

EXPECTATIONS HOMESTAY FAMILIES & STUDENTS

GENERAL

- Students must understand that homestay parents are not just landlords. Students are expected to conform to the normal rules of family life and to contribute to the routine operation of the household.
- Always ask your host parent's permission before making plans.
 - Be sure to tell them:
 - * where you would like to go
 - * how you will get there
 - * who you will be with
 - * when you will be home
- Be sure to be back on time.
- Advise your homestay family by telephone if you will be late or if you want to change your plans.
- Behave responsibly and you will be given responsibility.

NOTE:

Your homestay family may refuse you permission to participate in some activities.

Reasons for their refusal could include:

- * concern for your safety
- * conflict with family plans

Respect their concerns.

TELEPHONE

Ask permission to use the telephone, discuss with your homestay parents what is appropriate use e.g. length of call, time of day for calls etc.

TELEVISION

You may choose to watch television and take part in other family entertainment during normal hours just like other family members. By doing this, your English will improve rapidly, and you will feel more comfortable with the family.

COMPUTER / INTERNET / EMAIL

Discuss with your homestay parents what is appropriate and what is permissible.

ROOM

- You may have your own room which will be furnished with a bed, dresser, closet, mattress, pillow and bed linens. Your room will have an adequate study area with a suitable lamp, chair and desk.
- You and your homestay parents will need to talk about how much time you'll want to spend alone. Respecting privacy is important, but too much time spent alone or writing / talking in your own language means less time spent practicing English.

TRANSPORTATION

- Do not rely on your host family to drive you everywhere.
- Use public transportation (bus) or bicycle when possible.
- If you live outside the normal school catchment area, your homestay parent will make arrangements for transportation to and from school.
- The homestay parent may be available to drive you to activities at the school or in the community if you make polite and reasonable requests.
- The host family or school will provide transportation to the hospital or to the doctor if you are sick or injured.

INTERACTION WITH FAMILY

The way to make the most of your New Zealand living experience is to come with an open mind. Come prepared to participate in family life and share in the responsibilities of being a family member. Your homestay experience will largely depend on you and your attitude, your friendliness, etc.

The first few weeks living in a new country with a new family, will at times, be difficult. You may feel homesick and frustrated with your new environment and the language. This is natural. Give yourself time to adjust to your new surroundings.

If you choose to participate in family holidays and/or travel where costs are incurred, you are expected to assist in bearing the costs. Where you choose not to participate in the activity, then you and the homestay parents must make alternative arrangements, that are acceptable to everyone.

MEDICAL

If you become ill or injured and require professional care then the homestay parent is authorised to give permission for treatment.

DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

Your homestay experience is an important part of your stay in New Zealand. It gives you the opportunity to become a member of a New Zealand family. If you are having difficulty adjusting to your host family, try to communicate your problems and concerns with them. Often, problems and misunderstandings can be resolved in this way. If they cannot, your School Coordinator or Counsellor is always available to help you resolve your problems.

Families and students are expected to make every effort to make the homestay a success. In the unlikely event that families and students are incompatible, and every effort has failed to improve the situation, then another homestay will be arranged. If you are involved in a serious violation of the homestay rules then you may be sent home.

SMOKING IN THE HOME

In New Zealand young people under age sixteen are not supposed to smoke at all. Students are not allowed to smoke in their schools, and your homestay family will probably prefer it if you do not smoke inside their home at all.

CHORES

- Your host family will welcome you into their home as a member of the family. This means that you will be treated more informally than a “guest” would be. Families appreciate it when you offer to help in the home by keeping your room clean and doing general chores, such as setting the table, doing the dishes, or helping to prepare dinner.
- As a family member you may be asked to make your own breakfast and lunch, or to do your own laundry because this is what most family members do.
- Remember, you are not staying in a hotel where maid services are provided.
- Helping with these chores can also give you the opportunity to talk to a family member, to practice your English and to be part of the family.

BATHROOM USE

You should find out what your family’s expectations are concerning the use of the bathroom. It is important to know when you can shower or bathe and for how long. It is not necessary for you to wait until your host parents have showered before taking your shower, but you should be sure to leave enough hot water for everybody. You should not take showers after 10.00 p.m. if it disturbs the family. Your family will provide necessary bathroom items such as toilet paper, soap and towels but you will need to supply your own personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo and hand-cream. You should try to leave the bathroom clean and dry after you use it.

MEALS

- Three meals per day are normal. If parents happen to be away then food would be made available for you to prepare. Often, New Zealand students prepare their own lunches to take to school.
 - Weekdays, breakfast is a quick light meal. Families may prepare breakfast together, this meal may include bread/toast, juice/milk, cereal/eggs/jam etc.
 - Lunch may include sandwiches, raw vegetables, cookies, milk/juice, fruit.
 - Dinners may include rice, meat, cooked vegetables, salad and dessert.
- Your host family will ask you what foods you like and dislike, so that they can try to meet your needs. You should politely inform your host family if you do not like a particular food.

CRIMINAL OFFENCE

- Immigration New Zealand does not permit you to take a paying job in New Zealand.
- If you commit an offence under New Zealand law, then you will be dealt with by the Police and Immigration, as necessary. Homestay parents are not held accountable for offences committed by students.
- Suspension Policy - **School:** If after repeated warnings you continue to disobey the rules of the school, you will be expelled from the International Students Programme and sent home.
- Suspension Policy - **Homestay:** If after repeated warnings you continue to disobey the homestay guidelines, you may be asked by the school to withdraw from the school programme.
- Damage to Property - If you neglectfully or wilfully damage property at home, in the school, or in the community, your parents will be notified and billed for the amount.

CURFEW

These are broad reasonable guidelines for secondary school students. They may be adjusted slightly depending on students maturity, age, etc.

WEEKDAYS

- Normally, school nights are work nights.
- Time in the evenings will be required for homework and study.
- Exceptions are special family activities, school events (dances, sports).

WEEKENDS

- Destinations, transportation, curfew and activities must be approved by your homestay parents.
- Be home by the time as per arrangements agreed to by your homestay parents.

Overnight stays outside the family home and out of town travel with persons other than homestay family members, are subject to the approval of homestay parents and/or school coordinator and/or student's parents.

NOT ALLOWED

As an International Student in New Zealand on a student visa you may not use alcohol or illegal drugs.

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