

Homestay Guidelines 2020



1. A Student under 18 years of age who is studying in a Government School must live in a homestay. Older students may also live in a homestay and are expected to follow the homestay guidelines. All people living in the home, who are over 18, require a 'Working with Children Check'.
2. Homestay includes all expenses associated with food and shelter, including three meals a day, seven days a week, provision of facilities (e.g. towels, blankets, sheets, eating utensils) gas & electricity and cleaning (e.g. cleaning of room, washing of clothes and bed linen.) Cleaning of clothes and bedroom can be negotiated chores.
3. Homestay providers are asked to help the student on their arrival with public transport, location of local shops, arranging bank account, a SIM card and school uniform. International students aged 16 years of age or under can purchase and travel on children's MYKI public transport tickets and they should carry a form of age identification. Students aged 17 and 18 are eligible for concession travel but must have PTV school student ID (applications available at school or train station) and also should carry a form of age identification.
4. Homestay students pay \$310 from January 2020 inclusive of internet access. This is not to be changed or negotiated by the student or homestay without consultation with the International Student Coordinator.
5. The student or parent must transfer Homestay payment electronically to the homestay provider. Payments must be made either fortnightly or four weekly in advance as arranged.
6. Students are required to stay at the homestay for a term at a minimum. Only in exceptional circumstances will we allow students to move earlier. Students may not arrange a move of homestay without consulting the Homestay Coordinator.
7. Students are required to give two weeks notice if they wish to move from the homestay. Homestays are required to give two weeks notice if they wish the student to leave the home. Ms Di Battista must be notified immediately of this intention.
8. Students may return to their home countries during holidays and are charged \$140 a week (\$20 per night) to hold a room over a holiday period – up to a maximum of \$700. Students must tell Ms Di Battista and their Homestay parents if they are returning home and a Holiday Plan must be completed and submitted along with a copy of the airline ticket.
9. If a student attends a school camp and stays overnight they will only be charged \$20.00 per night that they are away.
10. Students are provided with their own bedroom with study facilities (e.g. bookcase, desk and study light) together with the use of living areas.
11. House rules will be clearly explained to students on their arrival. To help students feel part of the family, they can be encouraged to do minor chores.
12. Students should ask their homestay to contact Ms Di Battista at Strathmore SC (or off site Language Centre) if they are unable to attend school. This must be done on the day of the absence. A medical certificate is required for multiple absences and missed major tests (SACs).
13. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that homestay families attend parent/teacher nights and/or College functions.
14. All homestay families receive a copy of the school's commitment to Child Safety, and an edited version of the policy that applies to homestays. Students also receive a fact sheet about child abuse. Homestays and students are provided with instructions on how to report any suspected or real event of child abuse.

15. Students must be contactable by homestays at all times after school hours.
16. Students are not permitted to stay away overnight from their homestay unless for an approved school event. The student must arrange with Ms Di Battista beforehand if they wish to vary this rule. Students under 18 years of age are not allowed to travel independently outside Melbourne.
17. Students will need to communicate with homestay providers to notify of a change in plan or arrangements. Curfew times, travel arrangements and social outings should be mutually agreed upon - with consideration given to the age and maturity of the student.
18. Students are generally not permitted out late during the school week except for college functions. Students may be out later on Friday or Saturday with prior arrangement with the homestay.
19. House rules may need to be negotiated on the matter of friends staying overnight, visitors for meals, and times for friends visiting.
20. Students will have their own key to the residence. Privacy is very important and the personal possessions and space of students should be respected. Students need to pay for any significant breakages or damage (with a minimum of two quotes provided by the homestay to the student and Ms Di Battista).
21. Homestays must provide access to the internet. Students should be discouraged from downloading large files such as movies and music, and may have to pay extra if this is found to be the case. Extra payments must be discussed with Ms Di Battista.
22. Students are covered by Medibank (or other) Private Health Insurance and are covered by the Ambulance Subscribers scheme.
23. The homestay commits to having smoke detectors appropriately installed (mandatory) in working order see MFB website for more information: <http://www.mfb.vic.gov.au/Community-Safety/Home-Fire-Safety/Smoke-Alarms.html>
24. Please ring your home & contents insurer and inform them you have an international student in your home on an ongoing basis.

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