



**Takapuna
Grammar School**

Home Stay Information



Welcome to New Zealand and your homestay family

We hope you enjoy your stay and experience

This booklet will help you settle in to your new homestay and learn about New Zealand and our way of life. Please read this booklet and keep it safe as you may need to refer back to some things during your stay.

Write down this information and take a photo of it on your phone.

Homestay Mum	
Mum's Mobile Number	
Homestay Dad	
Dad's Mobile Number	
Homestay Address	
My Mobile and Email	
My School Email	
NZ Emergency Number	
TGS Emergency Number	

Emergency Phone Numbers

24-hour Emergency Phone: 0800 215269

Help for Fire, Police or Medical Emergency: Dial 111 (this is a free call even from a cell phone)

If you have a problem that is **NOT AN EMERGENCY** contact your homestay parents.

The International Department is located at the bottom of the main building to the right of the main entrance of the school. We have an open-door policy, you are welcome anytime to see us.

International Department Staff:

Mr Grant Simpkins: Director

Mrs Meg Lamb: International Business Coordinator

Ms Baker: International Dean

Mrs Hemopo: Accommodation Manger

Mrs Fleissner: International Manager

Mr Park: International Korean Dean

Ms Qiu: International Chinese Dean

Living with a Kiwi Family

New Zealand is a multicultural country with a way of life that will be quite different to your own. There will be a lot of new things to learn and new people to meet.

Feeling Home Sick

Sometimes you may feel alone and confused and unaware of what to do or how to act. You may feel sad and you may feel that you just want to go home. It is normal to feel this way and it may take a while to fit into a new culture, these feelings don't last long, once you meet new people, start adjusting to school life and getting out and about you will start to feel better again.

Please come and see us so that you don't feel this way on your own. Your homestay family will also understand and be able to help you.

Just remember to be kind and patient to yourself and just give it time

Some Cultural Differences

Good manners are very important in New Zealand families, good manners show you respect other people.

- Always say please when you are wanting something and thank you when something is done for you or given to you.
- If someone says hello to you, say hello back to them.
- When people in your homestay say good morning or goodnight, say it back to them.
- Always say goodbye when you leave and hello when you return. If you go out with your friends for dinner and you come home and your hosts are in bed, it is nice that you send a text to say you have arrived home.

New Zealand Lifestyle

Most kiwi families enjoy being outside and active. In the summertime families like to have barbecues and often invite people around to join in and share food. You might feel shy with new people around but New Zealanders are very friendly and enjoy meeting people from other countries. Try to talk to new people. It's a good way to practice your English.

Disagreements

- New Zealanders may show their feelings openly. If they are unhappy or don't agree with something, they will tell the other person.
- Adults usually want to talk about why they are upset. This is how they try to improve or change the situation so that it does not happen again.
- Children and teenagers sometimes argue with each other and with their parents. This is not unusual in a kiwi family so try not to let it worry you.
- If you are unhappy about something, try and talk with your homestay family. If they don't know there is a problem they cannot help you.

If something is bothering you it is best to deal with it quickly before a small problem becomes a big problem

Settling in New Zealand

While you are here you will be part of a new family. They will be interested in you and will want to get to know you better. Your homestay family may do things differently from your own family but it is your responsibility to fit in with them.

- Respect the family rules, Be polite and helpful around the house.

- Spend a little time each day talking with your family. English might be hard at first but the more you practice the easier it will become.
- Join in family activities and be friendly to your homestay parents, brothers and sisters. If they have visitors, say hello and try to chat with them.

Respect your Homestay's Privacy and Property:

- Always ask if you would like to borrow something.
- You are responsible for anything you damage or lose and will be expected to pay for a replacement, repair or cleaning costs.
- The bedrooms of your homestay are PRIVATE, you must stay out even if the door is open. If you need something, knock on the door.

Your Bedroom

Take good care of your bedroom. When you leave to go back home, it should look the same as when you arrived.

- Keep your room clean and tidy and make your bed every day.
- Your home stay will show you how to use a vacuum cleaner and where you can put the rubbish.
- Pull back the curtains when you get up and open the windows to let in fresh air, remember to shut windows at night or whenever you go out.
- It is polite for people to knock on your bedroom door before coming in. If young children come in without knocking, explain to them that you would like them to knock first.
- Do not spend all your time in your bedroom, spend time each day with your homestay family talking about different things you are doing. Talking will help to improve your English and you will feel happier being part of the family.
- New Zealand families go to sleep between 9:30pm-11:00pm. If you are the last person to go to bed remember to turn off all the lights and heaters. Do not make loud noises as it will disturb people who are sleeping.
- **ALWAYS** turn off heaters and hair straighteners before you go to sleep or leave the house.
- **DO NOT** cook or keep food in your bedroom.
- **NEVER** smoke cigarettes, vape or light candles in your bedroom.

Using the Shower and Bathroom

New Zealanders usually shower once a day. The bathroom can be a busy place in the mornings and the hot water is stored in small tanks. Hot water is expensive in New Zealand so be quick (5-7 minutes). Do not shower after 10:00pm at night. You should also have your own shampoo and hair/beauty products.

Do not dye your hair in the home stay bathroom – it will leave stains and you will have to pay for the damage. Go to the hairdresser instead.

Using the Toilet

Males: Lift the toilet seat before urinating and put it down again when you have finished. It is unhygienic to leave urine on the floor and walls so any mess you make please clean it up.

Females: Please ask your host mother about the best way to dispose of used menstrual pads or tampons. These must **NOT** be put down the toilet as they cause blockages which are embarrassing and expensive to fix.

REMEMBER: Toilet paper can be put down the toilet and flushed

Washing your Clothes

In New Zealand clothes are washed in a washing machine. Your host mother or father will usually wash your clothes for you and she will show you where to put your dirty laundry.

- If you want to do any washing by hand, use the laundry **Not** the bathroom. Ask your host parent for help.
- Clothes are usually dried on the clothesline, not inside your bedroom, dripping water can damage the floor or furniture.
- Do **NOT** put wet clothes over a heater or close to a heater as this will cause a fire.
- Follow your host instructions for your washing, like washing frequency and duration, etc. Water and power are very expensive in New Zealand.

Meals

Your homestay will provide 3 meals a day.

Breakfast

Between 7.00am – 8.30am

- Most students make their own breakfast which would usually be cereal (with fruit, milk or yoghurt) and/or toast (with butter and some sort of spread, i.e: jam, peanut butter, Nutella etc) your homestay should ask you what you like for breakfast, if not then you could ask.
- Sometimes families make a cooked breakfast like bacon and eggs, this would be on the weekends.

Lunch

Between 12.30pm – 2.30pm

- Students usually make their own lunch for school. New Zealanders like to make sandwiches, bread rolls with different fillings inside i.e. chicken ham, cheese lettuce etc. Some homestays also cook extra from the night before dinner that you can take for lunch the next day. Ask your home stay what you can take and also suggest to them what you like as well.
- We also have the TGS tuck shop which is a canteen where you can buy drinks, sushi, hot foods and more. You will need to pay for this unless your homestay gives you some lunch money. Lunch will cost about \$5.00 - \$10.00 at the tuck shop.

Dinner

Between 5:30pm -7:30pm

- Your homestay will usually make this for you. Most New Zealand families eat at the dinner table, this gives everybody time to talk about their day.
- Always ask permission and give notice if you want to go out for dinner with your friends and be back home on time. If you do out with friends you will have to pay for it yourself.

Snacks

- Please ask your homestay what snacks you can eat. Some homestays have specific food for something they may need. It is always polite to ask before you take food.
- Ask your homestay if you can have a separate area in the cupboard for the snacks you like.
- Do not have food or drinks in your bedroom, this causes insects and rodents to come into your room and makes your room smell bad. Your homestay will tell you where the best place is to store your snacks.

Table Manners

- Start eating when the rest of the family starts eating.

- It is polite to thank your host or whoever cooked the meal.
- It is ok to say no thank you if you are offered something you don't like but you should try different food as part of your experience.
- Do not take devices to the dinner table. This is a time for everyone to talk about their day.

Helping at Home

In most New Zealand families both parents work outside the home. Families do not have drivers or servants. It is usual for children to help their parents with household jobs. As part of the family you are expected to do some small jobs as well. These jobs can include:

- Keeping your bedroom clean and tidy
- Bringing dry washing from the clothesline, especially if it going to rain
- Joining in with the grocery shopping/carrying grocery bags into the house
- Setting the table for dinner
- Helping with preparing food
- Clearing the table
- Washing or drying the dishes
- Loading and unloading the dishwasher

Helpful Questions to Ask Your Homestay Family

- What jobs shall do around the house?
- *Where do I put my dirty clothes?*
- *Can I hand wash some of my personal items?*
- *Where should I dry the clothes that I have washed?*
- *What is the best time for me to use the shower/bathroom?*
- *What toiletries do I have to buy for myself?*
- *When is dinner?*
- *How can I help at mealtimes?*
- *Where can I keep my own food?*
- *Can I put posters on my wall?*
- *Can I move my bedroom furniture around?*

Keeping Warm

New Zealand houses might be bigger and colder than house's in your country. The main living areas are usually heated during the coldest months.

- You may have a small heater for your room. **DO NOT** have your heater on all night. This is dangerous and can cause a fire.
- If you are cold wear warm clothing i.e. jumpers, trackpants, socks, slippers and thermal under clothing.

- An electric blanket is good to warm the bed before you get in it. Do not leave an electric blanket on all night; this can be dangerous and cause a fire.
- Wheat bags and hot water bottles are a safe and cheap way to stay warm in your bed.

ALWAYS turn off heaters and electric blankets before you sleep or go out

Internet and Computer

Most New Zealand homes have broadband internet but it might be slower than in your own country. Talk to your home stay parents about how much internet you can use, some homes have unlimited internet and some have limited internet.

- Always follow the homestay rules for computer/internet use.
- Ask permission before using your homestay's computer.
- Ask permission before you download anything on your homestay's computer.
- Try not to spend all your spare time on the computer/internet.
- Keep the volume down on your computer if you are playing a game or skypeing at night.
- **DO NOT** go into any offensive websites.
- **DO NOT** download films, music or any files that are supposed to be paid for.
IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO DOWNLOAD FILES WITHOUT PAYING FOR THEM

INTERNET AND DEVICE CURFEW TIMES

Sunday to Thursday Night - 10:30pm

Friday and Saturday Night - Midnight (12.00am)

Mobile Phones

Most students have their own cell phone. You can purchase a phone with a pre-paid card option. This is a good way to keep in contact with your homestay and friends and family.

- You can bring your mobile to school but you cannot use your phone in class unless you have permission from your teacher.
- If you need your phone to translate, make sure you ask your teacher first.
- Make sure your home stay parents have your mobile phone number and you have theirs.
- Always make sure your mobile is fully charged and has credit before you leave home.

Travelling Outside of Auckland

- You must let our International Administrator know as soon as possible if you want to travel outside of Auckland with your homestay family or an approved tour company.
- You must fill in the application to travel form which is available from Mrs Fleissner our International Manager.
- Your natural parents need to sign the form as well as your homestay. The form then needs to be signed off by our Director, Mr Simpkins.
- If you decide to go on a personal trip and you miss any school days this will go against your school attendance and your Visa may be cancelled. Please ask first before you book any personal trips.

IMPORTANT: If you wish to partake in any dangerous or adventure activities such as bungy jumping you **MUST** have permission from your natural parents and the International Director.

Overnight stays and Sleep overs

- You will need to fill out a request form for any overnight sleepovers and this must be approved by our Director Mr Simpkins. These forms are in the International Department.
- You cannot at the last-minute ring your homestay to ask them if you are staying overnight at someone's home.

Home Country Leave

If you want to go home during the school holidays and or the end of the year make your flight booking as early as possible. Many students from all over New Zealand travel during the holidays so flights are booked out very early. You must fill out the permission to travel form and get it signed off from your parents.

IMPORTANT: Do not book tickets to come back to New Zealand or return home outside of holiday times

Getting Around

Most students walk to and from school and some take a bus. Your homestay is NOT required to take you to school unless they offer.

- Information is on the public transport website, www.athop.co.nz or you can phone 09-3666400. They can tell you where to catch the bus from and your nearest bus stop. They can also give you information for travel on Auckland trains and ferries.
- Always ask your homestay parents before you go anywhere.
- Always tell them where you are going, who you are going with and when you will be home.
- Always take your cell phone – make sure it is charged and has credit.
- Always let your homestay know immediately if your plans change.
- Keep your pin number private and be extra careful around money machines.
- If you are out and someone is harassing you approach a Police Officer if one is around or go into a store and ask for help.

Keeping Safe

New Zealand is safer than most countries but you must still be sensible and take care to keep yourself and your belongings safe. New Zealand Police are friendly and can be trusted to help you whenever you need them.

- Only go to places with people you know well and trust.
- Do not walk in the city alone at night and avoid dark areas.
- Call a taxi or Uber if you need to get home after dark.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash or expensive jewellery with you.
- It is illegal to consume or purchase alcohol up to the age of 18. While you are a student at Takapuna Grammar you are not permitted to drink or buy or hold in your possession any alcohol.

Follow the Curfew Rules

Age	Sunday-Thursday	Friday and Saturday
Under 15 Years	6.00pm	8.30pm
15 Years	6.00pm	11.00pm

16 Years	6.00pm	12:00am
17 Years and Over	6.00pm	12.00am

- Your host is responsible for you at all times while you are staying with them.
- Tell your host who you are going out with, where you are going and what time you will be home.
- Make sure your mobile is fully charged.
- Be home at the agreed time, if there is a problem call your home stay.

Road Safety

International Students are **NOT** allowed to drive or have a car.

- It is the law in New Zealand to wear a seatbelt in the front and back of a vehicle.
- Do not accept a ride from someone you do not know.
- It is illegal to drive after drinking alcohol. Make sure the person driving you has not been drinking.
- Never go in a car with a restricted or learner driver. Always check the driver has their full New



Zealand Drivers Licence.

Enjoy your Stay