

Bilborough College

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION

Why homestay?

We sign our students up for two years homestay accommodation as they need to concentrate on their studies when they are at college and we like our students to have an adult overseeing their welfare. There is an opportunity to move host family if problems arise over the two years.

Who are the host families?

Our hosts have a range of experience and backgrounds. Some have been hosting students for many years. For others, it is a new experience. Some will be working, professional people, others will be retired and some may be from another ethnic background and they are not all two-parent families. They may also have children and/or pets

Every home is inspected annually to ensure that our high standards are met.

How are students placed with host families?

A **Homestay Application** form will need to be completed and once we receive it we will use the details you give us on the form to match to a host family.

Confirmation of the family will be sent once we have the arrival details of your Son/Daughter. We will also confirm the taxi transfer from the airport. A **Transfer Application** form must be completed for us to organise a taxi transfer.

May we suggest that your Son/Daughter contact the host family before leaving for the UK as an introduction?

Payment

Rent

Rent is usually paid weekly in advance but may be requested monthly. The weekly cost is 100GBP which includes all meals.

Deposit

Your Son/Daughter may be expected to pay a deposit to the host. This is a retainer that can be used to cover the cost of, for example, replacing lost house keys, damage to items in the host family's property, or recovering rent arrears. Most deposit payments are one week's rent but could be slightly more.

The deposit is paid on the day of arrival, at the same time your Son/Daughter will pay the first amount of rent. Confirmation of the exact cost will be provided when we send confirmation of the arranged family.

Host Family Agreement

This agreement will be included in the welcome pack when your Son/Daughter arrives at the homestay.

The agreement shows:

1. The agreed amount of rent you will pay
2. The intervals at which you will pay rent
3. The amount of deposit (if any) you are required to pay
4. Your arrival date and duration of stay
5. The period of notice you have agreed to give when leaving the host family

The Host Family Agreement is for your Son/Daughter to keep for their reference.

Emergency homestay

If, for whatever reason, your Son/Daughter is unable to move into their arranged homestay on arrival, then, they will be placed with an alternative (emergency) homestay until they can move into an alternative permanent homestay. Please be aware that emergency homestay is temporary and your Son/Daughter will have to pay for the time they are there.

Holidays you take whilst in homestay accommodation

There may be time when your Son/Daughter wishes to leave the homestay for a short period. This will not be a problem, but please ensure they tell their host family when they expect to leave and return. If they wish their host family to keep their room until they return, they may be expected to pay for their homestay during their absence.

However, if your Son/Daughter is planning a holiday for a longer period for instance over the summer to return to your country, or to travel, they would not be expected to be charged during this period if their room was completely vacated of their belongings. If their host family has agreed to continue accommodating them after this period of holiday, and they wish to leave all or some of their belongings at the host family's home, they may be asked to pay a storage fee of approximately 60GBP.

What your Son/Daughter will get for their rent

- a key to the house
- a private single bedroom
- suitable bed, bedding and storage space
- adequate lighting and heating
- access to toilet, washbasin and bath or shower facilities, in private
- regular meals consisting of daily breakfast, packed lunch and evening meals, and a lunch at the weekend and collage holidays.
- access to kitchen facilities at reasonable times
- a telephone to allow them to receive calls
- provision for laundering of bedding and clothing
- private sitting and study space - including a desk and internet access
- accommodation free of obvious significant health and safety hazards
- a satisfactory level of general hygiene, decoration and cleanliness

Security

Living with a homestay family is the same as living in your own family. Please encourage your Son/Daughter to respect the furniture, possessions and rules as they would at home.

Your Son/Daughter must keep all their personal belongings safe at all times.

Insurance

The host family will not be insured for your Son/Daughter's belongings. You are strongly advised to take out insurance to protect belongings against damage or theft.

Use of the telephone and internet

Use of the telephone to make calls is not included in your weekly rent. If you are given permission to make calls or use the internet, you may be charged extra for these facilities.

You will be allowed use of the telephone for incoming calls, at no extra cost.

Your host family may allow you to use pre-paid International Phone Cards on their phone.

Your host will discuss with you use of the telephone and internet on your arrival.

Problems

If, for any reason, you feel that your Son/Daughter is having difficulties with the host family tell them to try and talk about the problem with the family directly (small problems are usually resolved at this point). If you feel that their concerns can not be resolved then please contact the International Team.

International Office Contact Details

Jujie Li International Student Support Officer
Lisa Lewis International Student Manager

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