

STATEMENT OF HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION AIMS AND VALUES

Richard Huish College believes in preserving a trusted and reliable Homestay provision. It is our policy to provide breadth of opportunity for all; in line with the College values (see appendices). The strength of homestay is that it promotes pastoral welfare and happiness in a family environment, encourages integration into English customs and fosters a strong spirit of academic achievement. Huish has a strong team of personal tutors who work closely with the international staff to support the development of their tutees. Host families develop a full awareness of the students in their care through shared living experiences, as the students are encouraged to become part of their family.

The medical welfare of the students is the responsibility of the homestay family and international team, and where appropriate the team will work with the Assistant Principal (Student Support) and Warwick House GP practice.

Homestay families are classed as members of the Huish staff and as such, each member of the household over the age of 18 is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check and has to abide by the College's Safeguarding policy including the use of social media.

Each homestay student will also benefit from the considerable range of structures in the College, for example, Student Services, Learning Centre and Careers advice. They can also access enrichment that is held at Oak House. This statement, along with the Principles of Homestay Accommodation establishes Huish's commitment to its homestay provision. On rare occasions, non-International students may use Homestay provision.

Oak House staff, international staff and appropriate Senior Staff have clearly defined roles, which are set down in their job descriptions. Homestay provision has a clear set of guidelines that families are expected to abide by.

PRINCIPLES OF HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION

Statement of Principles

The following are the principles upon which the homestay provision in this college is based:

1. The development of the whole person and the communication of values are vital.
2. Being an open and trusting college, homestay is based upon mutual respect for both the student and Homestay provider's family.
3. Each homestay student has the right to be able to work, play and relax free from abuse, intimidation, harassment and bullying.
4. There is equality of opportunity and respect for all homestay students, regardless of ethnicity, culture, gender, faith, age, race or disability.
5. Each homestay provider and student is to be treated as an individual and with respect by other students and by staff.
6. Although living within a family environment, homestay providers and students acknowledge the right of each other to privacy.
7. Each homestay student has the right to extend his/her intellectual growth in an atmosphere of positive encouragement and in conditions that are conducive to work.
8. All homestay students should be able to develop spiritually, culturally, morally and socially during their time in the Huish homestay provision.

9. Despite the often great distance separating homestay students from their families, links with parents/carers are seen as an indispensable part of the support and development of students in this college.

In homestay, we aim for host families to:

1. Develop the whole person, a desire for truth and a respect for others.
2. Produce an open and trusting ethos in which each homestay student feels able to approach any other member of the Huish community (staff or student), confident in the knowledge that he/she will be treated and respected as an individual.
3. Create an atmosphere of tolerance, openness and trust in which harassment and bullying would find great difficulty in developing.
4. Provide the conditions for homestay students to develop their intellectual talents through well-structured learning conditions, access to staff and other students and participation in activities in an atmosphere that values effort.
5. Provide a range of activities, hobbies and opportunities that will assist in the personal, social and cultural development of each homestay student.
6. Safeguard and promote the welfare of each homestay student, by providing an environment that is, as far as possible, free from physical hazards and dangers of any sort.
7. Provide accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of homestay student, and which provides adequate levels of privacy.
8. Provide suitable conditions for homestay students to feel able to turn to members of the host family or members of the Huish staff to share the good things in their lives as well as being able to turn for advice, counselling and support during times of difficulty.
9. Safeguard members of their own family and the wider community by reporting any student behaviour that may indicate a potential risk including radicalisation as required by the Counter Terrorism Bill 2015