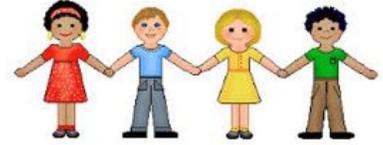




## Information for Students staying in a Homestay



### Information for International Students at a Greenhithe School Homestay

You will probably find living in a homestay different from living in your home – different ways of doing things, different food, having to look after yourself. You will learn a lot from living in a homestay, but it will take some time to adjust. Please join in family conversations and activities. You will also be expected to assist with the day-to-day activities in the home as much as the children of the homestay family do. Please keep the house clean and tidy - remember it is a family home, not a hotel. Our homestay families have looked forward to your arrival and have often moved furniture, and in some cases, even family members to accommodate you. If you have a problem you should always ASK for advice. If you are very worried then our International department will help you at school.

- ❖ Bedtime: most New Zealand primary school children go to bed between 8.00pm and 8.30pm. Please try to get your child into the same routine from your first night, so they can be more active and ready for school in the morning and during the day.
- ❖ Cleaning: please keep the house as you find it. If the bathroom and toilet are clean when you arrive, you should make sure it is clean throughout your stay. Remember it is a family home, not a hotel.
- ❖ Chores for kids: most children will have chores to do around the house such as making their bed, recycling the rubbish, tidying their toys away. Your children will be expected to do the same. It is also a perfect time for the children to spend quality time together.
- ❖ Food preparation: you will be able to help yourselves to breakfast and lunch. Your homestay will show you where things are. Please remember to put things away afterwards. You can share roles for cooking/clearing away dinner. This is a good time for conversation and getting to know each other.
- ❖ Transportation: if your homestay is not within walking distance to school, they will drop off and collect the children each day. They can also show you local bus stops if you wish to use public transport to explore and how to purchase an AT card (Auckland Transport card for use on buses, trains and ferries).
- ❖ Conversation: our homestay families will be interested in learning about your country and language. It is also a good time to practise your English. It does not matter if you only know a very small number of words; acting and drawing pictures can help and be fun.
- ❖ Water: Most homes have a hot water tank. With extra people living in the home, please do not take long showers. Everybody needs to use it.

### Greenhithe School Homestay Rules for Students, Parents & Host Families

Please note these rules have been set by the school to ensure a cohesive and inclusive quality homestay environment is maintained. The rules apply to both visiting students AND PARENTS!

These rules should ensure students and parents make the most of their time with our host families, practising English (and Mandarin for the host families!) whilst having fun.

1. No Chinese homework to be done. This is non-negotiable as this takes away from quality family time. Parents wishing their child to do Chinese homework should not choose homestay accommodation.
2. Greenhithe School homework should be completed at the table in the kitchen/dining room. No workplace office is silent and students should learn to be able to study with background noise. Greenhithe School reading books should be read out loud to another member of the family. This is an opportunity for the family to sit together listening to stories.
3. No devices are to be taken into or used in the bedroom. If a phone is used, it must be done in the family living space.
4. Devices are not to be used for playing games.
5. Devices will be kept in the kitchen overnight; students will know where they are. They will not be out of reach so this is done on a 'trust' basis.
6. Visiting students/parents are to spend afternoons and evenings communicating, playing, reading, cooking with the host family.
7. Students will not be allowed to walk to/from school by themselves.
8. Bedtime will be of a suitable time to the homestay family.

### **Kiwi Culture**

- New Zealanders find spitting and littering offensive. Some New Zealanders can get upset if they see people behave in these ways.
- New Zealanders are very passionate about the outdoors. Much of their entertainment is done outdoors. New Zealanders also love sport. Popular sports include rugby, cricket and netball.
- When shopping, going to the post office or visiting any other place where others are doing similar things to you, a queuing system is used. This means that whoever comes first will be served first ('first come, first served'). It is considered bad manners go ahead of someone else, who was already there when you arrived.
- New Zealand has no snakes or dangerous wild animals so it is very safe.
- New Zealand cities and towns have excellent water supplies and in all cases tap water is fresh and safe to drink.

### **Homestay Accommodation**

Greenhithe School has assessed the suitability of Greenhithe homestay or the designated caregiver's accommodation by:

- Visiting the home
- Interviewing the caregiver
- Carrying out Police vetting for all persons in the house 18 years of age and over in the Greenhithe homestay or, if considered necessary, in the designated caregiver's home and is satisfied that the homestay will provide safe and suitable accommodation for an international student.
- Receiving reference checks for the suitability of the homestay parents.

### **Homestay Arrangements through Greenhithe School**

The school makes all the arrangements for payments to the homestay family. For students 10+ years who are studying without a parent, we can organise for your son/daughter and their belongings to be transported to the homestay if you wish. We will send you a profile of the homestay family that your child will be living with while she is studying in New Zealand. If a student needs to move out of a Greenhithe homestay, all arrangements

will be carried out by our International department. The student does not give notice to the homestay parent. Our International department will contact you, the student's parents, to explain the change. If you, as the legal parents want the change yourselves, you must write to the International department giving valid reasons for changing homestay. The International department will give one weeks' notice to the homestay from the time a decision is made or at the time the school receives a letter from you, the parent. Please note however, that you will be charged an additional homestay placement fee.

## **Personal Directory**

Write all the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all the people you might need to contact while you are at Greenhithe School:

- Your family, friends, parent/guardian and agent
- Your homestay's names, address, phone number
- Greenhithe School phone 00 64 9 413 9838
- New Zealand Emergency number – Fire – Ambulance – Police – 111

## **At the Airport**

Either your agent or the school can organise for you to be met at Auckland Airport. Please email [international@greenhithe.school.nz](mailto:international@greenhithe.school.nz) if you wish airport collection/drop off to be arranged.

## **What's Life like in New Zealand?**

New Zealand is a great place to live and we are sure you will agree. New Zealander's like to call themselves Kiwi's (after the bird not the kiwi fruit!) and they are very passionate about the outdoors and all sports, and in particular rugby. The All Blacks are a well-known icon, but New Zealand also has a vibrant cafe society and cultural activities. New Zealand has a temperate climate, stunning scenery and friendly locals. It is a rich multicultural society and this is reflected in the variety of ethnic foods available in restaurants and cafes. Although there are just over 4 million people living in New Zealand, there is something for everyone here, peaceful countryside, buzzing cities and plenty of fun and adventures.

## **Auckland City**

Although Wellington is the capital of New Zealand, Auckland is the largest city. It is a vibrant city with many activities available. There are islands in the Hauraki gulf to explore, and plenty of parks and beaches for walking and swimming.

## **The North Shore**

Greenhithe School is located in Auckland's North Shore – just 15 minutes from the Auckland City centre. The school is situated in an idyllic and convenient area with regular bus routes into the City, and many other destinations around the Shore – town centres, beaches etc.

There are plenty of shopping malls located on the North Shore.

## **Transport in Auckland**

Many of the students at Greenhithe School walk to school. Remember that in New Zealand cars drive on the left-hand side of the road, so you must be very careful when crossing roads. Make sure you look right, then left, then right again before you cross. If you Parents or guardians may wish to catch a bus into the city centre. Buses are frequent, quick and very clean. Your host family will show you where to catch the bus. We suggest that you purchase an AT HOP CARD which can be used on public buses, ferries and trains. This can be bought and topped up from the Greenhithe Dairy.

## **Recommended Clothing**

We suggest that you bring the following items to cover the various seasons: swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses, shorts, t-shirts, raincoat, warm waterproof jacket, sweatshirt/jumper, jeans, long sleeve shirts and adaptors/chargers for your mobile phone. You will need good walking shoes or trainers. You should also remember your camera, toiletries and any medication.

## **Weather in New Zealand**

New Zealand's warmest months are December, January and February, while the coldest are June, July and August. However, winters tend to be short and generally fairly mild.

In summer the average maximum temperature ranges between 20-30°C and in winter between 10-15°C. The weather in New Zealand is changeable and you may experience four seasons all in one day! So be prepared for sudden changes in weather and temperature.

## **Banks**

Banks are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and many main branches are open on a Saturday. ATM machines are widely available in shopping streets and malls. International credit cards and ATM cards will work so long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded. Check with your bank before leaving home.

## **Electricity**

You will need an adapter/converter for any devices. Power outlets only accept two or three pin Type I plugs (as also used in Australia).

## **Pastoral Care Contacts**

Mrs Trudy Freeman, International department – mobile 00 64 27 225 6651

Mr Stephen Grady, Principal, via the school – 00 64 9 413 9838