

International Students



HAVING A HOMESTAY (INFORMATION SHEET FOR NEW FAMILIES)

Thank you for considering hosting an International Student. Hosting an International Student can be a highly valuable experience for your family. Any questions not answered by this information sheet please feel free to contact the Teacher in Charge of international Students via email on internationalstudents@helensville.school.nz



Minimum basic requirements for homestay students:

Homestay students should be provided with:

- Meals - 3 meals a day and snacks, including a packed lunch during the school week
- Laundry – washing and ironing
- Bedroom with a table or desk, chair, mirror, reading lamp, bed with linen and blankets or duvet, heating system, chest of drawers and/or wardrobe

Chores:

Children should not be expected to do a lot of chores, but should be asked to tidy their room and participate in family chores such as setting the table and doing the dishes.

Transport:

Homestay families are responsible for ensuring children get to and from Helensville Primary School. If the child is to take the bus or walk a short distance with another child, a homestay parent should accompany the child on his/her first day. It may be necessary to accompany the child for the first few days or a week if the child is unsure about how to get to school. Children should not be expected to walk to Helensville Primary School alone and should not be given a bicycle to ride to School.

Toiletries:

Host families are asked to provide soap, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner. Many students will initially provide their own. Please help students buy personal toiletries if necessary.

Heating:

Children will feel the cold and adequate heating must be provided. This is usually in the form of personal heaters and electric blankets.

Communication:

Children must have regular communication with their families. It is desirable that one phone call a week, and regular email access is provided. Payment for phone calls will be by the parents. Helensville Primary School will invoice parents on receipt of toll call bill presented.

On Arrival:

Helensville Primary School will meet your homestay student on arrival at the airport and bring him/her to your home. It is very welcoming if homestay families decide to go to the airport but there is no obligation to do this.

Student Care:

Homestay families are responsible for children for the school year, including school holidays (though many students will go home for the holidays). It is the homestay carers' responsibility to know where their child is, how they can be contacted and who they are spending their time with, at all times. A mobile phone number is not adequate as an only means of contact for a child. Homestay carers need to have a physical address for the child's whereabouts. If a child is staying at a friend's place overnight, contact should be made with their parents beforehand, and homestay carers should consider visiting the home if possible.

When your student goes out, please ensure that he/she is carrying telephone numbers and addresses of both the school and the homestay.

Children should also have a regular phone card to use in New Zealand telephone boxes.

Children must not be left alone in the house for any reason. If this is inconvenient because of an emergency please contact the Teacher In Charge, International Students direct line.

Homework:

It is the homestay carer's responsibility to help International Students with their homework.

Student Behaviour:

Homestay carers should expect the same standard of behaviour as would be expected from their own children of a similar age, but make allowances for cultural differences.

Illness:

In the case of serious illness or accident/emergency follow the emergency and accident procedures listed in the homestay Accident and Emergency Procedures form.

Safety:

It is the homestay carer's responsibility to care for the child in a way that ensures they are kept safe from harm and their emotional well-being is nurtured.

Contact with Parents:

It's a good idea to make contact with your child's parents. A letter/email introducing yourself and family members and some regular contact about the child throughout the year will be greatly appreciated by the parents.

Changing Homestays:

Students must give at least two weeks' notice or two weeks board in lieu of notice. Students may never change homestays without the knowledge of the school. If a student is to be moved, the homestay will be advised of the reason why.

Language:

The child will probably be unfamiliar with New Zealand accents (even if he/she has good English) and colloquial expressions and may take time to adjust.

Homestay families should attempt to learn some basic greetings in the student's language. Learning a few phrases of your student's language helps to show respect for their culture and may help them feel more welcome and cared for.

Still interested? Please contact Teacher in Charge of International Students, to discuss further on either 420 8005 Ext 204 or internationalstudents@helensville.school.nz