

# Living in Homestay

## Some information about English Homestays

There are all kinds of different homestays in England. Our hosts could be single parents, divorced people, singles or elderly people. Whatever their homestay situation, they will be happy to welcome you to their homes.

Many couples do not follow traditional roles in England. Women often work outside of the home and housework is often shared between all household members.



## Travelling to school

- Your host will take you to school on the first day.
- At the school you will be given a map so you can find your way around Eastbourne.

## Questions to ask on your first day

- Can you show me how to lock the house?
- What time do you leave for work in the morning?
- What time is dinner?
- How long can I spend in the shower?
- Will I be doing all of my own laundry?
- Where should I store my suitcase?
- Where can I smoke?
- What are your house rules?

## Good manners in England

- English people say “please” when they ask for something. For example, “Can I have a snack, please?”
- English people say “thank you” when they receive something or if someone does something for them. For example, “Thank you for taking me to college”.
- Say “excuse me” if you walk past someone or need to interrupt their conversation or activity.
- It is polite to ask before using household equipment such as stereos, computers and the TV.
- You should always knock on closed doors and wait for a reply before entering.

## Your room

- It is your responsibility to keep your room neat and tidy.
- Do not smoke in your room or in the house.
- Do not keep food in your room. It will attract bugs and mice.

## Food and meals

For health and safety reasons please note that it is not possible to use the cooker or oven in your homestay. If you need to use any electrical equipment please speak to your host first.

- Your host will provide you with breakfast and dinner every day. You will also receive lunch at the weekends. The food will be mostly English dishes. Be open-minded and try new foods.
- Tell your host if there is any food you do not like or cannot eat.
- Breakfast: English people often eat cereal, fruit, toast or yogurt.
- Lunch: English people often eat sandwiches, leftovers, fruit and vegetables.
- Dinner: English people eat a variety of cuisines. There is often a main course and sometimes a dessert.



## Table manners

- It is polite to clear your dishes off the table after dinner.
- It is good manners to eat with your mouth closed and to eat quietly (slurping is bad manners).
- Feel free to ask questions and practise conversation at dinner time.
- Say "thank you" when someone serves you food or drink.
- Ask your family if you want more food or drink.



## The bathroom

- In most houses, you will share the bathroom with other member of the family and/or other students.
- English people usually shower once a day.
- Most family members take a 5-10 minute shower.
- Wet towels should be hung up when you are finished.

## Laundry

- Your host do not have to wash your clothes for you, but most hosts do. In some homestays you will do your own washing and in some the host will do the washing for you. Please ask your homestay which one they prefer.

## Telephone

- Check with your host if you can use the telephone.
- You must pay for all the phone calls you make in your homestay.
- It is best to use a phone card for all phone calls.

## Internet Access:

- It may not be possible for your host to give you internet access at home. In this case you can use the student computers at LTC. We also have a wireless connection here at LTC. You are welcome to bring your own Laptop. Computers with internet access are also available in Eastbourne's Library and the Internet Café.



### Curfew times:

- The curfew time for 16-17 year olds is 11pm.
- Eastbourne Borough Council does not allow students under 18 (between 16-17 years of age) to be out after 11pm
- The curfew time for under-16s is normally 9pm, except where the students attend LTC activities

### Having friends or visitors over

- You can invite your friends from the College to visit your homestay house but be sure to ask your family first.

### Going out

- If you're going out and will be home late, tell your host what time you will be home.
- If you are going to be out later than expected, call your host to let them know.
- You must call your family before 9:30pm if you won't be home for the night.
- You must call your family before 4:30pm if you won't be home for dinner

### Going out with your host

- Joining family activities is one of the best parts of homestay life.
- If you are asked out to the cinema, to a concert or sightseeing, you should offer to pay.



### Changing Your Booking

You must give the accommodation officer and your host notice if you want to make changes to your homestay:

- Move out: A minimum of 1 week's notice to your host family and the accommodation officer.
- Please also give at least 1 week's notice if you want to extent your stay.

### Accidental Damage

- If you damage something in the house, you will have to pay for it. LTC cannot be held responsible.

### Problems in your homestay

- Our homestays are very carefully selected and most students have a great time in their homestay. If you are not happy, we can help. It is very important to talk to the accommodation officer if you are unhappy.
- It is important to talk to your host if you do not understand the rules.
- If you can't resolve the problem with your host, talk to the accommodation officer.

