



# Rockport Boarding

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Can you arrange to pick up our son or daughter from the airport?**

Yes we can. Whether your son or daughter travels accompanied or unaccompanied, we ensure all students are greeted by staff whether they travel to us through our local airport (Belfast City) or through our International airports in Belfast and Dublin.

A small charge is added to cover parking for Belfast arrivals/departures, and a charge of approximately £50 is applicable for Dublin arrivals/departures.

If you wish to travel to see your son or daughter, feel free to contact us and we can help you with travel arrangements.

**Do you have guardians that we can use for school holidays?**

The school has worked with Students International to organise the care and housing of students through holiday periods. Parents should contact Students International, or other local agencies, directly in respect of organising these stays.

**Does the school help with Visa applications?**

The School holds a Tier 4 Highly Trusted Visa status. Parents can discuss visa arrangements with the School Office and the School Office can provide information that will assist parents/agents in their visa applications.

**Do you provide school equipment?**

Yes, the school has a fully stocked equipment shop through which we can provide stationary and other school equipment. We are also able to arrange for the provision of any bulky sports equipment that can be costly to ship or post directly. Parents can also order school and sports equipment directly from suppliers and have it delivered to the school.

**Can you provide uniform?**

Yes, we do our best to provide as much 'on-loan' uniform for students who are staying for short periods to assist with cost. However, if students are staying for longer, we have a fully stocked uniform shop. If parents send us through measurements before arrival, we can also ensure that all uniform items are here on arrival.

For a full list of uniform requirements please contact the school office

[schooloffice@rockportschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@rockportschool.com)

**Can you accommodate different food tastes and food allergies?**

Yes, we can. We pride ourselves on the fact that all of our food is sourced locally and the kitchen staff take pride in being able to accommodate different food tastes and allergy issues. Parents and agents can request copies of our weekly menus. They can also be viewed on our website.

**Is there an induction for new students?**

Yes, there is. We have daily breakfast boarding meetings to update students about routines and expectations. When requested, we can also set up each new student with a 'buddy' to help them with their transition into boarding. The Boarding and Teaching staff liaise regularly to ensure the students are well supported with their studies.

**What are the rooms like?**

Our rooms are warm, well-furnished and students have places to rest, study and play throughout the House. We have a 'Home Room' for snacks and meals and also a Common Room with sofas and television. There are similar recreational spaces on both the boys and girls corridor and there is WiFi available throughout the house.

**What about laundry and bedding?**

The house parents organise a rota of laundry for boys and girls and all clothes and bedding are laundered on a regular basis. The cleaning staff work hard to make ensure the House is tidy and clean.

**What about pocket money?**

Parents are asked to set a small weekly amount of pocket money and inform the Houseparent of the limit. The Houseparent will arrange withdrawals of this with the Bursar and pupils should see the Houseparent to collect their pocket money.

**What about Fire Safety?**

We have regular fire drills to best ensure that students know how to evacuate the House in an emergency.

**Do you offer extra help for English?**

Yes, we can arrange additional EAL sessions for your son or daughter, with cost and payment being arranged through the Bursar.

**Are you able to support a particular hobby or sport?**

Yes, we are. We have links with external clubs and will endeavour to make sure our students stay in touch with their interests, whether these are physical, musical or artistic.

**How can our child stay in touch with home?**

As the House is Wi-Fi enabled, students can stay in touch via e-mail and Skype/Facetime and we place no restrictions on their ability to phone home. However, we would encourage parents to make sure they try to phone outside 'prep' hours and near bedtime. We would also encourage parents to raise any concerns they may have through contact with their son or daughter as quickly as possible with us, so that we may action it and reassure the student with our quick response.

**Does my child need a laptop?**

The Boarding House does have access to computers but Senior students in particular find a laptop useful for maintaining contact and doing school work.

**Does the school stream classes?**

No - and our small classes allow us to know every student and their needs.

**What is the schedule of homework/prep?**

The student has a period of prep in the afternoon and another one in the evening time.

**What extras are billed on a monthly basis?**

Our school fee includes all tuition, accommodation and food. Extras such as (optional) activities at the weekend and Thursday nights are billed on a monthly basis with the average weekly cost being £10-£15.

**Are the weekends too quiet/less busy than the week?**

The weekend staff work hard to make sure our full-time boarders have lots to do at the weekend and they work with them to create a schedule of activities that satisfy all students. The usual format includes a Saturday activity such as mountain biking, cinema or shopping, with Sunday being a day to relax and catch up with any work.

**Will my international child be encouraged to speak English?**

We work to ensure that international students mix with English speaking students and all of our lessons and conversations take place in English.

**How do I know what is going on in School as a parent?**

Boarding staff can be contacted at all times through the School Office or directly through Boarding. It is very much recommended that parents sign up for our weekly newsletter and our Social Media channels (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/LinkedIn and YouTube). It's a great way to find out what's going on at school and stay up to date with key events, terms times and unexpected announcements.

**What is the atmosphere of the House?**

Our atmosphere is one that is happy, industrious and focused around a House ethos that reflects a family feel.

**What about health support for my son or daughter?**

The primary health support is provided by the Houseparent on duty who can deal with parental permission (provided via enrolment paperwork) administer basic medications. We also have excellent links with medical, dental and ophthalmic practitioners within the local area. Boarders are registered as patients with our local doctor surgery.

**How is the House inspected by outside bodies?**

We are inspected on a yearly basis by RQIA and we can make our reports available to parents and agents on request.

**Can we have boarding information in a language different than English?**

Should you require any boarding information in a different language, we will happily work with you to do so.