

Guidelines for Living with a Homestay Family



**Rangitoto
College**

It is normal to feel unsettled and a bit homesick for a few weeks while you learn to adjust to your new homestay family and life in New Zealand. Please talk to your homestay family about how you are feeling, as they will want to do what they can to help you to settle in. Communication is the key to having a successful homestay relationship.

Be an active member of your homestay family, be polite and friendly, and respect your homestay's house rules and curfews. Remember that a homestay is not a hotel and should not be treated like one. In New Zealand, all family members work as a team to do basic chores, like keeping your bedroom clean or helping with dishes.

Every family will have their own house rules and expectations, but here are some things to be mindful of:

Bedroom

- Keep your bedroom tidy. Open your curtains and make your bed before leaving for school.
- Keep personal items (i.e. cosmetics, skincare, nail polish) in a container so they do not stain the tops of furniture. Do not leave hot hairdryers or straighteners on furniture or carpet as they may burn.
- Turn off heaters/electric blankets before going to bed to save power and reduce the risk of a fire.
- Make sure your lights and other electrical appliances are switched off when you leave the house.
- Do not leave dirty dishes in your room or leave food scraps in your rubbish bin as this can attract insects.
- Check with your homestay family what you should do with your dirty laundry.

Bathroom

- Limit your showers to 5-10 minutes.
- Check with your family what the latest time you can shower at night is, showering too late can disturb sleeping family members.
- Hang your wet towel up on the towel rack – do not leave on the floor or in your bedroom.
- Do not flush sanitary pads down the toilet – wrap them up and put them in the rubbish bin.
- Always leave the bathroom clean and tidy.

Mealtimes

- Please eat your meals with the rest of the family. DO NOT take meals to your bedroom.
- If you are not going to be home for a meal, please let your family know well in advance, so they do not make a meal that goes to waste.
- Check with your homestay family what you can do to help with meals (i.e. help to set the table before dinner, or clear the table after dinner).

School Attendance

- You are required to attend school 100% of the time (unless you are unwell).
- If you are not feeling well and need to stay home, please let your homestay parent know in the morning so they can contact the school. In this instance, you should be at home resting – not leaving the house to go out.

Sleepovers

- You ARE NOT permitted to stay out overnight without prior permission from your homestay parents.
- Same-gender sleepovers only, co-ed sleepovers not allowed.
- If you want to stay the night at a friend's house who is also a Rangitoto College international student, you must first get permission from your homestay parents. They will contact the friend's homestay to check it is OK before giving you permission. ***This must be organised in advance before you go out for the evening to give your host family time to approve it. It is not acceptable to text your host parent while you are out in the evening to ask permission.***
- If you want to stay the night at a friend's house who **is not** a Rangitoto College International student, you must get approval from the International Office a few days in advance.
- Rangitoto College will take away the privilege of sleepovers if the above procedures are not followed.

Going out after school and on weekends

- Please ask permission from your homestay parents before you go out, and check with them what time you should be home. Keep in communication with them about where you are going to be.
- Please make sure your phone is fully charged before going out and that you have it turned on so your homestay parents can get hold of you at all times. It is also a good idea to give your homestay parent the phone number of a friend you will be out with.
- If you are the last one to leave the house when going to school, or going out in the afternoon or weekends, please lock the front door and close any windows you have opened.

Cigarettes, Vaping and Alcohol

- The purchasing and use of cigarettes and vape devices, and the consumption of alcohol is **illegal** under the age of 18 in New Zealand. International students **are not** permitted to smoke cigarettes or vape on school grounds, in any area while wearing school uniform, and in or around the homestay property.

Curfews

- Curfews below are for guidance. Please respect the curfews and house rules that your homestay family give you
- During the week, please make sure your lights and digital devices are turned off 11pm at the latest so that you get enough sleep for school the next day.

AGE	SUNDAY-THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Under 15 YEARS	TO BE AGREED BETWEEN THE HOST FAMILY AND THE STUDENT. RANGITOTO COLLEGE RECOMMENDS A CURFEW OF NO LATER THAN 9 PM.	UNDER SUPERVISION	UNDER SUPERVISION
15 YEARS		10 PM	10 PM
16 YEARS AND OVER		11 PM	11 PM

Travel

- Students can sign up at the International Office for supervised weekend and school holiday trips through school approved tour companies. Trips are at the expense of the student.
- International Students ARE NOT allowed to travel independently (i.e. without approved adult supervision), regardless of age, while they are studying at Rangitoto College.
- If a student wishes to return overseas for the holidays, the school must receive an email from their agent/natural parents confirming the travel details.
- The International Office MUST approve all student travel arrangements prior to travel.

Driving Policy

International students living with host families are not permitted to drive whilst in New Zealand.

If a student wishes to sit their learner driver license, they must see the International Office for permission first. International Students caught driving are likely to have their student visa revoked.

Travelling in Vehicles

International Students can only travel in a vehicle with a driver who holds a full New Zealand Licence. If a driver holds a Learners or Restricted Licence, then you are not able to be a passenger in the vehicle and may be issued with an infringement ticket by the police if stopped.

In New Zealand it is law that all occupants travelling in a vehicle must wear a seatbelt. If you are caught by the police not wearing a seatbelt you will receive an infringement ticket.

Emergency Phone

The International Office has a 24-hour emergency phone that students can contact in cases of emergencies; for example, if you feel in danger or your safety is at risk. **0800 563 263**

Failure to respect the school and homestay rules may result in serious consequences.

Please take shoes off before going inside the home



Close your windows and lock the door when you leave the house



If there is an alarm in the house, turn it on when you leave last



If you cook, don't use a knife to cut food straight on the benchtop, use a chopping board



Clean your dirty dishes or put them in the dishwasher. Don't leave them in sink.



When you take the last food, let your homestay know so they can buy more as needed



Please don't eat meals in your bedroom. And don't leave any type of rubbish in your bedroom, take it out and put it in the rubbish bin.



If you have a heater in your bedroom, put it on a cooler setting and make sure you turn it off when you leave the house. Turn the switch off on the wall or unplug it. If you have an electric blanket, turn it off when you get into bed. If you are cold, put some extra clothing on.



Don't leave wet towels on the floor



Keep showers short to save water, electricity, and the planet.



30 minutes



5 – 10 minutes

