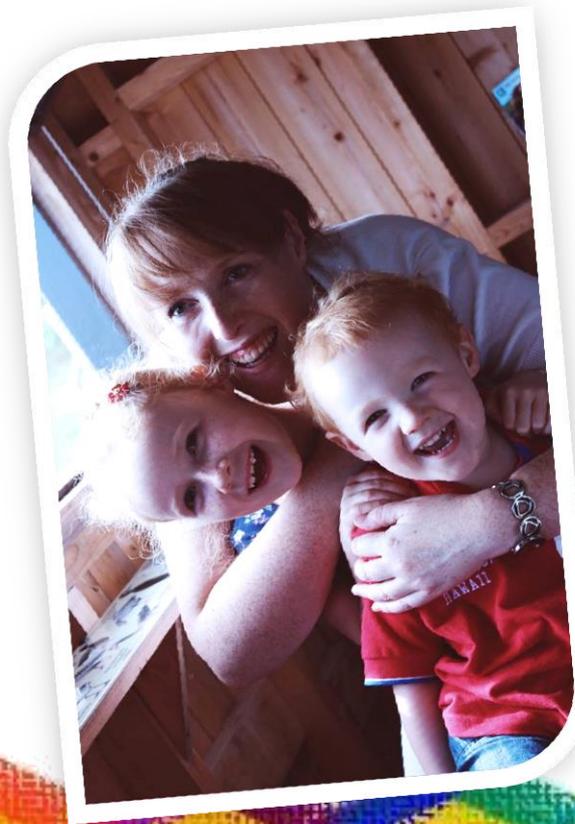




HOMESTAYS

Lee Walshe has been hosting international students for IH Belfast since 2011. She is originally from Dublin and used to work in a language school herself.

She has been living in Belfast for years and has a lovely partner, Chris, and 2 lively children! Here's what she has to say about hosting...



I have been hosting students for three years now with IH. Having grown up in Dublin, as a child we always had international students come to stay during the summer and we loved it! So far we have hosted many students from different countries. My kids absolutely adore having students coming to stay and we have stayed in touch with each and every student we have hosted, mostly on Facebook and by email.



Often students have taught me dishes from their home countries, which is great fun and I've enjoyed learning about their culture and family. The nicest thing to see is students of different nationalities and backgrounds overcome language and cultural barriers to form lasting friendships as part of our family. As the students are adults they are free to go out in the evenings and weekends and enjoy independence but have a family environment when they choose to – it's the best of both worlds!

My children love when students come along to their birthday parties and on daytrips. My students often help the kids with homework while we all have a cup of tea in the afternoon and last year Ella learned Origami from our Japanese student Adzsa and was able to bring the pieces to school for Show and Tell!

Hosting is an enriching and enjoyable experience, and it shows that Belfast has become a truly European city.

I know that my students have benefitted greatly from being involved in our very loud, hectic and fun family life!

