



STUDY

LINKS

HANDBOOK FOR NOTRE DAME SIXTH FORM COLLEGE STUDENTS



INTRODUCTION

Living with a homestay will help you to improve your English and learn a lot about British culture and traditions.

Keep an open mind and a positive outlook throughout your stay. Remember that your homestay is there to give you support, guidance and friendship - the friendship may last all your life.

Most homestay families choose to host a foreign student because they are interested in other cultures. Your fee will just cover the costs of hot water, electricity and food.

Your homestay family are interested in helping you adjust to your new life here and will welcome you into their home however, they are not your servants. You must treat them like a friend of your family.

BRITISH FAMILY LIFE

THE ROLE OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

British family life may be very different from that of your own country. In most British homes, men and women share equal responsibility for keeping the home clean, making meals, earning money and raising the children.

There are an increasing number of families in the UK that do not fit the stereotype of a mother, father and two or three children. For example, some families have just a mother or just a father. Each family is unique, so do not be surprised if you find that the family you live with is a little bit different from what you may have imagined.



CHILDREN

Not all British families have children. However, if your family has children, try to be friendly and polite. They will be excited to see you at first and ask many questions. Please let your homestay know if you need some time away from the children to relax.

PETS

Many families in Britain have pets, especially dogs and cats. These animals are considered as part of the family and may live either outdoors or indoors. Tell the homestay if you feel uncomfortable.

RESPECT YOUR HOMESTAY

YOU MUST TELL YOUR HOMESTAY WHEN YOU:

- Will not be home after school or college
- Will be late for dinner
- Will not be home for dinner
- Will be staying with a friend overnight (give them the name and address and phone number of where you will be)

DON'T MAKE YOUR HOMESTAY WORRY

If you do not tell your homestay about your plans, they will think that something bad has happened to you. They will worry that you have had an accident or are hurt in some way.

NEVER stay out all night unless you phone your homestay first. If they are very worried about you they may phone the police to help find you.



COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR HOMESTAY

When you live with a British family take the opportunity to practise your English. Try not to spend all your time with friends from your own country or alone in your bedroom. Speak to your homestay and your English will improve much more quickly.

GUIDELINES FOR LIVING WITH A HOMESTAY

One thing that we can guarantee is that living with a homestay will be very different from living at home. At home, you may or may not have been very independent but now that you are living with a family that is not your own you must be independent, take care of yourself and be responsible for your own actions. Below are some guidelines for living in a homestay, and some points on what you should and shouldn't expect.

KEEP YOUR ROOM CLEAN

Respect the home of your homestay by keeping your bedroom clean. Always ask your host before putting any pictures or posters on the walls or doors of your room.

BE CONSIDERATE WHEN USING THE BATHROOM

Until you have settled in to your homestay it is polite to ask before you use the bathroom. You should also try not to spend a long time in the bathroom when other people need to use it too. It is important to be considerate.

If you do not know the proper way to use the homestay's shower or bath, ask them to show you. Do not let water go onto the bathroom floor. If you do get water on the bathroom floor, make sure that you clean it up.



SHOWERING

Some families will ask you to limit your showers to 5 or 10 minutes. This is in order not to waste water and save on the cost of heating the water. Also if you take a long shower, sometimes there is not enough hot water for other family members to shower.

USING THE TOILET

In the UK toilet paper is always flushed down the toilet after use. Do not put it in the waste bucket. Toilet paper is the only thing that should be flushed down the toilet. If you make the toilet dirty, it is polite to clean it.

FOOD

Make sure you know the rules of the kitchen for example what foods can be eaten as snacks, what foods are saved as main meals, how to wash dishes etc. It is always polite to ask permission before you take food and drinks from the kitchen in between meals. Most British people eat three meals during the day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Breakfast begins between 6:00 and 8:00 am, lunch between 12:00 am and 2:00pm, and dinner between 6:00 and 9:00 pm.

NOISE

It is completely unacceptable to play loud music or make a lot of noise and disturb the peace late at night. If your music is loud enough that your neighbours can hear it, it is too loud.

SMOKING

Please do not smoke in your homestay's home unless you have their permission. Smoking is prohibited in most places including public buildings, businesses, schools and restaurants.



HELP WITH PROBLEMS

If you have any problems regarding your homestay you can talk Study Links. You can contact us at any time via email:

hello@studylinks.co.uk

You can also telephone us during office hours – Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm on:

+44 (0) 1274 679710

In an emergency please call our out of office Emergency Phone:

+44 (0) 7884 101679

EMERGENCIES

For any emergency when somebody's life is in danger, dial 999 on the telephone (for the Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade and Coastguard). This is the emergency number in the UK. For non-life threatening emergencies, dial 101 or contact the local police.

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS with the homestay. Payment should be made via Study Links. Not directly to the homestay.

**For more information, or just to talk
to us to see how we can help
Email: hello@studylinks.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1274 679710**