

St Peter's
Cambridge

NEW ZEALAND

INTERNATIONAL

HOMESTAY INFORMATION



Dear International Student

You have been living in a boarding house for a few weeks. Now you are going to live in a homestay for the leave weekend or holiday.

You are probably nervous and even afraid. If you want to talk about homestays, please come and see us in the International Office. We would love to chat and help you feel better.

The advice in this booklet is to help you when you stay in a homestay.

What to take with you?

- Clothes
- Toiletries
- Medicines – if needed
- Bank card
- A phone with credit on it
- Pocket money (see pg 7)

What is a homestay?

- A New Zealand family who has offered to host you in their home as if you are one of their own children.
- They will be friendly and welcoming and warm.
- All your meals will be provided.
- Your bed will have bedding on it.
- A towel will be provided.
- Your washing will be done if you are staying longer than a weekend.
- You will join in with what the family is doing.
- You may also go out with your friends in Cambridge or Hamilton.

When you arrive at the homestay's home, they will show you around. This is the time to ask a few questions, so that you know what is expected. Let's go through the different things you may want to ask.

The question you want to ask is in blue. Then some information follows to help you.

You will be shown through the different areas of the home and below are suggested questions you might like to ask as you are shown through the different areas of the house.



Meals

When do you want me to come for meals?

Most families eat their meals together. They may sit around the dining table or in the lounge and talk about what they have been doing, while they eat. They will most likely ask you some questions about yourself.

If there is food you can't eat, please tell your host mother when you arrive. The food will be different from what you are used to. Please try everything.

It is considered bad manners to use a phone, a tablet, a laptop or to wear ear/headphones and hats during meal time.

If you meet up with your friends in town and will miss a meal, please let your host mother know before she has prepared the meal.

It is safe to drink water from the taps in NZ.



Bathroom and Toilet

When is a good time to bathe or shower?

You will be shown where the bathroom is. This is a good time to ask about the best times to use these.

The water in some homes is heated in a hot water cylinder. When all the hot water is used up, it takes a few hours for the new water to heat up. So, it is better if the shower times are spread out, so that hot water is always available.

Also keep showers short. About 5-7min long. If you use up all the hot water, the next person will have a cold shower. You may be sharing a bathroom with other family members. Lock the door when in the bathroom. Be considerate of others wanting to use the bathroom.

Do not use the shower after the family has gone to bed. This may wake them up.

There should be a bin in the toilet for sanitary items such as pads and tampons. If there is not, ask your host mother what you should do with these items.

How do I dry the bathroom floor?

When showering you keep the nozzle in its attachment. If you lift it out, you may end up letting the water run outside the shower. Try to avoid this. If it does happen, find out how to dry the floor and so leave the bathroom tidy.

Where should I put my wet towel?

- Some families have heated towel rails.
- Some families put the towel in the bedroom.

- Some families put them straight onto the washing line.

Please try to leave the bathroom tidy. Ask your homestay how you can dry the floor. Remove clothes and hang towels up.

How do I clean the toilet?

In New Zealand we never stand on a toilet seat. The seat is for sitting on. If the toilet is not clean when you are finished, then you will find a toilet brush you can use to give it a quick clean and flush once cleaned. Always leave a clean toilet.



Bedroom

You will also be shown your bedroom. This is a good time to ask about bed time:

What time do you go to bed?

Most New Zealand families go to bed around 10pm. Please do not make a noise after the bed time they give you. It is good to get a good night's sleep yourself, but you may read a little later or do some quiet activity. Avoid gaming and moving around the house or taking a shower when others are asleep.

Make your bed every morning and keep your room tidy.





Chores

You are a member of the family. Look for ways to be helpful:

- Help with the dishes.
- Help hang wet washing on the wash line.
- Cook a meal or bake a cake.
- Offer to strip the bed before you leave.
- Offer to vacuum your room before you leave.



Laundry

If your clothes need a wash, ask where you must leave it. Most families have a laundry basket where they put dirty clothes. It is rare that dirty clothes are kept in the bedroom.

Problems

Sometimes you may be finding life difficult. Here are a few suggestions: -

1. Speak to your homestay about what is bothering you.
2. Phone a friend, or your family.
3. Phone someone in the International Department to have a chat about serious problems.

If you want to spend some time alone in your room, tell your homestay you want to be alone. You could say:

“I want to take some time out in my room.”

If you damage any property at your homestay, please be honest and tell them.

“I am sorry. I have had an accident and is broken. How can I help fix this?”

Please let the International Department know, so that we can help you work out a way to fix things.

Many problems can be solved by talking and helping others to understand.

Staying Away Overnight with another Homestay

You are allowed to have a sleep over with a friend who is staying with another homestay.

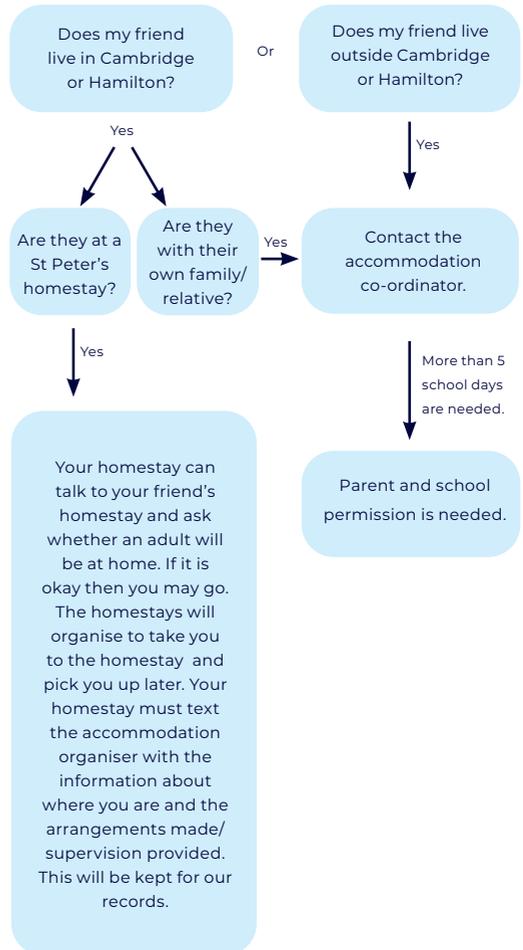
1. Your homestays can phone each other.
2. They can organise a ride to and from each other's homes, and make sure you will have an adult looking after you.
3. They can text the International Department to let us know a sleep over is happening.

Staying Away Overnight with a Friend

You may stay with a school friend, but this takes 5 days to organise. This is because they are not police vetted like homestays are.

1. Ask permission from the International Department a whole week before you want to go stay with a friend.
2. Your friend's parents must email the International Department inviting you to stay.
3. The International Department will then communicate with your friend's family and organise for you to stay with them.

Going to Sleep Over with a Friend on a Leave Weekend/School Holiday





Now all this information has been about how to manage different situations with your homestay. You will not be in the home all the time. You are allowed to go out and to meet up with your friends. You may want to go out shopping, or to have a meal of your choice.



Cars

You may go anywhere with your homestay in their car. However, you need permission from the International Department to go in someone else's car.

All international students are enrolled at St Peters on the understanding that they may not drive a car or own a motorbike or a car.



Bus

You may use the bus to Hamilton and back. Please make sure you have your homestay's phone number in your phone so that you can contact them if necessary.

If you want to take the bus further than Hamilton, then you have to get permission from the International Department ahead of time. You may want to go to Auckland or Tauranga. Usually you will go with friends, so that you can keep safe. We will book the tickets for you. Come and ask us to organise this trip 3 days before the trip will occur.





Money Matters

Pocket Money

You can take pocket money with you on the leave weekend. This must be organised ahead of time. Come to the International Department on the Monday before the leave weekend, and ask for pocket money to be organised.

Bank Cards

Your bank card must always be kept safe.

- Choose a safe place to store it. Always put it back in the same place.
- If you lose your card or it is stolen, report it to your bank and let the International Office know.
- Keep your PIN number safe.
- Never tell another person what your PIN is.
- Never write your PIN down.



Outings with your host family

Your homestay will ask you to contact your parents before you go out, especially if it is an expensive outing, to ask if they will pay for this outing. If your parents give permission, you may go.

OR

You can ask the International Department to get permission for you. We will need to know about this outing 3 days before it occurs.

When you go on outings use your bank card to pay for yourself

OR

The homestay can pay and give the receipts to the International Department. We will then pay them from your school account.

Please try your very best to participate as much as you can with your homestay's family. Go on the outings they suggest. Go with them to visit their friends. Play card games and board games with them if they have games evenings.





Medical Care

If you are ill or injured, your homestay will take you to a doctor.

You can pay with your bank card OR your homestay can pay and give the receipts to the International Department. We will then pay them from your school account.

You do have insurance for medical costs: Show your homestay the following information:

The St Peters Medical Insurance
Company is: Uni-Care
Ph: 0800 864 227

The school's policy number is:
UNIC 20124

Always inform the International Department of any doctor's visit or any medical care you have been given.

Please keep all receipts and bring them to the International Department. We need them to make the insurance claim.



Illegal Substances

Alcohol

It is illegal for anyone to supply alcohol to someone under the age of 18 years without the consent of their parent or guardian.

It is against school policy to drink alcohol anywhere.

You may not drink alcohol.

Smoking and Vaping

New Zealand aims to be smoke free by 2025. Nearly 85% of New Zealanders do not smoke.

It is illegal to buy cigarettes or vape if you are under 18 years old.

It is against school policy for any St Peter's student to smoke or vape.

You may not smoke or vape.

A last word of advice

Good manners help you get on with your homestay. Saying “thank you” is important. When you say “thank you” it shows the homestay family that you are thankful.

Here are some words you can use:

“Thank you for dinner. I enjoyed eating the meal.”

“Thank you for taking me to the movies. I enjoyed my time a lot.”

When your homestay drops you off at the boarding house after the weekend is over, thank them for the weekend when you leave them.

“Good bye and thank you for taking care of me this weekend. I enjoyed staying with you.”

“Good bye and thank you for letting me stay at your house. I enjoyed the trip to the movies. Thanks again.”

Take this booklet with you. When you are not sure what to do, take this booklet out and see if you can find the information you need, as it can be very difficult to remember everything.

We do not expect you to have problems, but it is better to be ready.

Go and enjoy your leave weekend or holiday. Join in and have fun. Our homestays always look forward to hosting you and sharing some of our country and traditions with you.

Remember we are a phone call away.

**Go with our best wishes
The International Department**



Contacts

Mrs Heather Joubert

Accommodation Co-ordinator

Office: 07 827 9732

Mobile: 027 291 9563

Email: heatherj@stpeters.school.nz

Ms Lauree Fuller

Director of International

Office: 07 827 9803

Mobile: 027 554 3474

Email: lauree.fuller@stpeters.school.nz
