

Joining Information for Boarders

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Sidcot at the start of term.

This letter contains important information regarding your child's arrival at School, including details about our travel arrangements and uniform, so please read carefully.

Our Head of Boarding, Mrs Amandine Smilevich, will be in touch towards the end of August to tell you which boarding house your child will be joining, and their Houseparent will also be in contact with you to introduce themselves.

Travel

We require all families to let us know the travel arrangements for their child in advance.

We ask everyone to fill in a travel form so that plans and arrangements can be made to prepare for your child's arrival at School. To access the form, please click on the link below:

[Travel Form September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

School transport from Heathrow

We will provide transport from Heathrow Airport **on Friday 4th September** for those arriving on early flights. The coach will leave at **11am**. When your child arrives at Heathrow, they will be met by a member of Sidcot staff in the Arrivals Hall (either T3 or T5). The main meeting point for all Sidcot students will be **Terminal 3** Meeting Point by Café Nero.

The cost of the journey is **£60**.

Remember that if you need to book a space on the Heathrow bus for your child, you will **ONLY** be able to do so by completing the travel arrangement form above.

Taxi

If your child does not arrive at Heathrow at the times specified* or arrives at another UK airport, you will need to make alternative travel arrangements. You may need to ask your child's guardian to help. Alternatively, it is possible to book a taxi via a local company well known to Sidcot:

- Go Cars +44 (0) 1934 440111
- Email – support@godirecttransfers.co.uk
- Website: www.godirecttransfers.co.uk

The cost is approximately £262 from Heathrow to Sidcot (plus the airport's car parking charge)

***If your child's flight arrives at Heathrow after 10am, you will not be able to book a seat for them on the coach as it will not leave enough time to get through border control and reach the group before the coach leaves.**

On the form, we ask for your child's phone number (as well as yours) so that we may add your child to our WhatsApp group chat. They will be able to ask any questions they have to the other boarders, and this will help them make friends before they start School. The group chat is monitored by boarding members of staff, so we will also be able to answer questions.

Any overseas boarder who arrives before 4th September in the UK will need to provide us with details of where they will be staying before joining the School and also contact details for the adult who is responsible for them during this time. This is essential as part of the Child Study Visa Sponsorship requirements (you can leave a note at the bottom of the travel form).

We would strongly recommend you contact your child's guardian in the UK as soon as possible and invite them to meet your child on their arrival day at School (or at least during the first week). It gives a chance for your child to get to know their guardian. The role of the guardian is vital during your child's time at School as they are the people representing you whilst your child is in the UK. We would also ask you to consider carefully who you appoint as your child's guardian as you will need to make sure that the person is able to act quickly in case of an emergency and does not live too far from Sidcot.

Our induction programme will take place between 4th and 6th September. We will be ready to welcome boarders **between 10:00 and 16:00 on Friday 4th September**. All new boarders will receive their induction and will be able to take part in activities to ensure that both new and current boarders get to know each other.

Boarders Arrival and Welcome Friday 4th September

From 10:00	• Boarders will register next to the Sports Hall • Opportunity for families to meet the Health Staff to discuss medical matters if required • Opportunity for families to meet the Head and have a tour of the School • Boarders to be taken to their Boarding House to unpack • Help with uniform in Boarding Houses
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch available in the Refectory for boarders and their families
14.00	Welcome from our Head, James Jones, and Head of Boarding, Amandine Smilevich in The Hub
17:30	Boarders' only evening meal in Refectory

Parents and Guardians accompanying boarders are kindly asked to leave the campus by 5pm.

Uniform

Please do not order any uniform before arriving at Sidcot. We understand that sizes can be hard to guess when you do not have the exact measurement. Our matrons will help our new boarders try different sizes to ensure that the right order is placed. This will be part of the induction programme.

A boarding clothing guide can be found via the below link -

<https://www.sidcot.org.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Clothing%20Guide%20for%20Boarding%20Students.pdf>

Details of the uniform required can be found via this link - [Sidcot Independent School Uniform Guide | Sidcot School](#)

Important information

Insurance

We provide you with Personal Accident Insurance, which is included in the School fees.

For details about further insurance policies, we offer please follow this link - [Boarding Student Joining Information \(Years 7 to 12\) | Sidcot School](#)

Child Study Visa / ETA registrations

Overseas students who are joining Sidcot School without a UK/Irish passport (and who plan to stay with us for longer than 6 months) must apply for a Child study visa and will receive specialist visa support. [Sable International](#), a UK immigration law specialist, provides these services on the School's behalf. They will contact families after the deposit and application paperwork have been received by our Admissions team.

Once your Child Student visa is granted, please don't forget to create your eVisa and generate a share code. The share code is valid for three months. It is advised to generate a new share code before every trip to the UK. Airlines and immigration control may request it before travel.

Students who are coming to study at Sidcot for **less than 6 months** do not require a visa (exceptions apply) but must register for an **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)** – digital permission to travel to the UK. It can take up to three working days for the ETA to be approved. For more information, please click [here](#).

We will send you a Short-Term Study invitation letter before you travel. You can show this at the Immigration desk.

If you have not been granted your Child study visa/ETA before your intended travel date, you will not be able to arrive in the UK as, if you do, the visa application may be cancelled at the border. Please bear this in mind and purchase flexible plane tickets or buy your ticket after visa/ETA is granted.

Can all boarding students (with or without a Child Study visa) please send a copy of boarding pass/flight/train/ferry ticket to admissions@sidcot.org.uk

Health Surcharge (IHS)

When you applied for your child's Child Study Visa, you would have paid a fee to allow your child to access the UK National Health Service (NHS).

If your child is attending Sidcot for less than 6 months, they must have private travel/medical cover in place. Please send proof of this to Admissions at Admissions@sidcot.org.uk and ensure your child brings a printed copy of the insurance details.

Passports

It is essential that your child brings their passport(s) to School and gives it to a member of their Boarding House staff on arrival for safekeeping.

Please inform admissions@sidcot.org.uk if you have renewed your child's passport since your application.

If your child holds a Child Student visa and you renew their passport during the validity of the visa, please don't forget to update the passport details on their eVisa. The change can take up to three days. They may be refused entry to the UK if the passport they are travelling with does not match the passport details on the eVisa. If you need assistance, please contact the Admissions team.

If your child is traveling under an ETA, please note that if their passport is renewed, a new ETA application must be submitted. An ETA is linked to the passport used in the application and is no longer valid once the passport has been replaced.

If your child is a British or Irish national, they must use their UK or Irish passport to enter the UK. They cannot use another country's passport to apply for an ETA.

Photos

If you have not done so already, please email a head and shoulders photograph of your child (similar to a passport photo) to admissions@sidcot.org.uk before **31st July 2026**. This will enable us to prepare a photo ID card ready for collection on arrival.



Sidcot
Live Adventurously

Independent day and
boarding school for
boys and girls aged 3-18

If you have any further questions over the summer, please email
admissions@sidcot.org.uk.

We hope you have a very good summer and look forward to welcoming your child to
Sidcot.

Best wishes

Sidcot Admissions