. This may sometimes mean that we do not contact the person with parental responsibility when they might expect.

Student Roost will not monitor how the student spends their leisure time or manages their finances. We will not check whether a student is attending their lectures or coping with their course. We will not check that they return home every evening. We will not check who visits them. We will not report routinely to the person with parental responsibility if there are no areas of concern.

Student Roost cannot give consent to medical treatment on a student's behalf. Consent will have to be given by the student themselves or a person with parental responsibility. Students and (where applicable) their responsible adults are responsible for managing the student's medication and health. Student Roost will not administer medication or supervise the taking of medication.

Student Roost does not provide emergency first aid, medical support or nursing care to students who are unwell. If Student Roost becomes aware that a student is unwell in a way that may need treatment, Student Roost will provide the student (on request) with details of where to obtain treatment or advice.

If a student is unable to take care of themselves Student Roost is likely to contact the responsible adult, but will try and take the student's wishes into account where practicable.

If a student is seriously ill and is admitted to hospital the hospital will normally contact the next of kin. Student Roost will normally contact the responsible adult in these cases, but is not under an obligation to do so.

Safety and security

Student Roost carries out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on TSOs. Student Roost does not carry out DBS checks, or provide training on under-18s, for its other staff, other students, contractors or owners of properties which are managed but not owned by Student Roost.

All contractors (e.g. attending to carry out repairs) and Student Roost staff (e.g. attending to carry out inspections) will carry personal identification and will present it on request. They will only visit during normal working hours, except in an emergency situation. If a student is unsure about whether to allow someone to have access to their room or flat, they should contact their TSO before allowing access.

Student Roost's buildings are not open to the public. Some, but not all, of Student Roost's accommodation has CCTV in the shared areas. If the student would feel more secure where there is CCTV, they should check whether it is in operation at their chosen site before applying.

Access to buildings and rooms is by a key or fob system.

Students under the age of 18 may be allocated a ground-floor room.

Intimate relations between Student Roost staff and students under the age of 18 are strictly prohibited. Staff found to be guilty of such conduct are likely to be dismissed. If the member of staff holds a position of trust, the matter is likely to be reported to the police.

Student Roost has a comprehensive health and safety policy which can be viewed on request

Time spent away from Student Roost's accommodation

Students do not need to sign in or sign out every time they enter or leave the building. Student Roost will not check up on a student to make sure they return to their accommodation every evening. The student does not need to ask Student Roost's permission if they wish to go away for a few days. If a student notifies Student Roost that they are going away for the weekend, for example, Student Roost would not check to ensure that was where the student was actually going to be.

If a student wishes to take part in a field trip or any social activities, it will be the responsibility of the person or organisation arranging that activity to seek any parental consents that may be required. Student Roost does not carry out a risk assessment of an activity that has not been organised by Student Roost.

Confidentiality and data protection

If a student requests to speak to a member of Student Roost staff in confidence, the member of staff will explain to the student that the student's confidentiality will be maintained unless they consider that failing to disclose information would result in significant harm to the student or to another person. The student can then make an informed choice about whether to continue the conversation.

People under the age of 18 are entitled to protection of their personal data. Student Roost will treat the student's and the responsible adult's personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Students under the age of 18 will be asked to sign a consent form confirming that they agree to Student Roost and Kaplan sharing information about them with each other, the responsible adult and any person with parental responsibility for the student). The consent will enable Student Roost and/or Kaplan to disclose information about the student and their tenancy to the responsible adult, but without imposing any obligation to do so.

Responsible adults should be aware that Student Roost does not check up on students on a daily basis and may not necessarily become aware of any of a significant event until some time after it happens. Student Roost encourages families to stay in contact with their student on a regular basis, whilst the student adjusts to independent living.

What Student Roost expects of students

Students aged under 18 will be expected to comply with the terms of the tenancy agreement, just as Student Roost expects older students to comply. The standard tenancy terms can be viewed on the Student Roost Students website .