



Homestay Principles and Practice Policy

Purpose of Policy

Churchill House is committed to providing safe, comfortable and supportive homestay accommodation for all students. This policy sets out the principles and practices that govern student behaviour and host family expectations to ensure a positive and respectful living environment.

The policy applies to all students placed in Churchill House homestay accommodation and is designed to promote mutual respect, cultural understanding and welfare.

Policy Statement

Students staying in Churchill House homestay accommodation must:

- **Respect the host family household:** Students are expected to behave as part of the family, not as hotel guests. This includes keeping their room tidy, making their own bed, and offering to help with small domestic tasks (e.g. clearing the table).
- **Food and meals:** Students must inform their host family of any dietary restrictions. They must not take food or drink without permission.
- **Shared facilities:** Students should agree suitable times to use the bathroom and be considerate of the needs of the household.
- **Laundry:** Host families will include student laundry in their normal weekly wash. Students must be mindful not to hand over excessive amounts.
- **Visitors:** Students must not invite friends into the homestay without prior permission from both the host family and the Churchill House Accommodation Team.
- **Noise and behaviour:** Students must avoid loud noise, respect household routines, and ensure mobile phone use does not disturb others, especially late at night or during meals.
- **Smoking and alcohol:** Smoking is not permitted inside the homestay. Students must not bring alcohol into the homestay under any circumstances.
- **Respect for others:** Students must respect their host family, fellow students, and all household members at all times.



Reporting and Escalation

- Students should first raise any concerns directly with their host family.
- If the issue cannot be resolved, students must inform their Group Leader.
- The Group Leader will escalate the matter to the Accommodation Manager at Churchill House if necessary.
- All complaints will be taken seriously, handled sensitively, and recorded in accordance with Churchill House welfare procedures.

Risk Assessment: Homestay Accommodation

Risks to Students/Hosts	Control Measures (to reduce risk)
Cultural misunderstandings or differences in lifestyle	Clear guidance given to students during induction; host families receive written guidelines and training; open communication encouraged.
Dietary needs not met	Students declare dietary restrictions before arrival; families informed in advance; students reminded to communicate politely about food.
Overuse of facilities (bathroom, laundry, internet)	Families and students asked to agree routines; students reminded to be considerate.
Noise disturbance or disruptive behaviour	House rules explained at induction; families supported by Accommodation Team if issues persist.
Friends visiting without permission	Clear rule communicated to students; host families empowered to refuse entry.
Smoking or alcohol in homestay	Zero tolerance policy explained at induction; disciplinary action taken if breached.
Homesickness or difficulty adjusting	Students encouraged to speak to host family first; welfare support available via Group Leader and Accommodation Manager.



General Statement

Churchill House believes that homestay is an important part of the student's cultural and personal development. By showing respect and interest in their host family's life, students can create meaningful relationships and a rewarding experience during their stay.

Reviewed by: Sarah Adjani (Operations Manager) Susan Thomson (DSL)

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