TRIDENT HIGH SCHOOL
Tumuaki | Principal ▪ Mikaere October
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GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Thank you for your interest in hosting an international student. These guidelines are a summary of the requirements for being a homestay family.

- have a spare room inside their home (not a sleep out)
- are wishing to provide a family environment for a student
- have a genuine interest in finding out more about other cultures
- are able to set fair but firm negotiated boundaries within the school parameters
- enjoy a range of activities and are willing to involve their student, as well as also being involved in the activities of their student (able to get to sports practices and some school functions etc)
- prepared to include their student in their family events and outings, and explore Whakatāne and maybe some other tourist destinations
- have empathy and an understanding of teenagers
- are tolerant, have a sense of humour and a desire to interact with their student
- are aware there is no guarantee that when a student from Trident High School is placed with them, that they will remain in their host families care for the duration of their stay. If the student is removed from the home, we are unable to guarantee that another student would be placed with them immediately.

Host families must agree:

- To submit to a police vetting check (every 3 years) for all persons aged 18 years or over residing in the house, or those who stay overnight on a regular basis.
- To be available for an initial homestay assessment interview with all family members present.
- To provide at least one character reference for each caregiver.
- To agree to the monitoring process, as required by the Education Code of Practice. A school staff member will visit your home every 6 months or as often as the school deems necessary.

Some helpful points to remember:

- Your student is a young person, away from home, often lonely and faced with customs that are very different from their own.
- Your student will need the love and care that you would like your own child to receive in the same situation. If in doubt about what to do, it's helpful to ask yourself *"what would I like a host family to do for my son/daughter if they were living overseas?"*

- The student may need help to open a bank account, join the library, obtain a sim card, and understand New Zealand money. Please provide them with this help.
- The school staff are here to support you.
- Homestay payments will be made weekly. Do not discuss financial arrangements with the students or ask them to pay for any extras without prior discussion with the school's international department.
- Your student should not be asked to do housework, but they should participate in chores such as table-setting, loading the dishwasher and should make their own beds and keep their rooms tidy.
- Communication is very important in a positive relationship between the student and your family.

The Host Family is expected to provide the student with:

- Three meals a day plus snacks, including a packed lunch during the school week. Ask your student what foods they like and don't like. If you have takeaways or invite the student out for dinner, you are expected to pay for the student's meal. If they go out or buy fast food with their friends, they will pay for their own food.
  It is a good idea to take them to the supermarket and ask them what they like to eat. They may take some time to adapt to the food here. If your student is from an Asian country, you may want to visit an Asian supermarket with them, if one is available in your area. Please try to provide food and snacks they enjoy, while encouraging them to eat the same meals as your family.
- All linen, soap for washing and the student's laundry and ironing done for them.
- Bedroom with a window, a door that closes, a table/desk, chair, mirror, lamp, bed with linen and blankets/duvet, heater, storage and smoke alarm.

The host family is also expected to:

- Make decisions about acceptable behaviour and set some limits. The student should have the same rights and duties as any child in the home, provided these are reasonable and understood
- Provide a safe and nurturing living and studying environment
- Treat the student with respect. Make them feel comfortable and part of the family
- Respect the student's privacy and belongings (this applies also to other children in the home who should not enter the student's room without their permission, and never when they are not there.)
- Know the whereabouts of the student at all times, how they can be contacted and who they are spending time with. If a student is staying at a friend's place overnight, contact should be made with the parents beforehand, and we recommend obtaining the student's natural parents' consent for sleepovers.

- Ensure that your student can get to and from school safely. It is important to accompany the student on the first few days even if they say they can find their way alone.
- Take an interest in the student's schooling. Contact the school if you have concerns.
- Notify the school if there are any changes or additions to the household
- Notify the school if you have concerns over the student's health or behaviour
- Inform the school if the student seems very homesick or sad
- Supervise the student appropriately – they may never be left home alone overnight, or for long periods of time. Students under 14 should always be under supervision.

The host family is not expected to:

- Pay for the student's telephone calls
- Insure the student's belongings
- Provide accommodation for visiting friends or relatives

School contact details

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