



Homestay Information

Dear

Welcome to Nelson! We hope your flight was OK and that your time in Nelson will be special and memorable for you. Please could you bring with you to school, on Monday morning, your passport and your insurance document. We look forward to welcoming you to Nelson English Centre on Monday morning at around 8.45 am.

Nelson is a great city to be living in. It is safe, the people are friendly and there is so much to do and see in the surrounding areas. At first you will see many differences, and at times you might find things difficult, but you will soon adjust to our kiwi lifestyle.

We want you to have a great time while staying in Nelson and we want you to be happy.

Remember it is okay if you are not sure what to do – just ask – we are here to help you.

To help you settle into your new family here are some suggestions and information that might make it easier for you.



Viv Marshall
Homestay Co ordinator



Homestay is living with a kiwi family and doing what kiwis do .It can be a lot of fun. Just remember homestay is not a hotel. You should participate in normal family jobs (making your own bed, cleaning your room, helping with the dishes etc).



It is a good idea to acknowledge family members by saying hello, good morning, and when you go to bed say good night.

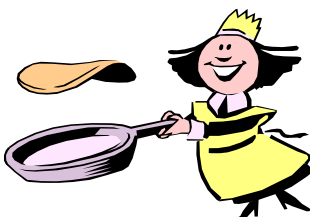
If your family has a pet or young child, you do not want in your room, just close your bedroom door.

Teenagers can be difficult and sometimes shy – but if you try talking to them, they will talk back. They will probably be waiting for you to talk first.

Most host families are busy families, and when you help, you will find you have interesting conversation with the family.

Homestay includes breakfast and dinner Monday-Friday
Breakfast lunch and dinner Saturday and Sunday if you are home.

Sometimes it is nice to ask if you can help, perhaps offer to set the table for dinner, help unload the dishwasher, or perhaps bring in the firewood.



If there is some type of food that you do not like, tell your host mother. They want to give you the food you like. If you like special foods, you are welcome to buy these yourself.

It is a good idea to thank your host mother after you have eaten your dinner. If you really have enjoyed your dinner, you could say “Thank you that was delicious”. This will make the host mother feel very happy.



Ask your host mother if you want to use the kitchen. Maybe you would like to prepare a meal from your country; this is fun for the family to try new foods, and fun for you to share some of your culture.

If you do use the kitchen, be sure to clean up afterwards. Do not leave a mess for your host mother to clean up.

If you plan not to be home for dinner, it is polite to call her before she starts to prepare the dinner (4.00pm). Or let her know before you go to school. If you want your dinner saved, just ask her to keep your dinner and you can have it when you get home.

If you plan to stay out all night, either tell your family before you go, that you will not be home, or ring them in the morning. They might worry that you have had an accident or been hurt. Kiwis care.



Laundry

If you want your host mother to do your washing – ask her what day she does the washing and have your clothes ready for her.

Some students prefer to do their own washing, discuss this with your host mother. She can show you how to use the washing machine.

Most families like to dry the washing outside on a clothesline in the sun.

Never dry your clothes on an electric blanket, as this is very dangerous.

Ironing of clothes. Some host mothers do and some don't. This is not expected of host mothers. Please ask your host mother if you want to use the iron to press your clothes.

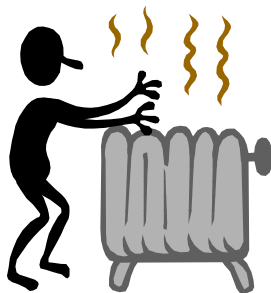
Bathroom

Ask when a good time for you to have your daily shower is.

It is a good idea to supply your own shampoo and conditioner.

Kiwis are careful with saving water, as water is expensive. Please do not take long showers. Try to keep your showers between 5 to 10 minutes. This allows all members of the family to have a hot shower.

When washing or having a shower please do not leave your hair in the sink or in the shower, wash it away so it is clean for the next person. If the floors and surrounding sink are wet with water, wipe it away.



Electricity

Kiwis like to save electricity, it is important to us.

So please remember to turn off

All heaters when you go to sleep. This is important for safety reasons

Always turn your bedroom lights out when you are not in your room.

Always turn off your electric blankets when going to sleep.

Always turn off household lights if you are last home

Telephone

We suggest you get an international phone card from Whitcoulls Bookshop, or Paper Plus Bookshop.

If you use your host family phone make sure it is a local call only otherwise you will have to pay for your call. Local is Nelson only. Do not make long distance calls or calls to mobiles without asking.



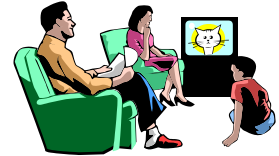


If using your cell phone late at night, please make sure you do not disturb the family. Go to a room where talking will not disturb the family.

Television

Families often have favourite TV programmes. If you want to watch a different channel ask your family if you can change channels.

Kiwis love rugby games on TV and they often shout and make a lot of noise. This is ok and quite normal. It is nothing to be frightened of.



Music

Most students listen to music through headphones. This is the best way to listen to the kind of music you like at any hour.

Please do not

Smoke in the home.

Use drugs/alcohol.

Bring friends home in the evening without asking your hostfamily.



It is consider rude or not polite to sniff, slurp or spit. Please use tissues instead of sniffing. Try not to slurp or make noises when having soup. This will make the homestay family very happy.



Leaving Homestay

If you wish to stop using homestay, you must advise the office and family at least two weeks in advance. The school will refund any prepaid fees after the 2-week notification period.



Changing address

If you change your address at any time while enrolled at this school you are required by law to advise us of your new address. Please tell reception of your new address.

Accommodation guarantee

All homestay families recommended by Nelson English Centre have been assessed by us as suitable families for international students.

House 'rules'

Homestay families will normally discuss house 'rules' with you in the first week. Normally the student and the family will reach agreement, but if there is any difficulty, please speak to the Nelson English Centre homestay person.

Homestay extensions and payments

All arrangements and payments must be made through the Nelson English Centre office. It may not be possible to extend your stay, as the host family may have other plans

General

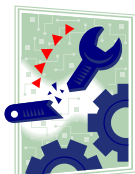
Your homestay is available for the time you have booked only.

Homestay is reserved only for the period you have paid for.

If you go on holiday, your first family might not be available when you come back. Please see the English Centre office if you would like to take a holiday.

Lunch is not included in the homestay fee from Monday to Friday

Lunch is included during the weekend if you are home.



Any problems

If you have any problems, do come and talk to the staff at school. We can only help you when we know what the problem is. Most problems are solved very quickly.

We wish you a great time here in Nelson and with your new family.

