



Homestay Accommodation Information for Parents of International Students

Availability of Homestays

St Heliers School is located in an affluent area and it is extremely difficult (almost impossible) to find homestays for international students.

In 2017, all our international students came to study in New Zealand with their own parent.

Homestay fees

Homestay fees for 2017 and 2018 for international students are \$NZ300.00 per week.

Homestay accommodation fees for a parent and a child in the same room are \$580.00 per week.

Homestay fees should be paid, in advance, directly to the homestay family, by the international students' parents.

Homestay families are monitored by St Heliers School. Students are visited in their homestay accommodation once/twice per year, or as required, to provide extra support and supervision.

Homestay fees cover the following:

- Meals - 3 meals a day and snacks, including a packed lunch during the school week.
- Laundry – washing and ironing. (Students are expected to place their dirty laundry in an appropriate place in the laundry).
- 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.

Pocket money

International students will need to have access to funds for regular pocket money, approximately \$NZ 20.00 per week.

Parents of international students will be responsible for extra funds to pay for weekly pocket money, and additional costs, such as:

- Trips with the host family, e.g. theme parks, shopping, holidays during term breaks, presents for birthday parties, additional stationery, movie tickets, items of clothing, slippers, socks, personal items, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical items, etc.
- Medical fees – visits to the doctor and pharmacy

Parents of international students will need to communicate with the homestay parents to determine how and when this money will be paid. Students will not be permitted to carry large amounts of cash; they will need a bank card in order to withdraw money as they need it.

Contact with the International Students' Parents

Once the homestay has been confirmed, please email the homestay family, to introduce yourself and your child. Please keep in regular contact with the homestay family.

Transport

Homestay families are responsible for getting your child to and from St Heliers School.

Routines

International students are expected to fit into the family routines. They should help by tidying their rooms and participating in family jobs such as setting the table and doing the dishes.

Toiletries

Children need to provide their own soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and personal toiletries. When they need to buy more, they will use their own money for these purchases.

Communication

Students must have regular communication with their parents, either by phone, email, or Skype. Students will purchase their own telephone cards for international calls to their parents and for mobile calls.

Safety

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

Homestay parents are responsible for their international student for the whole time. It is the homestay parents' responsibility to know where their child is, how they can be contacted and who they are spending their time with, at all times.

Homework

It is the homestay carer's responsibility to help international students with their homework.

Student Behaviour

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

Language

Your child will probably be unfamiliar with New Zealand accents (even if he/she has good English) and colloquial expressions and may be difficult for them at first.

Changing Homestays

If a student changes homestays, one week's notice must be given to the International Student Managers, who will advise the homestay, immediately. Students must 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.

Living in a Kiwi homestay

International students time to adjust to life in New Zealand, both at school and in their homestay. During this time, students will progressively find it easier to communicate and to understand what is expected of them at home and at school.

Please support them in their adjustment by listening to them and reassuring them that they will gradually settle into New Zealand culture.

Mrs Donna Harris
Manager of International Students
St Heliers School