



Best practice in managing homestay

Initial check & expectations of homestays

Process to become a homestay parent:

- ▶ Written application form
- ▶ Checking process:
 - Meeting, WWCC, PC, Reference
- ▶ We are looking for stable people who will be including students in their family and looking after them as their child

Meeting

- ▶ Cleanliness & amenities
- ▶ Expectations
- ▶ Focus must be on care, well-being & support of student
- ▶ Discussion & assessment of:
 - attitudes & stability of applicant including reason for becoming homestay
 - support that student will receive

Homestay Booklet & Agreement

HOMESTAY BOOKLET

- ▶ Expectations & process of application and placement
- ▶ Ongoing support & pastoral care
- ▶ Ongoing contact with school
- ▶ Costs and payment
- ▶ Frequently asked questions for Homestay parent and student

HOMESTAY APPLICATION FORM & AGREEMENT

Application form

- ▶ Profile of the student, their needs, interests and preferences

Agreement

- ▶ Obligations
- ▶ What will be provided
- ▶ Rules & requirements
- ▶ Issues/topics that must be discussed and recorded.
- ▶ Copy is kept by school, student, parents and homestay

Ongoing monitoring of students' well-being and homestay suitability

▶ STUDENT

- ▶ Regular informal 'touching base' with student
- ▶ Once a term formal meeting with student
- ▶ Once a semester form to be completed by student
- ▶ Discussion, information sessions & roleplays with students on issues arising, how they feel, problem solving
- ▶ 24 hour emergency phone number

▶ HOMESTAY

- ▶ Check in the immediate week after student has moved in
- ▶ On-going regular monitoring by school representative
- ▶ Homestays must contact if there are specific issues
- ▶ Homestays are invited to school events, eg: International Days, Valedictory, Afternoon Tea
- ▶ 24 hour emergency phone number

SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM

- ▶ Hands-on communicative approach with students and homestays
- ▶ 'Available' for students, parents, professional guardian and homestays for questions, support or issues
- ▶ Not time consuming compared to a less involved approach.
- ▶ Control over the quality of homestay, responsive, directly involved with students, regularly monitor well-being
- ▶ Develop relationship with homestay so they are supported, involved and know they are valued.