

Hey, I'm Marta (17 years old) and I'm currently doing my exchange year in Kinsale, Ireland in 2023/2024. I am staying with a lovely host family near the town so I can walk to school and meet my friends. The kids in my family are 6, 8 and 9 years of age and we're having a lot of fun together, I enjoy the time playing, drawing and bouncing on the trampoline with them.



Besides that, I met the most amazing people. Students from other Countries like Spain, Italy and my home Country Germany. We all share the same experience to live abroad and to be on our own, why it's easy to connect and make new friends. But I also made Irish friends in school and through activities like basketball, where I played in the school team. But also other sports are great fun like rowing, soccer or hockey.

I visit the Kinsale Community School in 5<sup>th</sup> year. School usually starts at 8.40 am and ends at 3.30 pm. Often I meet friends after school in town and we spend a few ours together.

Actually, I only wanted to stay until March, but since I really enjoy my time here I stayed until the end of the year which was definitely the best decision I could have made.

Our local coordinator (Rachelle) meets us regularly to make sure that we are alright and that everything is working with our host families and ourselves in general. I would recommend this fantastic experience to everyone who is thinking about an exchange year. You don't "just" improve your English, it is about developing your self and the ability to live on your own, know yourself and boundaries and meets great people along the way.

Marta Diestelkamp

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