

"Opportunity and Success for All"



Welcome to Kaikorai Valley College

Homestay Information Guide for International Students



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"Big enough to challenge, small enough to care"



IN THIS GUIDE

- 2 Welcome from the Homestay Coordinator
- 3 The International Department Staff and their contact details
- 4 Your new home
 - your room
 - showers and the bathroom,
 - laundry and washing
 - chores and housework
 - safety
- 5 Food, meals and cooking
- 6 Trips out of Dunedin and sleepovers
- 7 Money matters
 - What you need to pay for
 - Weekend activities
- 8 Homestay problems
 - Important points to discuss and clarify from day one

Welcome from your Homestay Coordinator



We welcome you as an international student to Kaikorai Valley College. The homestay experience can be a valuable one for you, and we trust that you will find living with the family we have chosen for you rewarding and worthwhile.

Each of our host families has been interviewed and visited by the International Department and many of them have hosted before so we know the families well. All families are given a **Guide to Hosting International Students** and they will explain the information in the guide to you as well as helping you understand what we have explained in this Student Guide. At the back of this guide there is space for your homestay parents to write down their own particular house rules. Remember—every family is slightly different and will have different rules.

For a successful relationship between students and family it is important that both parties have an understanding of each other's needs. It may take some time and some adjustments on both sides during the first few weeks after you arrive.

Living in a foreign country can mean a different kind of house, different foods, customs, attitudes and ways of doing things. At times you will feel homesick and may find the people and the language strange. These are normal feelings and you must remember you are here for the experience of a different culture. Living with a host family is an excellent way to improve language and really immerse yourself in this new culture.

ARRIVALS

You will be met at the airport by the Homestay Coordinator. You will probably be feeling very tired and very nervous, in particular about meeting your host family and what the experience will be like. Your host family will take you straight to their home.

Do not be afraid if you find the language is difficult to understand at first or of making a mistake. You may feel a little homesick at first and probably a little emotional. Your family will **support** you at this time and will be very understanding.

You should call your parents on the day that you arrive to reassure them that you have arrived safely.

International Department Staff



PRINCIPAL:

Mr Rick Geerlofs

Contact Details:

Telephone: 453 6035



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DIRECTOR:

Mr Rodney Stewart

Marketing—Japan

Telephone: 453 6035

Mobile: 027 6009828

Email: rostewart@kvc.school.nz



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:

Ms Barbara Chartres

Academic advice, tertiary pathways and marketing—China and Hong Kong

Contact Details:

Telephone: 453 6035 ext 820 **Mobile:** 021 2327027

Email: bachartres@kvc.school.nz



INTERNATIONAL DEAN:

Ms Robyn Skelton

Timetabling, student welfare and marketing—South East Asia

Telephone: 453 6035 ext 820 **Mobile:** 0274 418901

Email: roskelton@kvc.school.nz



HOMESTAY CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Brenda Clark

Homestay hosting, pastoral care issues and travel forms

Telephone: 453 6035

Mobile: 027 204 3747

Email: brclark@kvc.school.nz



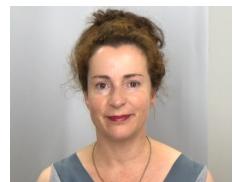
INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Mrs Jan Day

Fees, insurance and visa information

Telephone: 453 6035 ext 807

Email: jaday@kvc.school.nz



ESOL TUTOR

Ms Liz James

Telephone: 453 6035 ext 820



TEACHER AIDE:

Mrs Jenny

McBeath



Your new home in New Zealand

Your room

You will have your own room at your homestay with the following items: a bed, plenty of warm bedding, a wardrobe and a dresser for your clothes, a desk and chair for study, and a heater. Your homestay will also supply you with an electric blanket or a hot water bottle for your bed on cold nights.

Your room is your own private space and your host family will respect that. Likewise, you will not go into someone else's bedroom without permission.

Important points about your room

- Never leave your heater or electric blanket on at night when you are sleeping.
- Do not eat meals in your bedroom.
- Do not spend all your spare time in your room. Socialise and spend time with the family in the living room or kitchen.
- Keep your room tidy and clean. This is not your homestay parent's responsibility.

Showers and the bathroom

- Electricity is expensive in NZ, and the hot water supply is sometimes limited, so 10 minutes in the shower is long enough.
- You need to buy your own shampoo and cosmetics.
- Clean up after yourself in the bathroom and do not leave wet towels on the floor, or get water on the floor.

Laundry and washing

- Your host family will do your washing and will tell you where to leave dirty clothes. Do not leave them on the bedroom floor.
- If you prefer to wash your own clothes, tell your host family and they will show you how and when to use the washing machine.
- You can hang your own washing on the washing line outside. Do not hang wet clothes in your room or near a heater.
- Bed linen- Your host family will give you clean sheets for your bed once a week.

Chores and housework

Your main chores around the house are-

- Cleaning up after you use the bathroom and kitchen
- Changing the sheets on your bed. Your host family will show you how to do this if required.
- Your host family might ask you to do other small chores at meal times, such as doing dishes or setting the table. It's great to be a helpful person, but you are not expected to do a lot of other big chores.

Safety

- Always make sure the house is securely locked and windows closed if you are the last person out of the house.



Food, Meal Times and Cooking

You will be provided with three meals a day, seven days a week- breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Important points about meal times and food

- Talk to your host family about the food you like and dislike.
- Tell your homestay politely if you didn't have enough to eat.
- Remember to thank your host mother or father for the evening meal.
- Be adventurous and try new foods.
- Ask permission to cook food in their kitchen, and do not invite friends for dinner without talking to your host parents about it.
- Dunedin has international food shops where you can buy food from your own country. Most of these are in the downtown area.

Breakfast

Your host family will show you what is available for breakfast. Many families prepare their own breakfast, and they may expect you to prepare your own also, after you have settled in.

Lunch

Your host family will show you how to make a packed lunch before you go to school. A packed lunch may include any of the following: instant noodles, sandwiches, snack bars, fruit, bread rolls. Tell your host family about your preferences.

Dinner

Families in NZ usually have dinner between 5.30pm and 8.00pm. You should be at home having dinner with your host family most nights of the week. If you are going out for dinner in town or at a friend's house, you must tell your host family before 3.00pm that day.

The Internet and Cell Phones

Using the internet

- You will not be charged an internet fee at your homestay.
- If you continue to use the internet late at night and you are not getting enough sleep, your homestay will turn the internet off at 10.00pm or 11.00pm and you will no longer have access to this.
- Do not download movies or other programmes with high data use.
- Never use inappropriate or offensive websites. You must follow the same rules as the school rules about safe internet use.

Cell phones

You must have a cell phone with a NZ SIM card so your host family and teachers in the international department can contact you. You may bring your phone to school but it can only be used at break times. Be responsible about keeping your phone charged and having enough money on it to make emergency calls or texts.



Trips out of Dunedin and Sleepovers

Trips

You must fill in a travel form at school if you are going out of Dunedin for any length of time. We will need to receive an email from your parents (in your country) to show they have approved of this trip. If you are under 18, you must travel with a responsible adult over 25 years old. The International Director will contact this adult, to make sure he or she can be trusted with your safety and welfare.

Sleepovers

Staying overnight at a friend's place is allowed, but only with permission from your homestay family and your friend's homestay family. Sleepovers with a friend who is not the same gender, is not permitted at all.

Curfews and going out on week nights-

- If you are 14 or under you must have appropriate supervision by a responsible adult at all times, which is most often your homestay family. You need to be at home every evening for dinner and in bed by 10.00pm.
- If you are between 15 and 17, you may have one night out on school nights for dinner, but be home by 9.00. You can go out on Friday and Saturday nights and be home by 10.00pm. You need to tell your homestay of your plans and where you will be. Always be safe and responsible.
- If you are 18 or over, your curfew can be negotiated with your homestay with the support of the International Director. Even if you are 18, you are still our responsibility and we need to know where you are. You should not be out late at night in the city. An 11.00pm curfew is strongly recommended. You need to tell your homestay of your plans and where you will be. Always be safe and responsible.
- Always take your charged cell phone out with you.
- If you want to invite a friend to your house, you must ask your homestay permission, before your friend arrives.

Safety around the city

Make sure you do not walk alone to your home, to a friend's house or to town late at night. Dunedin is a safe city, but crime can happen anywhere.

Travel to School and Around Town

Travel by bus to school - If you need to catch a bus to school, your homestay family will help you and take you on the bus to school for the first two days.

Your homestay family and friends will help you to understand the public bus timetable. Once you have your KVC student identification card, the bus rides will be cheaper with a 'Go Card'.



Money Matters



- Your host parents will help you to set up your bank account and get an EFT pos card.
- Do not share your PIN number with your friends or ANYONE.
- Be very careful about lending or borrowing money from friends. This can lead to problems and damage friendships if money is not paid back. If you have money worries you can talk to a teacher in the international department.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you anywhere. If you lose money at school, it is not the school's responsibility.

What Do You Need To Pay For?

You will need to pay for the following items yourself:

- Entertainment
- Personal toiletries
- Bus fares
- Clothing

A general guideline is \$400 per month for these extra costs.

All of your stationery will be provided by the school.

If you have school camp or field trip, your homestay will usually lend you items that you need such as a sleeping bag or water proof clothing.

Weekend Activities

Your host family, and the teachers in the international department will give you advice about how to join clubs or take the bus to places around Dunedin. Take opportunities to go out with your host family.

Here are some international student favourites:

- Unipol, the University of Otago gym
- Moana Pool for the gym, hydro slide, relaxation pools and swimming.
- Toitu museum
- Otago museum
- Walks on the beach
- Ten pin bowling
- Sightseeing
- Cycling
- Ice skating
- Playing pool
- Surfing lessons



Homestay Problems

If you are worried or dissatisfied with something in your homestay, send Brenda a text message and ask her to meet you at school to discuss the problem. You can also try talking calmly to your host family and express your concerns.

Firstly, KVC staff will make a plan to resolve the problem with cooperation and involvement from you, your parents and your host parents. If it cannot be resolved, we will take the next step.

Important Points to Discuss and Clarify From Day One

- **Meal times**
- **Preparation of and access to breakfast and lunch food**
- **Curfews**
- **Inviting friends over**
- **Using the bathroom and shower**
- **Keeping your room tidy and clean**
- **The importance of good communication**
- **Privacy of your room and other rooms**
- **Laundry and bed linen changes**

Declaration

For the homestay parent(s):

I have discussed the above points with my student within the first 48 hours of him/ her moving in.

I am confident he/ she understands the expectations and rules in this homestay.

Name _____ (homestay parent)

Signed _____ (homestay parent)

For the student:

I understand the information in this Homestay Information Guide, and I have discussed the important points with my homestay parent.

Name _____ (student)

Signed _____ (student)