

Statement Leisure Programme

2026/1

Elac's leisure programme is organised and overseen by the Head of Social Programmes & Educational Excursions, a permanent member of staff. This individual is responsible for mapping out the overall framework of the programme and continually developing and introducing new ideas. They also operate on a peripatetic basis, providing oversight and support to Social Programme Managers across all centres.

Within this framework, Social Programme Managers and their Co-ordinators tailor the programme to their specific centre, taking into account local facilities, weather conditions, the composition and preferences of the student cohort, and the unique skills and passions of their activity staff.

Elac's Social Programme is a compulsory part of the course, and student attendance is mandatory. Activities begin with a daily assembly, during which students are registered and briefed.

The programme offers a blend of structured workshops and free choice sessions:

Workshops are run by external specialists or internal staff and include activities such as breakdancing, body percussion, British playground games, and team-building challenges.

These workshops not only introduce students to new and engaging experiences beyond typical summer school activities but also promote integration by placing them in mixed-nationality groups, fostering the continued use of English outside the classroom.

Free choice sessions provide students with the opportunity to select from a variety of options, giving them agency in shaping their experience. Activity types include:

- Sports: Football, basketball, volleyball, rounders, and cricket.
- Creative activities: Vision boards, t-shirt design, pebble painting, arts and crafts.
- Collaborative experiences: Digital or traditional treasure hunts and mindful meanders, where students explore and reflect in a relaxed, guided walk.
- Chill-out zone: For those who prefer less active involvement, there is a quiet space to enjoy music, chat with peers, or simply unwind in a calm and social environment.

Evening Programme

The Social Programme extends into the evening with an engaging and inclusive calendar of evening activities that brings together students from across different sections of the zig-zag course. These evening activities are designed to encourage community spirit, cross-cultural friendships, and shared memories.

Highlights include high-energy main events such as Disco Night, Talent show, Murder Mystery, and Sports Day, all of which offer excitement, teamwork, and entertainment on a grand scale.

Recognising that not all students enjoy large crowds or loud environments, each evening also includes smaller, quieter alternatives - such as board games, movie nights, or relaxed creative sessions - ensuring that every student can find a space that suits their comfort and social preferences.

Cultural Exchange

A highlight of the programme is the Cultural Exchange, where students showcase and teach a tradition from their home country - such as singing, dancing, calligraphy, or storytelling. These sessions foster connection, intercultural understanding, and help break down stereotypes, building friendships across nationalities.

Elac also has a clear mobile phone policy, which limits use during activity sessions unless phones are being used as an educational or creative tool - such as researching ideas for an arts activity or participating in a digital treasure hunt.

This balanced approach ensures students are exposed to a wide range of activities, promoting cultural awareness, creativity, physical engagement, and social bonding, all within a supportive and well-structured environment.