



WAIKATO DIOCESAN
School for Girls



**HOMESTAY FAMILY
INFORMATION**

HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Thank you for considering hosting an International Student through Waikato Diocesan School for Girls.

We accept around 30 international students a year from a range of countries such as Korea, China, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Students from Year 9-13 are accepted. In many cases, international students come to New Zealand to improve their English. Others may come here for family reasons or to complete qualifications to gain entry into a University.

International students choose homestay accommodation to help learn English faster and for a family environment.

For many students this may be their first time away from home, in another country and responsible for themselves. It may take the student a while to settle in as they adjust to a new family, culture and school.

It is important to discuss with students on arrival how your family works and the expectations while staying with your family.

When a student first arrives

- Welcome her into your home and introduce her to family members
- Let her know what she should call you
- Offer something to eat or drink
- Show her to her room and give a tour of the house
- Show her the bathroom she can use and offer her a shower
- Help to get her settled and give the opportunity to contact home if needed
- Make her feel included in your family life
- Get to know each other and find out what kind of food she likes eating

PAYMENT

Fulltime Homestay families are paid \$280 a week. This should be paid two weeks in advance. Payment for short term stays is \$150 for weekend stays of 2 nights, \$40 for any additional nights.

All students prepay their homestay accommodation to school so payment arrangements should not be made directly with the students.

ROOM

Homestay families must provide students with their own bedroom, linen, towels, heater, desk and wardrobe. The students may be coming to NZ from a hot summer so will feel the cold. Ensure the bedroom is warm and offer enough blankets and extra bed covers.

LAUNDRY

Attend to the student's laundry and ironing. Skirts can be put through a gentle cold wash but blazers can only be dry-cleaned. Attempting to machine wash these will cause damage and they are very expensive to replace. Dry-cleaning can be arranged through our school shop and charged to the students account.

Japanese girls can be embarrassed about having to wash their underwear and you may find that they hide it and dry it in the wardrobe. We recommend supplying students with a laundry bag for these items.

MEALS

Food is a very important factor in how well, and how quickly, an overseas student will settle. Please remember that the students may not be used to eating traditional New Zealand food so it may take them a few months to adjust.

Don't feel that you have to cook special meals. The students expect to eat what you are having and will tell you if they don't like something. They may also want to cook something for you.

Keep a good supply of after school snacks, such as 2-minute noodles, muesli bars and fruit in the pantry. Please show your students what they can eat between meals and remind them to help themselves. This may take some encouragement as it is not culturally how they behave. We suggest you take her shopping to discuss and choose the food she likes. There are some great Asian supermarkets that have many items they are familiar with and enjoy. Remind our student that these items are for them to eat when they need.

You must provide breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week, including public holidays, unless otherwise arranged with the school. Students may want to purchase lunch from the canteen, this cost is their responsibility.

If you are purchasing takeaways for a family meal you must also include your student at your cost. If it is a special occasion at a restaurant you could give the student the choice of attending or not. We suggest in this situation you come to an agreement before the time where you could pay for some of the meal and the student pays the balance. Should the student choose not to attend you must make provisions for the student to have a meal at home.

MONEY

The student may need assistance with opening a bank account and purchasing her school uniform and stationery. They are responsible for the cost of these.

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

The student is expected to make her own bed and tidy her room each day, to put her washing out for laundering (or do her own), and to help with small tasks such as clearing the dinner table, and drying the dishes. Please talk through family routines with her.

SHOWERS

Be aware that many students are used to taking several long showers each day. Explain the most convenient time for them to shower, like at night, and set a time limit. The students may not be aware that there are limits to instant hot water.

INTERNET

Check from time to time on the suitability of the internet usage and set a curfew for its use. If a student is using more data than your family already budgets for, it is acceptable for you to increase the homestay fee to cover a larger data package. Please let the Homestay Co-ordinator or Dean of International Students know if this occurs.

TRANSPORT

Host families must assist the student in getting her to school and back each day plus assisting her to attend sports and cultural practices, if she is involved in these.

Students are responsible for bus fares but **NOT** to reimburse host families for petrol costs unless otherwise arranged through the International Dean/ Homestay Coordinator.

Students are NOT PERMITTED TO OWN OR DRIVE A CAR. They can only travel in a car with their homestay families or with people approved of by the homestay family or the school. This is for their own safety.

TERMINATION

Two weeks' notice will be required from either party to terminate the homestay agreement. Failure on the part of the student to give two weeks' notice will result in the student being required to pay two weeks homestay fee in lieu of notice.

SCHOOL RULES

It is insisted that New Zealand laws and school rules concerning alcohol, smoking, drugs and care are obeyed at all times.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Students are expected to pay for expenses such as phone calls, bus fares, cell phones and entertainment over and above normal family outings.

Please ensure that if you wish to charge a student for any damage to your home that two quotes are required as proof of the cost of the repair. You must also inform the Dean of International Students.

CARE AND SUPERVISION

Host families must know the student's whereabouts at all times. If she wishes to visit a friend after school, homestay parents must have details about the arrangements and the address and phone number of where the student is so that she can be contacted if necessary.

If a student plans to leave Hamilton or stay away from home overnight, permission must be granted from their parent, via Jayne Lugton or Sonja Maree in the International Department. **THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT!**

It is expected that Homestay families exercise the same care and supervision of any student under the age of 18 years as they would with their own children.

You will need to set very clear expectations as to the time they are expected home. This will be dependent on the age of the student.

HOMEWORK

Your student will welcome interest and assistance with her homework. Encourage her to meet deadlines for handing in assignments and projects. This type of task is very foreign to overseas students and they can be penalised for not meeting set deadlines.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Notify the school immediately if there is a change of family situation or conditions of the home have changed since the last inspection.

This may include:

- Your house is for sale
- Disruptive renovations of the home
- Change of address
- Absence of one homestay parent i.e. holiday or separation
- Change of people in the home i.e. other over 18 years people living in the home, new baby etc
- Family emotional crisis which may impact on the student
- Intention to accept any other homestay students or boarders
- Any new pets

MEDICAL

The homestay is to provide appropriate levels of care where an international student in their care is unwell or injured, including caring for the student at home and taking the student to visit a doctor when required.

All students have a private medical insurance policy to cover this but must pay the medical provider and will then be reimbursed when they give the receipt to the International Dean.

If students become unwell while in school care the International Department will take the student to the medical center. If students are too unwell to go back into boarding, Homestay families or boarders will be required to accommodate students during this time. This will be paid on a nightly rate at the end of the stay.

SICKNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Notify the school immediately in the event of any accident.

Please inform the school by 8am if the student will be away from school for any reason, unless a pre-arranged trip. You can email absent@wdsg.school.nz or call and leave a message on 855 2038 and select option 1.

HOMESTAY PARENT ABSENCES

If the Homestay parents need to stay away from home overnight, please contact the International Department to arrange alternative accommodation. Two weeks' notice is required.

The student cannot be left overnight if the Homestay mother is away.

Jayne Lugton
International Administrator
P: 07 855 2038 ext. 2729
P: 027 351 7387
E: jlugton@wdsg.school.nz

Emergency no. 021 527 745