



SOMERVILLE Intermediate School

39 Somerville Road
Howick, Auckland 2014
Phone: (09) 535 1070
Fax: (09) 535 1071
Email: office@somint.school.nz
www.somervilleintermediate.school.nz

HAVING A HOMESTAY

This is equally an experience for the student as it is for you and your family. They will be apprehensive, excited and even scared. Please embrace their cultural differences and share yours with them.

On Arrival

The homestay family will be required to pick their student up from the designated location i.e. school. This will have been advised to you prior to your student's arrival. Please help your student with their bags and introduce them to your family. They will be very tired after a long trip.

What is required of the Homestay family?

- You are required to provide 3 meals per day, 7 days a week - breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as morning and afternoon tea snacks. Lunch should be packed for school. This should include a drink, sandwiches, fruit and e.g. yoghurt, muesli bars, biscuits, chips, noodles, filled rolls, cooked rice, sushi etc. They often like Asian foods. (Visit an Asian supermarket, let them choose etc.)
- You are required to do the washing and any ironing for your student. Provide a pillowcase or "delicates bag" for underwear, check they do not hang underwear in their wardrobe to dry!
- The bedroom must be warm, get plenty of sunlight and have a window that opens. The bedroom should have a wardrobe, a chest of drawers for clothes; bed linen is to include sheets, blankets or quilt, adequate heating, lamp and a mirror.
- It is the homestay parents' responsibility to care for the child in a way that ensures they are kept safe from harm and their emotional well-being is nurtured.

Transport

It is the responsibility of the homestay family to transport the student to their place of education. If the student takes a bus, then the student should pay for the bus fare. If the student walks to school, the homestay family must accompany them until they are fully confident to do so, on their own.

After School

It is usual to collect your student from school at 3 pm. In the event that your student walks home from school, it is the responsibility of the homestay parents to ensure they are at home when the student returns from school. Under no circumstances is a child under the age of 14 allowed to stay home on their own.

Homework

It is the responsibility of the homestay parent to provide help, when required, with a student's homework.

Bedtime

Students should be in bed no later than 9.00 pm.

Going Out

Students are not allowed to go out on their own, without the company of a member of the homestay family. If students wish to go out unaccompanied and by arrangement with the homestay family, permission from Somerville Intermediate School should be gained.

If your family wishes to go out for dinner one evening, then it is the responsibility of the homestay family to pay for dinner.

Communication with Parents

It is important that your student maintains regular communication with their family. It is desirable that they need to talk to parents every day, and that Internet access is provided.

Bathroom Habits

Many students have not experienced the “kiwi” way of showering. Please explain politely to your student that the doors of the shower need to be closed when showering and that they should also dry themselves inside the shower recess, otherwise you will have water everywhere. It is also a good idea to explain that we do not have long showers in New Zealand - they are used to having very long ones. Toiletries such as soap, shampoo and conditioner should be supplied by the homestay family. All other toiletries should be bought by the student.

Student’s Behaviour

Homestay parents should expect the same standard of behaviour as would be expected from their own children of a similar age, but you will need to make allowances for cultural differences. You are not allowed to hit or smack a student. If you have any concerns, you should consult your 24/7 contact person or the student's Agent and advise the school.

Illness

In the event of an accident or your student requires medical treatment, please take them to Accident and Emergency, or your family doctor. Please pay for this visit, and get the receipts in the student's name. Please advise your 24/7 contact person and the student's Agent immediately. They will advise you what to do next. Take the receipts to the school office, and your reimbursement will be arranged.

Changing Homestays

Changing homestays is not permitted at any time, without the permission of the school.

Language

Your student will probably be unfamiliar with New Zealand. Please be patient and speak slower than normal.

Homestay families should attempt to learn some basic greetings in the student's language. Learning a few phrases of your student’s language helps to show respect for their culture and may help them feel more welcome and cared for. Google Translate can be helpful.

Pets

Many International Students have never had a family pet as they often live in multi-storey buildings. It is a good idea to introduce your pet slowly - some students will be scared of them. If it is a dog - hold on to it and let the student pat the dog – don’t let the dog jump all over them. They will slowly adapt to the pet.

Departure

The homestay family will be required to drop their student at the designated location i.e. the school. This will be advised to you before their departure.

ENJOY HOSTING and THANK YOU!