

## **Under 18 Homestay Student Information, Responsibilities & Good Conduct Guidelines**

### **Homestay**

- Homestay is a requirement for all students who are under the age of 18.
- Homestay offers accommodation and opportunities for cultural exchange.
- You can improve your language skills, learn about Australia and meet new people.
- All families are different and Australia is a very multicultural society.
- You may find that you are placed in a homestay with Australians who have not been born in Australia. English may be their second language too! However, they will be fluent in English even if they have an accent and the husband and wife may come from different countries.
- All our families have attended a comprehensive Orientation and each house has been inspected by School Staff. · Some Homestay families will be made up of a mother, father and children, where others might be a mother and child, a couple with no children or a single person.
- Some families live with extended family members such as grandparents and others do not.
- Many families have pets such as dogs and cats.
- Each family will welcome their student into their home.

### **What to Expect**

- A fully furnished private room with bed, lamp, desk and wardrobe. Some students may be very lucky to have their own bathroom facilities but generally in Australia the home stay student can expect to share the facilities with other members of the family.
- Two meals a day, seven days a week with a light lunch on weekends.
- A safe and secure environment.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Underage Students are expected to:

- Ensure you advise your homestay family if you are feeling sick or have a medical condition.
- Ensure that you are contactable 24/7 by either your school, your Host and your Parents.
- Ensure that you follow a personal hygiene routine daily e.g cleaning your teeth and showering daily.

- Maintain a regular study routine and seek your support from your homestay family if you need assistance, for example, homework and assignments
- Be aware of the privacy of other members of the home.
- Become involved in day to day family activities and do not spend all of your time in your bedroom or on the computer.
- Inform the Student Adviser if you are having difficulties with your academic studies
- Advise the Student Adviser immediately of any concerns about your accommodation
- You must seek permission from the School if you wish to leave or move from the homestay, go on holidays or stay out overnight
- Your host family will expect to know where you are at all times.
- Underage students must be at home for their evening meal during the week
- If you are going out with your friends, please let your host family know – this may be done by telephone. You must return home by curfew.
- Your host family must know your whereabouts at all times.
- Ask your host family first before inviting friends to your family's home.
- Remember: always be friendly, polite and courteous to your host family; they have opened up their home to you
- Remember to give your family your mobile number and contact them if you will be home later than expected so that they do not worry.
- You are required to buy and activate an Australian mobile telephone number which must be contactable at all time
- Australia has water shortages – only use a small amount of water for washing and showering.
- Pay for any damage to family property if you are responsible for the damage
- Please be aware, smoking is not permitted in Australia until the age of 18

### **Safety and Security**

- Do not overload power boards or power points as this can cause fires.
- Make sure you turn off lights to save power and energy and prevent fires
- Turn off all electrical devices when you are not in your bedroom
- Homestay students should not be out by themselves at night.

- Keep all valuables, personal papers and documents, money, passport and credit cards in a safe place.
- Do not leave bags unattended.
- If you go out at night time you must be accompanied by your homestay parent if you are under 16 and by a friend if you are over 17.

### **Curfew (Students aged 17 years - 18)**

- You must return to your homestay accommodation by 9pm on Monday – Friday.
- You must return to your homestay by 10:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.
- You must not stay out overnight without permission from the School.
- You must provide your homestay parents with the name, address and telephone contact details of where and who you are visiting or staying with if permission has been granted by the School.

### **Curfew (Students aged 16 and under 16 years)**

- You must return to your homestay accommodation by 7pm on daily basis (including weekends).
- You must not stay out over night or leave the homestay accommodation.
- You must provide your homestay parents with the name, address and telephone contact details of where and who you are visiting at all times.

### **Changes to Curfew**

You may be able to change the curfew time – indicated above. If your host family feels confident after some time (2 – 3 weeks) that you are responsible and capable of returning later, they may allow you to return later at night. This mostly requires you at first to develop a trusting and honest relationship with your host family.

### **Food**

- You may have to make your own breakfast; this is quite common in Australia.
- A typical weekend lunch might be sandwiches, fruit and a drink.
- Please talk to your family if you would like something different e.g. rice, noodles, salad and fruit.
- You may like to go shopping with the family to choose your favourite food or you might like to make a traditional meal for your host family.
- If you want to eat some special food or traditional favourites, you may have to pay additional money.

## **Acceptable Behaviour**

- In Australia, it is not acceptable to spit in public. If you need to spit, please leave the room and use the toilet.
- In Australia it is considered polite to blow your nose into a handkerchief or tissue but it is not polite to sniff.
- Adhere to code of behaviour/guidelines set by your homestay family (e.g. help with household jobs, no alcohol)
- In Australia it is not common for families to have servants. You will be expected to keep your room clean and tidy and help with small jobs around the house.

## **Telephone and Internet**

- If you use your family's telephone please pay for your call.
- You can purchase telephone cards or wireless internet cards.
- If you have a mobile phone you can purchase a pre-paid start-up kit so that you can make calls within Australia to your host family and friends.
- Not all families have internet access. You may be required to purchase your own USB or internet service. Students have 24 hour access to unlimited internet usage at BBELS.
- If your host family provides an internet service then you can expect to pay between \$7 to 10 per week.
- Some hosts will supply an internet service other hosts will provide USB devices. Additional fees apply.
- Unauthorised usage of the internet e.g. excessive downloading of material will incur additional fees. Downloading of Music and Movies, playing Internet Games or Chat rooms are considered excessive use of the internet.
- Please check with your family when it is convenient to use the internet.
- You must ask your friends and family to telephone at a reasonable time. Late night conversations disturb the house.

## **Washing**

- Some families may do your laundry and others may not. Remember that not all families are the same.
- Please ask the family if you would like to use the washing facilities and ask them to explain how they work.
- You may be asked to assist with washing the dishes and keep your room clean and tidy.

## **Transport**

- Most students coming to the School would expect to take 1 or 2 buses and for the journey to take around 30 minutes. Some homestay families live very close to the BBELS and only require a short bus or bike ride.
- Your host family will give you a card with bus details and will assist you to purchase your bus tickets.

- Your host family will show you where to catch the bus to and from the School and how to activate your tickets. · Make sure you familiarise yourself with your homestay suburb so that you do not get lost.
- Host families are not required to provide transportation to and from the School or any unauthorised activities or events.
- Remember to contact your host family if you have any concerns.

### **Payment**

- Your host family will be paid direct by the School.
- The initial payment is non-refundable.
- You are not permitted to move to another homestay without permission from the School
- You are not permitted to extend accommodation in your homestay without permission from the School
- If you require a new homestay after the first 2 weeks then an additional placement fee will be charged.
- You will need to supply your own toiletries, purchase your own bus tickets, and pay for telephone calls and other personal items.
- You may also need to pay for extra activities or excursions when you arrive in Australia. These may include visits to restaurants, movie theatres, theme parks and attractions.

### **Disputes/Grievances**

- If you have any issues regarding your homestay accommodation please contact the Homestay Coordinator to discuss.

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