



## **Safety and Security**

**Road safety:** In England we drive on the left-hand side of the road! When you cross the road, look right first!

**Possessions:** The school is a public building. Don't leave credit cards, passports, money or other valuables lying around in bags. Don't carry large amounts of cash with you. Please note that you can pay school fees directly at any bank. You don't need to withdraw large sums of cash and bring it in to school.

**Insurance:** We recommend all students take out an insurance policy BEFORE they travel to the UK. Please remember that the school is unable to refund your tuition fees, so it is particularly important that your insurance covers **cancellation and early departure.**

**Student card:** We strongly recommend that you get an ELC Bristol student card on arrival and carry it with you at all times. It is a useful form of identification (you don't need to carry your passport in England). With the card, you can use the University Students' Union and its facilities including the restaurants and the swimming pool, but most importantly, it has the **emergency school telephone** number on the back (**0774 7021261**). This is John's mobile phone. In case of emergency, do not hesitate to call. Also on the back, there is the telephone number of the Social Programme Organiser (you should call this number if you cannot remember where to meet or when the school buses are leaving etc).

**Doctors/Hospitals:** The student card has the telephone number of a local doctor. However, if you wish to make a routine appointment, please ask at the office. If you have a serious accident, do not wait to see the doctor, go straight to the hospital (Bristol Royal Infirmary – Accident and Emergency Department). Emergency treatment is free.

**Drinking laws:** In England you must be 18 to drink any type of alcohol. Please do not disregard this law.

**Getting home at night:** We are not saying that Bristol is a dangerous city but, as in every city, especially where there are a lot of young people, it is better to be careful when going home at night. Try to avoid walking home alone, particularly long distances or in dark areas, parks etc. We also advise against being in the City Centre late at night, especially after the pubs/clubs have closed. The Whiteladies Road, Clifton Village and top end of Park Street areas are always full of university students and are much better areas than the City Centre.

It is a very good idea to find out which other students live near you. You can walk home together or share a taxi depending on the distance. If you are not sure which students live near you, ask the other students which areas they live in or ask someone in the office for advice.

**Taxis:** If you would like to take a taxi, it is best to telephone a taxi company in advance and ask them to pick you up. There is a taxi number on the back of the student card – **V Cars: (0117 9252626)**. If you want to catch a taxi in the street, make sure it is a licensed taxi. These taxis have special yellow plates on the front and back which indicate that they are licensed by Bristol City Council. You should not take an unlicensed taxi.

***Bristol is a lively, interesting city. We want you to have fun. Enjoy yourself but be sensible!***