

# Homestay Rules

**All homestay guests are responsible for the following:**

## 1. Giving Notice

If you book a homestay then decide to leave, you are required to give the school three weeks' notice in writing.

## 2. Payments

All homestay payments must be made directly to the school, not to your homestay. Any changes to homestay arrangements must be made through our Homestay Co-ordinator or administration staff. Never make any arrangements involving money directly with your homestay.

## 3. Expiry

You may not stay in your homestay after the finishing date of your course at DynaSpeak without the permission of the school. Normally you are expected to leave your homestay on the Saturday after your course finishes, unless other arrangements have been made with our homestay staff.

## 4. Safety & Security

Do not keep large amounts of cash or valuable jewellery at your homestay. You must remember to always close windows and check doors are locked before leaving your homestay house.

## 5. Harmful or Dangerous Substances or Weapons

Do not keep any substances or implements eg knives that could harm either yourself or others in the house. Take care with paint, hair dye or other things that could damage expensive furnishings such as carpet or furniture. Never light any type of device with an open flame eg camping stove or candles in the house. If you are allowed to smoke, please smoke outside the house.

## 6. Damage or Breakage within the Home

Take care with your homestay family's home and possessions. If you break or damage something by mistake tell your homestay host immediately. If you are worried about it, come and talk to our staff and we will help you.

## 7. Problems or Complaints

Talk to your homestay hosts first if there is a problem or something you don't understand. If you cannot do this, or have a serious problem, come and talk to our staff as soon as possible.

## FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

### **1. How do I find my way to school on the first day?**

Your homestay family will show you how to get to school. They may take you on the bus or show you which ones to catch to and home from school. If you arrive during a weekend, they might be able to take you into town and show you where the school is.

### **2. My homestay family are quite noisy in the evenings and I would like to do some quiet study. Is it ok to close the door and work in my room?**

It is fine to go and work in your room. You can tell your family that you are going to do this and maybe say goodnight to them if it is close to their usual bedtime. Don't do this all the time as you will miss out on important opportunities to improve your English skills through helping with tasks, listening to and talking with your host family.

### **3. My English isn't very good and I feel too nervous to talk to my homestay family. What should I do?**

Homestay families understand that it is very difficult for students. They will be patient and happy to help you. The more you try, the easier it will get! Just remember your homestay family are not teachers, so may not be able to help you with difficult grammar questions.

### **4. My homestay mother asks me to tidy my bedroom and clean up the bathroom after I've used it. I don't think I should have to do this.**

Your homestay is not a hotel, it is a family arrangement. In New Zealand it is very common for family members to keep their own rooms tidy and help with other tasks around the home. Make sure you wipe any splashed water from the bathroom walls, basin and floor. Don't leave your things in the bathroom or lying around the rest of the house.

### **5. My homestay parents work and are very busy at the weekends with the family. Should I offer to help with some chores around the house?**

Yes! New Zealand families are often very busy. They would love you to offer to help and it will help improve your vocabulary and you will get to know the family better. You can say e.g. "Would you like me to help with the dishes?".

### **6. My homestay mother has told me to just help myself to breakfast in the mornings. I am not sure what she means.**

Most New Zealand families have fruit, cereal, toast and a cup of tea/coffee/milo for breakfast. You can prepare your own cereal and make some toast and a hot drink. Ask if you are unsure how to do any of these things.

**7. I do not like the food my homestay host prepares for me.**

Some foods may seem strange at first, it will take a while to get used to the new flavours. Tell your homestay if there are any foods you strongly dislike or are allergic to.

**8. I would like to cook myself food to take to school for lunch. Can I ask my homestay if I can use the kitchen?**

Ask your homestay if it is ok to use their cooking facilities. Some families are very busy and may prefer you not to spend too much time in the kitchen. You can buy lunch food at the supermarket and ask if it all right to keep it in the fridge.

**9. My room is really cold.**

Many New Zealand houses do not have central heating. You can ask your homestay for more blankets. If a heater is supplied keep it at a medium heat only and do not leave it on all day. Electricity is very expensive here.

**10. I am not sure how to wash my clothes.**

Ask your homestay host to show you how to work the washing machine and where you can dry your clothes. Many families use an outdoor clothes line.

**11. Sometimes my homestay family argue. I am not sure what to do.**

This is a normal part of family life, all families have arguments sometimes. If you feel very uncomfortable, speak to our Homestay Coordinator or school counsellors.

**12. I want to use the internet at my homestay but they told me it is too expensive for me to use their access.**

Just use the internet to check your emails or if you are here for a long time (1 year) you can ask if you can set up you own internet connection. Our staff will be able to give advice on the best way to do this. Some families may give you internet access but charge extra for it.

**13. Is it ok to ring my family using the homestay home phone?**

It is probably better to contact them on your mobile or you can buy a phone card which will enable you to make cheaper long distance calls. If your friends or family ring you on your homestay number, make sure they have checked the correct time in New Zealand and do not call after 9pm.

**14. My homestay family go to bed at 9.30pm but I like to stay up late and watch TV. Is this ok?**

Many New Zealand families go to bed between 9.30 -10.00pm. If you want to stay up late, check this is ok with your homestay family and don't make a lot of noise, especially if there are young children in the house. Remember to turn off the main lights when you go to bed.