

 *Elim Christian College*



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Expectations & Rules for Students living in school homestays

Note: These rules have been written for 13-18 year olds, from a wide range of backgrounds and ethnicities. What may be obvious to you could be strange to someone else.

Below is a summary of expectations and rules for students who are living in homestay's arranged by Elim Christian College.

In the tuition agreement that you and your parent signed with Elim Christian College, you agreed to abide by these expectations and rules. Failure to follow the expectations and rules puts your place at the school and your student permit to be in New Zealand at risk.

Your main purpose in New Zealand is to **study and learn English**. Study and homestay life must be your priority. Of course, we expect that you will make friends and socialise at the weekends, but within these guidelines. It will take time to establish a rapport with your homestay family and to gain the trust required before you get some freedom.

1. It is normal in New Zealand to return home after school (by 4pm or 5pm) and do your homework. (It is not acceptable to sleep at this time.) If you wish to meet friends after school, check that this is OK with your homestay before you leave in the morning and make sure that you are home by an agreed time. If you are involved in after school activities (e.g. sport, choir) make sure that your homestay is aware, the key is keeping the homestay informed.
2. You are to spend at least some quality time with your family each day, and at the weekends. It is expected that you accompany your host family on at least some outings. It is rude to be called / woken to come to the table for dinner, and then to disappear straight away afterwards. Discuss this with your homestay to find out the best 'quality' time to spend with them. Spending time with your family is the best way to learn English.
3. New Zealand families expect you to turn off your computer and lights by midnight at the latest! This may be hard to get used to, but midnight during the week is considered very late in New Zealand. If you get to bed early you will then not need to sleep after school. Try to avoid making loud noises after 10pm.
4. Curfew guidelines:
 - **Under 16:** Close supervision by homestay family e.g. no going out unless with family or approved person. Time to come home agreed with homestay parent latest 10pm.
 - **16 and 17:** To be home from going out by 11/12pm unless specifically arranged beforehand. Party arrangements checked. Overnight stays - all arrangements checked carefully and agreed upon with form completed and approved by Elim International Department.
 - **Over 18:** Homestay aware of details and in agreement with them.

Coming home after midnight is considered 'late' in New Zealand. You must ask, and be very clear about where you will be, how you will travel home, and what time to expect you. Gain the trust of your family and they will be reasonable. We do not want stop you having fun, but are concerned for your safety.

5. You are not allowed to get a ride in a car with anyone unless they are a driver who has been approved by your Homestay family, or the school staff. No one else! An approved driver must have a full licence gained in New Zealand.

International licences do not count as they are often fake. All drivers need to meet your homestay, show them their driver's licence, and must be considered sensible and reliable.

6. Bathrooms and bedrooms cause many complaints.

Keep your bathroom and your bedroom clean (not wet) and tidy. Check your homestay's expectations on this (e.g. 1 x a week total clean up, the rest of the week generally tidy). Short showers (less than 10 minutes) are a must as hot water is scarce and expensive in New Zealand.

7. You are to **ask** your family about things, not tell them, e.g. not coming home for meals, visiting a friend. The host family will need a contact number and address, of where you are going and may ring and check the arrangements if necessary.

8. If you have a boyfriend/girlfriend, then during the week is not the time to spend every spare minute with them. One or two visits Monday - Thursday for a short while would be appropriate, and then longer periods at the weekend but not all weekend. Bedroom doors are to be kept open when visits are made for obvious reasons.

9. If you wish to change homestay, you must discuss it with the Homestay Coordinator, **before** you move.

SUMMARY OF RULES

1. Home after school unless alternative arrangements approved beforehand.

2. Quality time with family.

3. Lights out by midnight.

4. Little noise after 10pm.

5. Curfews:

15 years old and Under - Home, unless out with family, or tight arrangements.

16-17 year olds - Home by 11/12pm, unless arranged beforehand.

18 year olds- Homestay aware of all details.

For All - After midnight – a privilege that is specifically negotiated beforehand.

During the week, mostly at home unless for a specific reason.

6. Overnight Stays – needs to be approved by Elim Christian College International Department.

7. Approved car and drivers.

8. Bathrooms and bedrooms clean and tidy.

9. Boyfriends / girlfriends – ok but be sensible and safe.

10. Always ask for things do not Tell!

11. Absolutely NO SMOKING inside the home or in school uniform

Please contact Mrs Xie in the School Office if you have any concerns.
You will be interviewed regularly about your homestay.

Homestay Manager: Daisy Xie Email: homestay@elim.school.nz

Emergency Contact Number: Ph. 021 2256522

NOTES FOR FAMILIES HOSTING STUDENTS

Homestay Information

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Hosting an international student can be a rewarding experience for you and your family. Usually your student will join in family activities and outings and develop a special relationship with you. You can gain enjoyment from learning about another culture.

We have accepted your family as one of our homestay hosts because we are confident that you will accept and care for your student as though they were a part of your family.

Hosting international students requires a high degree of cultural understanding and appreciation. Every student will represent and display different and unique cultural and ethnic peculiarities, all of which should be valued as reflective of the rich mosaic of humanity we are privileged to interact with.

Your student guest may not always understand our customs or culture so we hope you will be patient with them until they learn our ways. **They will need the love and care that you would like your own son or daughter to receive if they were in a similar situation in another country.**

Your students are far from home. They will be lonely at times and appreciate your warmth and sympathy. They are normal human beings with the normal problems all human beings have. Love, warmth and understanding will solve most problems. We have always found that the homestay experience has the greatest impact on students' appreciation of New Zealand. If they have a good experience that is the memory they take away with them. That is why we have chosen you.

WHEN YOUR STUDENT ARRIVES.....

Let your student know what you wish to be called. We recommend in most situations that a first name basis is best (except sometimes with younger children when "Aunty" and "Uncle" may be appropriate).

Soon after your student arrives, take time together to chat about both your and their expectations. **Be clear about your rules that contribute to home harmony such as:**

- meal times
 - What foods they can't or don't like to eat
 - What time you like the house quiet at night (Bedtime)
 - Uses of the bathroom... show them how to lock the door, flush the toilet, turn on the shower etc.
-
- use of the telephone
 - visitors and guests

*Try to be realistic in your expectations, taking into consideration the student's age and maturity. Do not confront the student with all the rules immediately on arrival but rather ensure that there is a clear understanding of the relationship. **Ask them if they have any questions.***

STUDENT NEEDS

WHAT DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED?

Students staying with you as your homestay guest need to be provided with the following:

- Their own door key (instructions for alarm)
- Breakfast and dinner every day. (Packed Lunch)
- 3 meals/day weekends and public holidays.
- Own bedroom which is their private space (i.e. children are excluded).
- Comfortable bed, warm blankets and regular linen changes.
- Wardrobe, study table chair, and study lamp (and a heater in winter).
- Laundry done with the host laundry.
- An early discussion about mutual expectations.
- Love, patience and acceptance.

STUDENT CARE

(WITHIN A BUSY LIFESTYLE)

Bringing up a Family is Already a Full-time Job - With your guidance your student will soon learn to "pull his/her weight" and help with dishes and other household chores.

Family Involvement - Your guest has chosen to homestay so they can get to know and enjoy some famous "Kiwi hospitality". They will want to chat and practise their English. We are confident the student will be welcomed into your home and expect him or her to join in with an active NZ family lifestyle. This includes inviting the student with you on outings that you would normally take your family on. It is good if your student can be involved in some regular weekend activity. Tourist attractions, the waterfront, beaches, volcanoes, parks, lakes, shopping centres are all attractive places to share time with your student. They do not come to NZ only to study, but also to enjoy sightseeing in our beautiful country.

Encourage them to watch TV with the family for at least sometime every day, this helps their listening skills.

NB. Students may not be used to paying for themselves. Tell them before you go that they should pay their own entry or let them pay occasionally for everybody.

Good Company - Students choose a homestay so that they can enjoy a different culture and spend time with a Kiwi family. They often do not understand if the hosts are frequently absent and sometimes may feel neglected. Some will need encouragement to come out from their room and spend time with you, invite them to join you if they are shy.

Going Out - If you are going out, ensure that your student does not feel abandoned. Be sure that there is a meal available and that the student knows how to help themselves (not a common skill in many countries!). Younger students should not be left at home alone without adult supervision. If you are planning to go away, please notify the school International Student Coordinator in advance so other arrangements can be made if necessary.

Problems - Try to assist the student with simple personal problems to the best of your ability - homesickness, culture shock, illness, loneliness etc - and notify the school of more serious problems.

Sickness and Accidents - Notify the school in the case of any accident involving the student. The school must be advised immediately if the student becomes ill and is unable to attend class.

Health - Please advise your family doctor that you have an overseas student staying with you. The student is responsible for their own medical expenses. They are required to take out insurance before coming to New Zealand.

Culture Shock - Culture shock sometimes occurs when people move from a culture in which they understand and can interpret the values, patterns of behaviour, gestures and other social factors, into a culture in which they do not know and understand these things. In NZ rules can vary from place to place and family to family so an explanation of what is expected is very helpful to them.

Everyone experiences culture shock to some degree when they live in another country. Some of the symptoms of culture shock are:

- Homesickness: unexplainable weeping
- Boredom or need for excessive amounts of sleep
- Hostility toward or withdrawal from host nationals
- Compulsive eating or drinking
- Exaggerated cleanliness
- Inability to work or study effectively
- Getting sick too often (colds etc)

INTERACTION

(ENCOURAGING DISCUSSION)

Help With English - Students benefit immensely from their hosts spending time each day communicating and encouraging them with their English, so please try to converse as much as possible. Speak slowly and clearly, being careful not to raise your voice when speaking. Students may often say they understand you to avoid embarrassment or because they desire to please.

It is wise to check that they have really understood if it is something important. If your student speaks very little English and you have something vital to communicate, it could be wise to arrange a translation through the school to ensure that the student understands.

Problem - If your student behaves in a way you find unacceptable, it is best to sort this out straight away. Students from different cultures often cannot guess what is displeasing you. Speak to them in a gentle and friendly way, as your student guest is very keen to try to do things correctly.

Saving face - Asian students are often concerned to preserve "face" - both theirs and yours. You may wish to point out that your regard for them has in no way diminished, even though they have done something that has displeased you. Explain that this has arisen because of different cultural backgrounds. They are also very reluctant to tell you when they are unhappy or uncomfortable about anything, for example wanting more to eat, or being cold, or not liking a particular food or style of cooking.

We suggest you encourage the student to speak to you immediately if they find anything unacceptable or confusing. This will help to avoid any problem or concern blowing up to something that may cause unhappiness.

Avoid implying that New Zealand culture is better. We suggest you say "this is what we do in New Zealand". You will find most students keen to learn how we do it and are anxious to fit in.

Reluctance to converse - Sometimes students are reluctant to converse freely with their host out of respect for their position as an elder. If this happens we suggest you insist that it is not impolite to initiate conversation and that you want them to make the effort to communicate so they can improve their English. They are often afraid of making a mistake

SOUND (PARENTAL) ADVICE!

Dressing for the Climate - Students coming to NZ in the cool seasons will find our houses rather cold. In many countries in Asia and Europe where the winters are cold, they heat their buildings and houses to what we might consider uncomfortable levels even though the cost of electricity is far higher than here. They then move around their houses only lightly dressed. We need to re-educate them about wrapping warmly. They will adjust eventually, but please be patient.

School Attendance - Students should be at school on time each day unless they are unwell. When a student is unwell, the school should be notified by phone early, either by the student or the host. If the student does not attend at least 80% of their course (without good reason) they may be denied another visa or be sent home.

Homework - Students should have some homework to be completed each evening. The amount of study will vary. The effort they make will depend on their enthusiasm and dedication to study. If no specific work is set, then students are encouraged to have “free conversation” with their hosts every day.

Money - Please ensure your student does not carry large amounts of cash with them. You may care to help them open a bank account and use a plastic money card.

Household Chores - It is customary in New Zealand to expect people staying in your home to help with such things as setting the table and drying the dishes. Your student may come from a culture with servants. Many students will never have done any household chores at all. Students often are willing to help with family chores e.g. dish washing if asked. As they are to be like members of your family, they should help. In the notes we send to them we encourage them to assist with chores as it will help them be accepted as part of the family. You may need to show them how it is done in your home.

Friends – Your students may wish to bring friends into your home or have them stay the night. Make your rules for visitors clear and suggest a time when friends should go home. It is perfectly acceptable for your student to have a friend to stay the night providing it is convenient for you, or to stay at a friend’s place. If your student wishes to stay out over-night please make sure that they talk with the Elim International Department and complete a form giving permission for any overnight stay outside of the homestay.

Laundry - Explain where you want it placed and how often it is done. Some students will request to do it themselves. If you want your student to do their own ironing, please show them how. Explain your family system of changing sheets, towels, etc. Until these instructions have been understood, you may need to show your student again how and when to change sheets, etc.

Showering and Bathroom - Students in their home country may be accustomed to long showers or sloshing large quantities of water around in the bathroom, or having a shower then soaking in a deep hot bath. You may wish to state that in New Zealand showers should be kept to 5-10 minutes and show students how you like the bathroom left when they have finished. Flannels are very important in many cultures for washing and also doing most of the drying before using a towel to finish off. Please ensure that students have one available to use.

Bedroom - Provide a separate room for each student (unless otherwise agreed), furnished with a desk, chair, lamp (and heater in winter). If the room available is different from the one seen by our Staff at their inspection, please notify the Homestay Coordinator. Provide fresh towels and bed linen on a regular basis. Extra bed covers need to be readily available to ensure student comfort.

Tell the student how you want their room maintained, sheets changed, and any appliances left e.g. the heater or electric blanket. Tell students to sleep between the sheets. You may even need to demonstrate this! In many countries they sleep on top of the bed covers, with heaters running through the night.

Bed time - Many New Zealanders go to bed “early”. Set a reasonable time at which you expect radios and TV to be turned off and the house to be quiet. If your student wishes to listen to their music after the agreed time then they should use headphones. You may also need to set an hour after which telephone calls should not be made or received.

Heaters - Students will need a heater in their room but also need to be told to switch it off when they leave their room and when they go to bed. Please remind them regularly of this. A 1000 watt heater uses about 7 cents of electricity per hour!

Transport to School – You are responsible for bringing your students to and from school. If alternative arrangements have been agreed upon (ie: Bus) you need to ensure the student is familiar with the route to and from school, travelling with the student on the first day if necessary.

Students must not drive or own a motor vehicle unless they have permission from Elim Christian College. They must hold a New Zealand Drivers Licence.

Smoking and Alcohol – Students should not smoke or drink alcohol.

Telephone Calls – Students should have their own mobile phone for calling within New Zealand and Overseas.

MEAL TIMES AND FOOD

Family Meals - Your student will join you and your family for meals. If you have to be away in the evening, please ensure that you explain this to your student. Also make provision to have a meal for your student ready before you go out. They may not be able to cope with preparation or may be reluctant to intrude.

FOOD –Students often struggle with the differences in food, style of cooking and amount offered. For Japanese, breakfast is an important meal, for Chinese it is lunch that is their most important meal. It takes time for them to get used to our way of doing meals. Generally students from all countries enjoy the same array of foods and snacks that youngsters do in NZ. Students from Asia appreciate frequent servings of rice and they find potatoes bland. Fish is always appreciated, Chicken and Beef are usually fine, lamb and mutton may be an acquired taste. They are also accustomed to a wider variety of vegetables than we use. **Dinner should include protein and at least three vegetables or salad. Sadly our most frequent complaint from students is not enough food at meal times.**

If you are providing lunch for younger students make sure it is enough, include some protein if you are making sandwiches i.e. egg or chicken or ham. **Noodles alone are not sufficient;** ask the student what they would like to have for lunch and how much they need to feel satisfied.

NB. *Be mindful of any specific dietary needs the student may have, although generally students will expect to eat NZ food.*

Kiwi Breakfast - The New Zealand custom of informal breakfast (i.e. on the run) is very unusual for most other nationalities. In many countries breakfast may be the most important family meal, as the father and many other adults are often required to work late. Students frequently mention this so **be sure to have enough food out and provide regular coaching for them so that they become confident enough to help themselves.**

Breakfast should include cereal, toast and spread and a hot drink. Fruit and yoghurt could also be made available. A cooked breakfast is optional.

Snacks - Host families usually need to encourage their student to feel free to get a snack at any time between meals. For many people it is very natural to snack frequently. We suggest you keep fresh fruit (apples and bananas) out in a bowl, biscuits in good supply, dried noodles and dried fruit (dates and sultanas) as possible snacks.

It is a good idea to designate a snack bin or cupboard so that students feel comfortable about helping themselves. Snacks can include instant noodles.

Table manners - Don't be reluctant to help your student with etiquette. They will be concerned with causing offence and want to do the correct thing so will be grateful for some kindly advice.

*The best and least offensive way to teach the student may be to use a child as an example and generalise the skills in the discussion. This may include many other skills! **A small correction with your own child may be a suitable opportunity to discuss other related topics:***

- Laying the table
- Appreciation to the chef
- Holding cutlery correctly
- Saying “Please” and “Thank you”
- Topics not discussed at the table
- No slurping or sniffing (or other noises e.g. burping)

- Asking to be excused

Asian cultural no-no's (for your information only):

- Blowing nose at the table
- Licking fingers
- Feet on table
- Sitting on a dinner table

BABY-SITTING

Please do not assume that your student is available to baby-sit. They may not be comfortable with the responsibility.

HOLIDAYS

Homestay Host Holidays - Hosts must notify the school in plenty of time if they are intending to be away. Never leave the student in the home if the family are going away unless special arrangements are made with the school.

Student Holidays and Homestay Payments - When students are away for longer than a day or two, establish what arrangement you want to make concerning their room.

Complaints - If you have any concerns or problems we want to know about them. Speak with the Homestay Coordinator who will do everything in their power to help resolve any difficulties and rectify their cause. We also have

access to Korean & Chinese speaking counsellors who are happy to help with any problems.

If you need any advice at anytime please telephone Elim Christian College and speak with the Homestay Coordinator.

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE and INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESIDENTIAL CAREGIVERS

Elim Christian College is responsible for:

1. The procedures for the selection and monitoring of homestay carers and homestay residences.
2. Meeting with the students at least once a term to ensure that the accommodation is suitable.
3. Adhering to the conditions of the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students including:
 - assessment and selection of homestay placements, including Police vetting and assessments of the homestay carer's suitability and of the residential facilities
 - ongoing training for host families
 - monitoring of placements, including meeting with students once a term to ensure accommodation is suitable
4. Providing parents and host families with advice and information on best practice
5. Providing parents and host families with a support infrastructure
6. A 24/7 emergency contact person:

Homestay Manager –Mrs. Daisy Xie email: homestay@elim.school.nz

Host Family/Designated Caregiver is responsible for:

1. A safe and friendly living and studying environment
2. Day to day care including:
 - 3 meals a day and access to healthy snacks
 - own room
 - bed and bedding
 - study desk and chair
 - adequate bedroom furniture to store clothes, books etc.
 - lamp and adequate lighting
 - adequate heating
 - transport arrangements to and from school (if this is by public transport caregivers must cover the cost)
 - bathing/showering/bathroom access
 - laundry

Host Families/Designated Caregivers must:

- treat the student with respect
- make the student feel comfortable and part of the family
- notify the school if there are any changes or additions to the household
- notify the school immediately if there are any problems with the student e.g. medical condition, misconduct
- notify the school immediately if the student seems very homesick or depressed
- look after the student in their home to the best of their ability

Host Families are not expected to:

- pay for toll or mobile phone calls
- cook special food
- insure the student's goods or pay for property the student damages or loses
- offer accommodation to visiting friends or relatives
- comply with unreasonable requests

Designated Caregiver means a relative or close family friend designated in writing by the parents of an international student as the caregiver and accommodation provider for that student, but does not include a boarding establishment owner, manager, or employee.

Homestay means accommodation provided to an international student in the residence of a family or household where no more than four international students are accommodated.

Emergency and Accident Procedures for Residential Care Givers

Please keep this in a visible/accessible place, e.g. on your fridge, family noticeboard, by the telephone or in the homestay folder.

Student Name:

Preferred name:

Class: Year:

Language spoken:

DOB:

Student Allergies:

Insurance:

Your GP's Name:

Number:

NZ Emergency Number:

Dial 111 (Ambulance, Fire, Police)

Emergencies and accidents:

Emergencies

An emergency is a situation that requires immediate action. In a situation that requires immediate action, there is not usually time to look up procedures or refer to written information. Get familiar with emergency procedures before an emergency occurs.

Accidents

An accident may or may not constitute an emergency. If the accident does not constitute an emergency there may be time to look up procedures or refer to written information.

Caregivers need to decide if the situation is an accident or emergency, and act accordingly.

What to do:

a. In an emergency act appropriately (e.g. remove the student from danger, apply first aid, call an ambulance 111).

b. Then contact the school's 24-hour contact person: Daisy Xie 021 2256522 (Homestay Manager) or Aileen King 021 2049428. (International Administrator)

Elim Christian College is responsible for contacting the International Student's parents. You are **NOT** responsible for this. In an emergency or accident contact with the International student's parents should be made by Elim Christian College **ONLY**.

Questions to go through with the student in the first few days

- 1) What do I call you? Mum, Dad, or your first name?
- 2) What am I expected to do daily other than:
 - a. Make my bed
 - b. Keep my room tidy at all times
 - c. Leave the bathroom clean and tidy every time I use it
- 3) What is the procedure about dirty clothes? Where do I keep them until wash days?
- 4) Should I wash my own under-clothes?
- 5) Where should I dry any clothes I wash?
- 6) What is the procedure about ironing clothes?
- 7) May I use the iron, washing machine, sewing machine etc?
- 8) Where can I keep my bathroom toilet accessories?
- 9) When is the best time for me to use the bathroom on weekday mornings?
- 10) When is the best time for me to have a shower am or pm? How long may I stay in the shower?
- 11) May I use the bathroom toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste)?
- 12) What time are meals?
- 13) What would you like me to do at mealtimes? For examples:
 - a. Set the table
 - b. Clear the table
 - c. Wash Up
 - d. Put everything away after a meal
 - e. Dry Up
 - f. Empty the rubbish bin etc.
- 14) May I help myself to food and drink (non-alcoholic) at any time or must I ask first? (Promise to do this in moderation if acceptable)
- 15) What areas of the home are strictly private? Eg: parents bedroom, study, sewing room, pantry?
- 16) May I put pictures, posters etc on walls in my bedroom?
- 17) May I rearrange my bedroom?
- 18) What are your rules about smoking?
- 19) Where can I store my suitcases?

- 20) What time must I get up on weekday mornings?
- 21) What time must I get up on weekends and holidays?
- 22) What time must I go to bed and turn the lights out on week days and weekends?
- 23) Do I have to ask to go out? (Exceptions by special arrangement?)
- 24) What dates are the birthdays of host Mum, Dad, Brother, Sister etc?
- 25) Can I have friends to stay overnight?
- 26) Can I invite friends around in the day? (Not opposite sex if parents not there)
- 27) What are the rules about using the telephone (including toll calls)?
- 28) What are the rules about using the Internet? (limit on data and time?)
- 29) May my friends phone me?
- 30) What is the address for incoming mail?
- 31) How do I get around? Eg: Is there a bus route? Will it be possible to get a lift to and from parties etc?
- 32) May I use the Stereo, TV, Computer etc?
- 33) Do you expect me to phone or text if I am going to be 10, 20, or 30 minutes late?
 - a. From school
 - b. From any other outing
- 34) When we go out as a family should I pay my own entrance fees, meals etc?
- 35) What arrangements are there for making lunch?
 - a. On a school day
 - b. At the weekends?
- 36) What else should I do around the house?
 - a. Keep my room tidy
 - b. Vacuum
 - c. Dust etc.
- 37) If I have any problems; who would you like me to go to?
- 38) If I am out and need help who should I ring? Host Mum or Dad? What are the phone numbers?

Activities To Do With Your Student

This list was taken from suggestions that Homestay families provided.

- We often take them up Mt Wellington on the first afternoon so they can get a bearing for the city, it's a good walk and keeps them awake after their long flight
- Local swimming pools
- Board games
- Ambury Farm
- Beach walks (Students love going to the beaches)
- Mission Bay
- Cornwall park
- One Tree Hill
- Strawberry or blueberry picking in the summer seasons they seem to love
- There are many cycle and walkways where you can take students
- Girls especially love shopping malls
- Walk and Ice Cream along Mission Bay
- Flying Fox at Macleans Reserve - Can also take a ball for a soccer game on grass area (especially for boys)
- If you don't own a trampoline find someone with one most have never jumped on one before
- Pakuranga Night Markets (We give them (and our boys) \$10 to buy their dinner with and they can spend their own money if they wish to have additional food. Great way for them to get some food from their home country if they are missing it.
- Maraetai Beaches
- Scenic road from Maraetai to Clevedon and from there to the Huna falls
- Hunua Falls
- Botanical Gardens – Manurewa
- Auckland Museum
- Teach them to mow the lawns and they seem to enjoy learning/watching that
- Snakes & Ladders Park at Farm Cove
- You can teach the students to light a fire for a barbecue. (fun things to have them help with roasting marshmallows, making crepes/pancakes)
- Ferry ride to the City
- Howick Historical Village
- Mini Golf
- Hot pools - Waiwera, Parakai, Miranda
- Extreme Entertainment...either a game of ten pin bowling (cheaper on a Thursday night) or buy a card for timeout zone
- Devonport and going through the caves at North Heads. Could take the ferry across from Auckland City and an adult can drive the car around and meet's you on the other side

Keep an eye out for discounted vouchers on Grabone, Groupon, Treatme or the like. We've done Sheep World, Mini Golf, Ice Skating before using these vouchers.

Activities to do with your students. (Free or cheaper Things)

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Maraetai beaches

Scenic road from Maraetai to Clevedon and from there to the Huna falls.

Botanical gardens

Auckland museum

Teach them to mow the lawns and they seem to enjoy learning/watching that.

Snakes & Ladders park at farm cove

You can teach the students to light a fire for a barbecue. (fun things to have them help with roasting marshmallows, making crepes/pancakes)

Ferry ride to the city

Howick historical village

Mini golf

Hot pools - Waiwera, Parakai, Miranda

Keep an eye out for discounted vouchers on grab one or the like.
We've done Sheep world, mini golf, ice skating before using these vouchers.

Extreme Entertainment...either a game of ten pin bowling (cheaper on a Thursday night) or buy a card for timeout zone.

Devonport and going through the caves at North Heads. One adult drive's the car around and meet's you on the other side.

Suggested food ideas for students

You can never go wrong with rice. Most Asian students eat rice for almost every meal.

Breakfasts

Yoghurt and bread/toast for breakfast work well also hard boiled eggs. They also seem to like chocolate cereal for breakfast.

Lunches

You can make sandwich's with ham, lettuce, cheese etc or jam/yoghurt/biscuits/chips. While short term students can no longer heat up food due to the amount of students bringing food, they can get hot water for noodles in the international office.

You can make Bento Boxes for lunch (google them)

We also have a tuckshop at school where students can buy food.

Dinners

Families have found these things successful

Roast chicken/lamb

Lasagne

Pasta bake

Fried rice

Tortillas

Homemade hamburgers/American hotdogs

Bbq ask them to help cook

Making your own pizzas

Kebabs

Spaghetti Bolognaise

Fried rice

Curry

Roti/naan

Deserts

Crunchie bars, Pinky bars, Moro, liquorice allsorts Salt and vinegar chips

Ask them to cook one night

Depending upon what is happening, we often let them choose, from previous meals, what they want for dinner from on the second to last night or last night. It's really interesting what they choose.

Miscellaneous

We try hard to have other friends and/or family over when they are here as we have found they aren't used to that and it's good for them to see that side of the culture in NZ.

Students are in NZ for a cultural experience but at the same time trying different foods can be a challenge. I have found it helpful to cook rice every second night and they can eat it as a filler if they are still hungry.

Most of them are happy to try and eat whatever you make. Also please note after having lived in Asia for 20 years myself, we learn't that saying thank you for food is not common so don't take "no comment" as not liking the food.

What we tend to say to our students is if you don't like it or feel you can't eat it just leave it and we will make rice.

It is also helpful to have soy sauce and or chilli sauce on the table for those who like it hotter or want more flavour. They will not like everything so don't worry.

Many people found that taking their students grocery shopping the first day and allowing them to choose some cereal and snacks for school helpful.

Another thing one homestay did was to take photos with their students and emailed them to their parents which they thoroughly enjoyed receiving. I am aware you do not always have their email address, but if you do this is something you could do or take photos and then email them to the student so they can have them to take home.

Internet usage: It seems that for some families working out internet usage can be difficult. We do not have a set policy for internet usage due to the huge age range we take in but my suggestion would be that you clearly set down what rules you have for your home. In the majority of Asian countries Internet usage is pretty cheap, and is usually unlimited.

Please bear in mind that for short term students coming that there is often an 8-12 hour time difference, and so being up late on the internet is very common. Also most students like to chat or skype or message family daily which will often mean messaging them very late at night.

I would recommend if you have students 14 and under it's fine to say something like by 1030 - 11pm that their phones etc are in the kitchen or wherever.

I think the key thing is particularly for long term students that you cannot have it that they cannot get up in the morning because they are so exhausted after being on the internet all night. It can be tricky navigating this with students but ideally it is a good idea to sit down with them and come to an agreement which you are all happy with.