

RUAPEHU COLLEGE



INTERNATIONAL

STUDENTS

HOMESTAY

INFORMATION GUIDE



Ruapehu College expects all host parents to:

- 1 Provide a warm, caring environment, where the physical and emotional well-being of the student can be nurtured. Students must always be in a safe environment.
- 2 Provide 3 meals a day
 - Breakfast- e.g. cereal and toast, fruit
 - Lunch - e.g. filled roll, piece of fruit, yogurt, packet of chips, muesli bar, piece of cake and a drink.
 - Dinner- usual meal eaten by the rest of the family (include rice or noodles from time to time)
 - Snacks - please show student what they can eat between meals if they are hungry.
- 3 Provide soap/body wash and toilet paper. Students are expected to purchase their own toiletries such as deodorant, special shampoos and sanitary needs.
- 4 Care for the student as you would your own family.
- 5 Provide a warm, comfortable room for the student, including study facilities. Extra blankets and a heater should be available.
- 6 Ensure that the student is comfortable and confident with transport arrangements to and from school (e.g. bus times, where to get on and off the bus).
- 7 Assist with transport arrangements to and from the airport once they become a member of your family.
- 8 Set reasonable rules and boundaries and discuss expectations of these with the student.
- 9 Contact the school immediately if there are any issues whatsoever regarding the welfare, health and safety of the student, i.e. arriving home late, staying out without permission or any unexplained illnesses which are causing you concern.
- 10 To ensure safety for students under the age of 14. They should not be left alone in the house without adult supervision.
- 11 Attend parent/teacher conferences/interviews whenever possible.
- 12 Inform the school if the student is absent at any time by telephone and provide a signed note for the student to take to school the following day. Students are not permitted to sign their own notes.
- 13 Ensure that students do not move out temporarily or permanently without the permission of the school.
- 14 Please advise of any planned changes in your homestay living situation, e.g. further students moving in, especially males. There are some rules made by certain cultures, e.g. not allowing students of the opposite sex or same culture to be in the same homestay family. Under the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students, no more than four International Students should be staying in a home at any time.

ARRIVING IN NEW COUNTRY – NEW HOME AND NEW SCHOOL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

When you first arrive you may forget most of your English. This is normal. You may not understand what people are saying. Do not worry – this will improve. You could try to write things down or use an electronic translator. If people speak too quickly, you could politely ask them to slow down.

TIREDNESS AND HOMESICKNESS

It is normal to feel tired when you first get to New Zealand. The climate and food are different, the customs are different, and you must work all day in a new language. This makes you tired.

Do not worry about this. It will get better.

Do not have long afternoon sleeps or you will not sleep well at night.

Homesickness is natural, too. You will miss your home and everything you know. The worst time is usually during the winter. You will feel better when the weather gets warmer.

If you feel very homesick, talk to your host family. Talk to your teachers or the International Coordinator. They all understand and will help you.

YOUR HOMESTAY

International students must live in a Ruapehu College Homestay or with a designated caregiver. These have been carefully selected, and are visited twice a year by a school representative. You cannot change these living arrangements by yourself.

Your Homestay will be happy if you keep to these rules:

- 1 Be part of your host family. Be friendly and join in family activities. They will treat you the same way as you treat them. Communication is very important to build good relationships.
- 2 Always be honest with your homestays so they can trust you at all times.
- 3 Respect the home - it is not a hotel. Personal and private property of your family is not your property. Always ask before you borrow or use anything that is not yours.
- 4 People in New Zealand do not have servants and they have busy lives. Boys and girls in New Zealand have family tasks to do to help such as washing the dishes, setting the table, taking the dog for a walk. You should help too, so you feel part of the family. Try to do your job cheerfully. Your host family will be pleased.
- 5 Ask permission to go out and always tell your family where you are going. They will tell you what time you need to be home. Your family will worry about you just as they worry about their own children. If you must be late, telephone or text your family to tell them.
- 6 Tell your family if you will not be home for dinner, or for lunch on the weekends. You must give at least three hours' notice. They will expect you to be home at the stated time during the school week. **Your safety is very important so you must accept the curfew times set by them. If you ignore these curfews, you will probably be grounded.**
- 7 Make sure you have all contact phone numbers keyed into your phone.
- 8 Some things will be done differently from in your own home in your country. Please listen and follow the advice given by your Homestay.
- 9 Ask for permission to invite friends to your house, before they go there. It is bad manners if you do not do this. Do not speak in your language in front of your homestay. This is also bad manners.
- 10 Always finish your homework. Homework is important at high school and all students must do homework.
- 11 The more you speak in English, the better your English will be. Talk with your family. You and your family can learn from each other.

- 12 Try to talk about any concerns or questions you may have with your Homestay family as soon as they arise - they would like you to do this. Problems are usually easily fixed by discussing them. If there are any big problems about your Homestay, talk to the International Coordinator. Remember to be honest.
- 13 If your Homestay takes you somewhere or does extra things for you, please take the time to say 'thank you.' They will like that.

MEAL TIMES

WHAT FOODS WILL MY STUDENT EAT?

- 1 As a host parent, you are required to supply your student three meals a day (Breakfast, lunch and dinner). It may take your student a while to adjust to the food that is available in New Zealand as they may not have been exposed to much of the food that we eat or the style in which it is prepared and cooked.
- 2 The type of food that we eat may cause stomach upsets and so it is a good idea to initially keep meals basic. Try and include rice or noodle dishes in your meals. It is also a good idea to keep a bowl of cooked rice in the fridge as this can also help settle the students stomach.
- 3 The student's parents will sometimes send food parcels to their son or daughter while they are living in New Zealand. These are usually dehydrated snacks such as noodles.
- 4 Most students also enjoy the selection of fruits available to them in New Zealand.

A New Zealand family usually eats meals together when possible. Some foods may be very different from in your country but please try all meals as this can be fun and interesting.

Breakfast

At breakfast, most family members get their own food at a time to suit themselves. You need to get up early enough to eat breakfast so you can concentrate properly at school.

Lunch

Most New Zealand students take lunches to school. Many New Zealand students eat sandwiches, fruit, vegetables or yoghurt. Tell your family what you like and what you don't like. You may be asked to make your own. You can buy food at school but you should bring lunch from home. Do not waste your lunch by throwing it away.

After School Snacks

You will probably want to have something to eat when you get home after school. Ask your family what to eat. The choice might include noodles, fruit, biscuits and other foods, but you will be expected to eat the evening meal.

Dinner

You should always eat the evening meal with your family. Do not go into your bedroom to eat.

IF YOU ARE NOT GIVEN ENOUGH FOOD, PLEASE TELL THE HOMESTAY COORDINATOR.

Meal Time Customs

Many New Zealand families talk at the table. They talk about what they did during the day or interesting things they have seen. They will talk to you too. Talk back to them. They are interested in you.

At the table, we pass food bowls to each other. New Zealanders do not take everything on a plate when there are other people who want some, too. Ask someone to pass the salt or sauce or salad. Don't just stretch across the table. Wait until everybody is ready to eat. If your host parents say you can start, then it is all right to eat, but usually we wait and all start to eat at the same time. In New Zealand we eat quietly. It is not polite to eat noisily. We do not lift our plates close to our mouths - we lift the food on forks or

spoons. We stay at the table until everyone has finished eating.

YOUR BEDROOM

Sometimes you will need quiet time in your room to do your homework, but please do not spend all your time in your bedroom. Instead, talk to your family and your English will improve. Families are disappointed when you avoid communication and spend most of your time in your room. This is not polite. There are usually no locks on bedroom doors in our country. You may close the door whenever you like. Your room is your place to sleep and study. If there are young children who insist on entering your room, please tell the host parents. The bed may be different from your country. We sleep between the sheets which we wash regularly. Ask your host mother when to change the sheets and how to make your bed. **You should make your own bed every day and keep your room tidy. Do not take food to your bedroom.**

New Zealand families like to let sunlight and fresh air into bedrooms. We pull back the curtains and open the windows during the day to keep the rooms fresh. This may be different from your country.

Electric Blankets

Some families use an electric blanket to warm the bed. We turn them on about an hour before we go to bed, then turn them off when we get into bed.

Do not sleep with the blanket turned on. This is not safe.

Make sure the electric blanket is turned off during the day, otherwise it can cause a fire. Do not put books or clothes on the bed when your electric blanket is on. If you are not warm enough at night, ask for another blanket or a hot water bottle.

Electric Heaters

In the winter your host family will provide a heater for your bedroom. You must turn it off when you go to bed or leave the room. If you keep forgetting to turn the heater off, your family may remove it. **Leaving the heater on could cause a fire. It is wasteful and costs a lot. Please be considerate about this.**

THE BATHROOM

In most New Zealand homes the bathroom is very busy in the morning. Try to be as quick as you can. Ask your host family what is the best time to shower and how to do this. Pull the shower curtain across or close the shower door to keep the floor dry. Put a bath mat on the floor to stand on when you are wet. Showering once a day is usually enough.

Try not to use too much hot water. **Hot water is expensive in New Zealand.** New Zealand houses have a hot water tank. When it is empty there will be no hot water for anyone else and they will not be happy!

ONLY TAKE 5-10 MINUTES IN THE SHOWER.

Ask your family where to put your wet towels. Do not put them in your bedroom.

You should supply your own personal toiletries like shampoo, soap, toothpaste.

TOILET

Males: Remember to lift the toilet seat before urinating and put the seat down after.

Females: Ask your host mother about the disposal of your menstrual pads or tampons. **Do not put pads down the toilet.** Your host mother will talk about this with you. Listen carefully and ask questions if you need to.

LAUNDRY

Most host parents will wash your clothes for you, including underwear. Ask them where to put your dirty washing every day, and when to change the sheets on your bed.

You may have some clothes that you wish to hand wash yourself. Ask your host parent where to do this and where to dry them.

Remember: you must not hang wet clothing and underwear in your wardrobe or bedrooms. Dripping water damages carpet and furniture. This upsets your host family.

Do not put wet clothes on heaters or close to heaters to dry. This can cause a dangerous house fire. In summer we dry our underwear and other clothes outside on the clothesline. Please do not be embarrassed to share this custom with us. In winter, a dryer may be used.

KEEPING WARM

New Zealand houses are usually much colder than those in your country. You may have central heating or your climate may be much warmer. Most New Zealand people prefer to wear a warm sweater rather than turn on a heater. You may need to wear more clothes to keep warm. New Zealand weather is very changeable. It is important to take a warm sweater with you every day, and a coat when it is raining or you may become unwell.

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

Look after your clothing and valuables and **make sure they are named.** Sometimes people are dishonest and can take things. Avoid bringing cameras, iPods and cash to school. Do not leave cell phones where they can be taken. If you lose something at school, you should report it to student reception.

Money

Be careful with money and learn to make it last. Keep only small amounts with you and put the rest in a bank. **NEVER** lend money or borrow money from other people except small amounts in an emergency. **NEVER** tell anyone your Pin Number on your bank card or let them see you use it at the ATM machines.

ACTIVITIES, OUTINGS, CURFEWS and OVERNIGHT STAYS

DAILY MATTERS

Weekdays

During the school week, Sunday to Thursday, you should not be out in the evening unless it is a school activity. A regular routine for homework should be set. You will be told what time to be home for dinner. You must be home by that time.

Weekends

On Friday and Saturday evenings older students may be allowed out later, but you must ask permission. You must give a contact number and address and tell your hosts where you are going and who you will be with. A cell phone number is not enough. Your host family will set a time for you to be home by, according to your age and maturity. You must keep to this time for your own safety. **You must not break curfews.**

Overnight Stays

These can only be by prior arrangement. **There must be discussion with the host parents first.** If you are in any doubt please check with the International Student Coordinator. You must tell your host parents, the phone number, name and address of where you will be staying. **They must phone that number to check arrangements or you will not be allowed to go.**

IF YOU STAY OUT ALL NIGHT WITHOUT YOUR HOST FAMILY'S PERMISSION. YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE SENT HOME. THIS IS CONSIDERED GROSS MISCONDUCT AND YOUR HOST FAMILY WILL INFORM THE HOMESTAY COORDINATOR.

IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THE RULES IN YOUR HOMESTAY, YOU WILL RECEIVE VERBAL AND/OR WRITTEN WARNINGS AND YOUR PARENTS AND AGENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED. THE SCHOOL MAY THEN REFUSE TO HOMESTAY YOU.

TRAVEL

Travel Away from The Ruapehu Area

You may wish to travel to other cities or towns during your stay at Ruapehu College, to experience the beautiful scenery or to visit friends. Some students need to go home for the holidays then return. Before you do this you must get permission from the Homestay Coordinator, well in advance. She will then arrange to get permission from your natural parents.

Students under the age of 18 may only travel away if they:

1. Travel with their host family
2. Go directly to their destination and then stay with another approved host family or relatives. The Homestay Coordinator and your host family must be given ALL details. Your host mother will need to make direct contact with the nominated family before permission will be granted. **The school reserves the right to refuse the travel if it is considered inappropriate or is unsafe.**
3. Join one of the organised and supervised tours recommended by Ruapehu College, or their agent. (See Homestay Coordinator for information.)
4. Are visiting their natural parents in their own country

Staying Beyond The End of Term

Your contract with Ruapehu College expires on the last day of your schooling at the end of the term. If you choose to stay on or travel **in New Zealand** after that date, you will still have to abide by the rules of the homestay and the College, or your organisation, until you leave the country. If you wish to travel **outside New Zealand**, your visa will be terminated as soon as you leave New Zealand. The school cannot take responsibility for your welfare. Agents and parents will be notified of your plans. In all cases, a full travel itinerary must be provided, complete with all dates, method of travel and contact names and numbers. **PLEASE PLAN WELL AHEAD.** You should not travel alone if possible.

Financial Arrangements For Students Going Away During The Year

If you travel during part of, or for all of any official school holidays during the year, your host family has been asked to refund 50% of the weekly payment directly to you to help with your travel costs. Please discuss this with them. The maximum number of weeks that can be refunded over the year is six.

Additional term time taken out of school does not qualify for any refund.

Family Outings

Sometimes your host family may invite you to go on an outing or away with them in the holidays. You should accept as you will experience different New Zealand activities and meet new people. New Zealanders are proud of their country. It is beautiful and mostly very clean. They will expect you to respect that. If your family goes somewhere that involves expenses, for example, a zoo or movie. You will probably need to pay your share. This may be different from your own country where a host may pay for everything. If you go with them on holiday you may be asked to share some of the costs of accommodation or travel. You need to discuss this. You must be financially independent.

ALCOHOL, SMOKING AND PARTIES

The legal drinking age in NZ is 18 years. If you enter a bar under age your visa may be cancelled by the police. You must not drink alcohol if you are under 18. You must not keep alcohol in your Homestay. It is illegal to buy alcohol if you are under 18 years. If you do, you are breaking the law.

Most New Zealand people do not smoke. They think cigarette smoke is very bad for their health and they do not like the smell of cigarettes inside. Smoking is forbidden in many public places. You should not smoke when you are in New Zealand and must not smoke in your homestay. Smoking at school or anywhere in school uniform is **NOT ALLOWED**. It is illegal to buy cigarettes here if you are under 18. It is the host's decision as to whether social parties are acceptable, and we request that you check arrangements before you get permission. Your host family must check all details with the parents hosting

the event. Students should not go out alone, and you should be home by the time stated by your host family. **DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL** – It is breaking the law.

TELEPHONE CALLS

It is important to talk to your host family about this. You must pay for all nonlocal calls. Ask your host family about the best time for you to use the telephone. Do not make calls very late at night. This can keep the family awake and you need to get enough sleep also. Most New Zealand families do not use the telephone or mobiles after 9.00 pm. If you make calls on your mobile phone late at night you may be asked to give your phone to your Homestay before you go to bed. Do not speak too long on the home phone. Someone else may be trying to phone your family with urgent information. Tell your friends when they can call you and how long you can talk. Do not use your phone during meal times – that is not polite.

In an emergency, such as fire, serious illness or accident the emergency number in New Zealand is **111**. This is a free number.

Making International Calls

There are many cheap ways of doing this with calling cards. Please ask your host family or other students if it is cheaper to call at certain times of the day. You must pay for your own toll calls if you use the host family phone. **Try not to phone or talk using cyber chatting (e.g. skype) to your family too often.** This makes it hard for you to settle into homestay. Your parents will feel sad if you complain about changes in your life and they will worry unnecessarily.

INTERNET USE AT HOME

We do not encourage students to install their own line as we would prefer you to spend time talking to your host family improving your English. Most students will need to pay for internet use, or contribute towards the family account. If you get your own line in, you will need to pay for installation as well.

Internet does not have to be provided in homestay under the Code guidelines.

Do not view sexual or inappropriate material e.g. pornography. This is not acceptable in New Zealand households. Your Homestay will not like this. They will make rules about how long you spend on the internet each day. They may also want to check what sites you visit. **They can disconnect the internet if you abuse the allocated hours or use it excessively.**

Recommended curfews are: Year 9 & 10 – 9pm Sunday to Thursday

Years 11,12 & 13 – 10pm Sunday to Thursday.

DOWNLOADING COPYRIGHT MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET

This is ILLEGAL and there will be a heavy fine if detected. The household internet could be disconnected for a long time by the government, and your host family will not be happy. Internet is available at school. See the Coordinator of International Students.

Cars

International students are not allowed to own or drive a car while they are enrolled at Ruapehu College. You must not travel in a car unless the driver has the correct license. It is best to check first. The driving laws are very strict in New Zealand. **If you are in a car with a person who is not fully licensed, you will not be covered by insurance if you suffer in an accident, and need medical care. People under 20, are not allowed to drink, then drive.**

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

FAMILY DISAGREEMENTS

Some New Zealand families argue when they disagree. We are often direct when we are angry and we think it is okay to express anger. This can be embarrassing but try to remember this is normal for our country. Children are taught to stand up for themselves and to defend their ideas. Students must however accept the authority and rules of host families.

Teenage Disagreements

New Zealand teenagers can be very assertive. They often argue loudly and strongly with their parents when there is a disagreement. You may find this unusual. However, young people are not always being rude. They are being independent. It is hard to learn what this means in New Zealand. **Do not copy behaviour that you do not understand.**

OTHER CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Many New Zealand families hug and touch each other very freely. They often show affection in public and around the home. If they touch your arm or put their arm around your shoulder, they are showing they care about you. New Zealanders like to look at people when they talk. We see this as honest and polite. Please try to be friendly to all host family members as this makes it easier to get along together. New Zealand women and men have more equality than in many countries. **It is important to show respect to New Zealand women including your host mother.** We do not like insults to girls and women.

FRIENDSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHOULD NOT FORM A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

Homestays cannot be expected to take on this responsibility. No student is allowed to visit the Homestay of a student of the opposite sex, when the parents are not at home. No student can stay at the Homestay of another student if they are of the opposite sex, unless it is a situation where a group stay has been approved of in advance, by the Homestay coordinator. Try to have friendships with many students. Please tell the International Student Coordinator or Dean if you are being pressured or harassed by a member of the opposite sex. Text or cyber bullying should be reported to the Dean, immediately. It is not acceptable to get into fights. You will be punished if you do. Find a teacher immediately if there is trouble. They will help you. Try not to be shy. When you go to class, sit with another student. Make an effort to talk, even if it is a simple conversation about the weather. The more friendly you are, the easier it is to build friendships. If you do not understand something in the daily notices, ask someone. This is a good way to talk and make friends. You can also check the notice board by student reception.

DOCUMENTS, RETURN/TRAVEL DATES, VISAS

HOME COUNTRY ADDRESS

It is important that the school has up-to-date and accurate information on the address of parents. This should include Telephone, Mobile, Fax and Email. Students must advise any change of address to the Homestay Coordinator and the school office.

RETURNING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

You must tell the International Student Counsellor and your Homestay family, your return travel dates, at least three weeks before you go as Homestay payments are made in advance. If you delay you may have to cover these costs. Tell the school and your homestay, the dates/flight details of your return to NZ well in advance. They may be able to meet you at the airport. We expect all students to return to their home country for the long summer break, after their course has been completed.

VISAS

The Homestay Coordinator will arrange renewal of visas for College homestay students when necessary. As soon as this process begins, students must check that all tuition fees have been paid in full, to the school. You must have enough money to pay for Homestay for one year also, plus extra spending money and money in your account for your return ticket to your home country. It can take two months to process a visa application so plan ahead. You must leave New Zealand or re-enter before the visa expiry date.

INSURANCES

International students **MUST** have their own medical and travel insurance. The school will arrange this for you or your agent may have organised this. Doctors' bills can be expensive. Insurance needs to be renewed annually. You will be told the cost to pay.

If you have to visit the Doctor or purchase medicines, you will need to pay immediately. KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS so you can then make a claim. (Claim forms are available from the International Student office.) Payment can take 3 to 4 weeks and will be made directly to your personal bank account.

AT SCHOOL

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

The same values apply in the Homestay as at school. Refer to the School Rules in this book.

Any students involved in serious misconduct such as drug taking will be expelled and sent back to their home country, without refund of fees. Ruapehu College expects you to be polite, honest and fair to others. If you have any concerns, or think that a person is being unkind to you, you must tell the Dean, Homestay Coordinator, or a staff member. Most worries are easy to solve.

SCHOOL LOCKERS

When you start school, you will be given your own private locker free of charge for storing books and sports gear. You will be given a key, which must be returned when you leave the College. If you lose your key you will have to pay for a new one. Do not keep cameras, iPods money or anything valuable in your locker.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Every International Student should join in one or more school activity like music or sports. Discuss possible activities with the Dean or the International Student Coordinator or your teachers. Playing sport or joining groups like the choir or orchestra, are good ways to make new friends, and to enjoy school life. **Ask for help to find where to go for the activity you are interested in.** Remember that many sports are seasonal and only played in certain months of the year. You could try a different sport for a new experience.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR EACH DAY

- Check your timetable the night before.
- Pack your school bag the night before.
- Have homework done the night before.
- Check your uniform the night before.
- Ensure you get up in time to have breakfast and prepare your lunch.

GO THROUGH YOUR TIMETABLE

Check:

- Which subject is first?
- Which books and equipment are needed?
- Which rooms to go to?
- Which sports or extra-curricular activities are scheduled.
- What gear is required?

OPTIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR STUDENTS NOT SITTING NCEA EXAMINATIONS

School Examinations

Examinations for senior students are usually held during term three in August and/or September. Any students who have arrived at Ruapehu College at the beginning of term three are not required to sit these examinations.

NCEA Examinations

All long term senior students are encouraged to take a full part in our New Zealand qualifications system. For most subjects this includes some national examinations which are held every year in November/ December. Students should not make arrangements to leave the country until after their final exam.

Students who do not take the national examinations are provided by the school with a language enrichment programme while the examinations are in progress. They should not plan to leave the country for home before that programme is completed.

LEAVING THE COLLEGE AT THE COMPLETION OF YOUR EDUCATION

You will need to complete signing out procedures. Ask the Dean for details when the time comes. All text books, locker key etc need to be returned and accounts paid up.

EXCESS BAGGAGE FOR FLIGHT HOME

Most airlines restrict baggage to 23kgs per person. If you have excess, this can be VERY expensive. Please pack early and if necessary, send your extra luggage home in cartons, by post. Ask the Post Office about the cheapest way to do this.

SCHOOL RULES

The school rules are based on the following philosophy:

- to do your best
- to be courteous
- to respect others
- to respect yourself

Respect for others includes: Respect for yourself includes:

- their feelings
- their way of doing things
- their property
- their ambitions
- the way you dress
- the way you conduct yourself
- the way you accept correction
- the way you enter into the life of the school

You are expected:

- to work to the best of your ability
- to wear your uniform correctly and with pride
- to be at school on time, and at all classes/assemblies on time
- to sign out at the office if you ever have to leave the school during the day
- to be properly equipped for all your lessons
- to do the homework that is set in each subject
- not to touch the property of others without their permission
- to respect school facilities and the environment

to accept the rights of others to be free from disruptions or put downs

Ruapehu College provides a safe environment.

You must not bring to school anything that is harmful to yourself or to others. This includes cigarettes, lighters, alcohol, drugs, knives, sharp instruments solvents, and replica firearms.

The above statement also applies to Homestay accommodation.

You must not behave in a way that is inappropriate. This includes fighting, verbal, physical, and text or cyber abuse.

If you use the internet you must adhere to the Internet Policy.

Homestay/Student Contract

- 1 Students are expected to obey the laws of New Zealand and of Ruapehu College, accept the authority of the school and host parents.
- 2 Students must be financially independent. Homestay parents are not responsible for travel expenses, toll calls, medical expenses or any incidental costs which may be incurred by the student.
- 3 Students may not move to another address without consulting the school.
- 4 Homestay parents will supervise homework and leisure activities as if the student was their own daughter/son. Suitable rules e.g. times to be home, permission to go out, will be set at the outset.
- 5 The student is not a "guest" in the home and is expected to take a turn with household chores such as drying dishes, and to be present for meals.
- 6 Students must have full medical and travel insurance.
- 7 Drugs are totally forbidden, and expulsion and return to the home country will happen should any evidence of involvement with drugs be found.
- 8 Smoking is generally regarded as socially unacceptable in New Zealand. You must not smoke in your Homestay.
- 9 Alcohol: is not permitted.
- 10 Cars/motorised vehicles: International students are not permitted to own or drive these.
- 11 Students are expected to agree with standards set by the host family and guidelines from their own family. Moderation and appropriate behaviour are expected at all times.
- 12 In the event of any gross misconduct in the homestay the school may not be able to continue to provide homestay accommodation.

Signed: _____ (Homestay Parent)

Signed: _____ (Student)

Date:

International Student Homestay Agreement

Ruapehu College expects the Homestay to:

- 1 Provide a warm, caring environment, where the physical and emotional well-being of the student can be nurtured
- 2 Take into consideration the cultural needs of the student
- 3 Provide 3 meals a day and access to snacks
- 4 Care for the student as you would your own family
- 5 Provide a warm, comfortable room for the student, including study facilities
- 6 Set reasonable rules and boundaries and discuss expectations of these with the student
- 7 Ensure safety for students under the age of 14. They should not be left alone in the house without adult supervision
- 8 Attend parent/teacher conferences/interviews when held and attend international student social functions and the annual professional development meeting for all carers
- 9 Ensure that the school has up-to-date information on contact details and changes or additions to the Homestay household
- 10 Contact the school immediately if there are any concerns whatsoever concerning the welfare, health and safety of the student
- 11 Inform the school in advance if the caregiver is going to be absent and that alternative arrangements are made

The Homestay can expect Ruapehu College to:

- 1 Provide a safe learning environment for the student
- 2 Ensure the student's safety and emotional well-being is taken care of during school hours
- 3 Provide an ESOL programme for the student (if applicable)
- 4 Provide an appropriate programme of learning for each student.
- 5 Maintain regular contact with the Homestay parent on matters relating to the progress of the student
- 6 Provide school newsletters and any other information sent to Parents' of the student
- 7 Provide school reports
- 8 Provide support and quick action in case of problems
- 9 Provide an interpreter for liaison with the school (if applicable)
- 10 Interview the child once a term.
- 11 Should there be a concern about the welfare of the student, the education provider will consult the pastoral care staff within the educational institution and will discuss the concern with the designated caregivers and parents of the student. If necessary, the school may relocate the student to an approved Homestay. The education provider may also refer the matter to the New Zealand Police or any other appropriate welfare agencies.

I understand and accept the above conditions as the Homestay carer for

_____ (Name of Student)

Signed: _____ (Homestay Carer)

Dated this _____ day of _____ (month) ___ 20____ (year)

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

(please write and keep a copy of this page with you at all times)

Your Name in Full (as in your passport):

Also known as (your preferred name):

Your Homestay's Name(s):

Homestay's Address

Homestay's Home Phone Number:

Homestays' Mobile Number(s):

Homestay Administrator: Miss Katie Shere– Ruapehu College

Deputy Principal/ Mrs Marama Allen-Ruapehu College