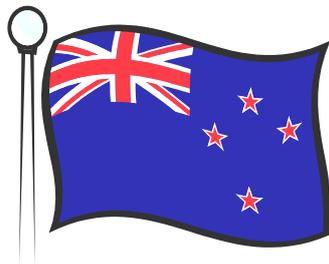


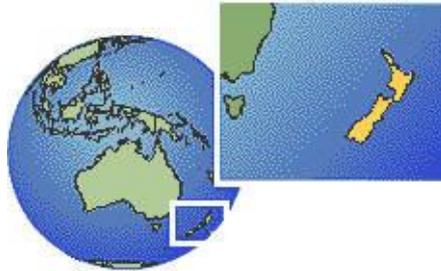


Te Kuiti High School



Homestay
Information for
International
Students

Welcome to New Zealand



Your homestay family have chosen to host an international student because they wish to share their home with a person from another country. They will enjoy talking with you about New Zealand and about your own country.

New Zealand culture may be very different from yours and confusion can occur. There will be house rules and we suggest that your family write these down for you. We encourage you to share your likes and dislikes – it will help you to settle in quickly.

Good communication and understanding will help to increase your knowledge of each other's culture and leave you with good memories of your new friends and host family. It is most important that you communicate with your host family even if your English is very poor.

Friendly Advice

All families are different and will do different kinds of activities with you and for this reason families shouldn't be compared with each other. Just appreciate your family for their kindness to you.

New Zealanders are usually very friendly and relaxed. Sometimes we may seem too casual to you as we do laugh and joke a lot. This does not mean that we do not take life seriously. We do! Most New Zealanders are very hard working people.



Food



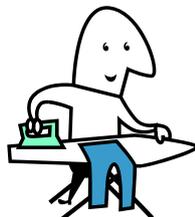
Your host family will be concerned that New Zealand food is to your liking and will be interested to know what you enjoy and appreciate. You do not have to eat any food that you do not like but try a little of each food that is offered to you. You may wish to discuss cooking a meal for your host family who will enjoy tasting different food. Try to remember to say “thank you” after finishing a meal. If you wish to leave the table, excuse yourself by saying “excuse me please”.

Washing clothes



Some host families will do your washing and ironing for you. Some may expect you to do it yourself. Check with your host family. Ask your host family how to use the appliances if you are unsure.

Housework



In New Zealand the housework is often shared by all members of the family, including fathers and brothers. Housework may include: making your own bed, putting out the rubbish, washing and drying dishes and preparing meals. You will be expected to help with these chores or offer to help when required.

Phone calls and Internet



Ask your host family about the use of the telephone and how to make local calls. Some family phones are used for business as well as private use so please keep your calls to between 5 and 10 minutes. Permission to make overseas calls should be sought from your host family. Phone cards can be purchased to make international calls and your host family will guide you on their purchase and use. Your host family will also inform you about how much internet access is available in their home.

Costs



Your board covers the cost of food, electricity, basic toiletries and laundry. Any other costs such as stationery, music tuition, sports fees, entertainment and uniforms are your responsibility. You are also responsible for dentist, doctor's fees and medical insurance.

Your Bedroom



Your host family will appreciate you keeping your bedroom tidy. Your bed may have an electric blanket for the winter. Turn this on half an hour before going to bed and turn it off when you get into bed. You will sleep between two cotton sheets covered with blankets or a duvet for warmth.

Showers, baths and toileting



New Zealanders usually shower. Our bathtubs are not used the same way as baths in other countries. It is good to shower daily and 5 to 10 minutes should be sufficient time as water heating in New Zealand is expensive. Be considerate to other members of the family. They will not wish to have a cold shower if you have used all the hot water!

New Zealander's use toilet paper after using the toilet, then flush the toilet and finish by washing their hands. Teeth are brushed in the bathroom basin.

Consideration to your host family



It is polite to check with your host family before making arrangements with other students to visit their home or for them to visit you. It is also polite to ask/inform your host family if you are attending a school trip or function and are unlikely to be home as usual. It is also polite to ask your host family if they are happy for you to arrange a weekend visit with a friend as your host family may have arranged or planned an activity for you.

It is considered good manners to speak English when in the company of new Zealanders. Instead of going to your room after meals spend some time in the living room. You could write letters and do your homework there too.

