



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL



# **International Student Accommodation & Pre-Departure Information 2026**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS:**

Host Family Name: .....

Address: .....

Host Family Phone Number: .....

Homestay Coordinator - Lydia Firmin Cavanagh – 021 224 6456

Pukekohe High School	09 237 0117
International Director – Lynda Sharp	extension 199

## **WELCOME to New Zealand.**

**We hope you enjoy our lovely town and our friendly people. Please read this book to help you understand New Zealand homes and culture a little better.**

### **Homestay Rules**

Be part of the family – enjoy your host parents, brothers, and sisters. Respect them and be friendly and they will treat you the same way.

- You must have a New Zealand cell phone number, and your phone must always be charged with credit. If lost or the number changes, you must inform your homestay family and the International Department immediately.
- Exchange Mobile phone numbers with your host family as soon as you arrive
- Respect the house as a home – it is NOT a hotel. Respect the personal and private property of your family. Always ask before borrowing or using any items.
- Always ask permission to go out in the evening or to parties and arrange a suitable time to return home BEFORE you leave. We like them to drive you to and from places.
- Always ask your host parents' permission before going out. You must provide them with details of where you are going and what time you will be home.
- Ask your host parents what time is acceptable to return home. Arriving home AFTER the arranged time is NOT acceptable; this causes your host parents to worry about you.
- Ask permission to invite friends to your house before your friends arrive.
- If a student wants to stay away overnight with their Agent and/or family friends, they must contact the International Department at the school before.

**The well-being of all international students attending Pukekohe High School is the guideline for these rules.**

## **Mealtime and Eating**

### **Lunches:**

Talk to your family about lunches. Tell them what you like and what you don't like. Many family members make their own lunch. Ask your family what is best for you to do. If you do not wish to make your lunch from the food provided, you must then provide your own lunch, i.e., from the school canteen.

### **Breakfast:**

New Zealand people help themselves to breakfast. Ask your homestay parent/s where the breakfast foods are so that you can prepare your own. This will usually be toast or cereal.

**Dinner:** Your homestay will ensure your dinner is cooked for you. Please do not cook your own dinner. If you would like to cook a dish from your culture for your family, please tell your homestay.

**Snacks:** Your homestay will provide your snacks for the morning and afternoon tea. If you want any extra snacks, you can purchase more at the supermarket.

### **Bathing/Showering:**

In most New Zealand homes, the bathroom is very busy in the morning. Try to be as quick as you can.

Only take **5 minutes** in the shower. A shower "Kiwi style" is done by immersing your whole body under the water, turn the water off, then wash your body. Turn the water back on, and rinse off. You must supply your own personal toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc).

### **Toilet**

A European toilet is used by sitting on the seat with your back to the system of the toilet (where the button to flush is located).

Used toilet paper is placed into the toilet and flushed away when you have finished. Please leave the toilet clean and tidy - this is polite. There should be a toilet brush provided, when you are finished in the toilet, use this if necessary.

Males: Remember to raise the toilet seat before urinating.

Females: Ask your host mother about the disposal of your pads and tampons. These may block the toilet and cause problems and embarrassment.

### **Bedtime**

Most New Zealand families go to bed around 9-10 pm.

You may be used to going to bed much later than 10 pm, however, you must remember that you need to get enough sleep to be able to keep awake and alert in your classes at school. Sleeping at school is NOT acceptable.

## Family Outings

It can be fun to join your family on outings and visits. This is a GREAT chance to see the country, make new friends and practice your English.

If your family goes somewhere that involves an expense, maybe to the zoo or to a movie, offer to pay your share. Your New Zealand host family only receives a certain amount of money for your board, and their family budget often doesn't allow for many extras.

## Other Cultural Differences

Most New Zealand families kiss and cuddle very freely. They often show affection in public and around the home.

Both parents often share family and household duties, eg childcare, cooking, cleaning, and dishwashing.

## Keeping Warm

New Zealand houses are usually bigger and can be colder than houses in your country. Most New Zealand people prefer to wear a warm sweater than turn on a heater.

When you are cold, try to do it 'the Kiwi way' first – *put on a warm jersey, warm pants, and socks*. Try not to use a heater too often.

## Electric Blankets:

Many families use an electric blanket to warm the bed. **Do NOT sleep with the electric blanket turned on. They are expensive with power.**

Make sure it is TURNED OFF during the day. Otherwise, it **MAY CAUSE A FIRE!**

## Electric Heaters:

They must NOT be left on during the day and never cover the heater with clothes, they are not for drying your washing. It may cause a fire.

## National and International Calls:

If using a homestay phone, it is important to talk to your family about the telephone use. You MUST pay for your international toll calls.

## Internet

Homestays are asked to provide a connection to the internet. The data usage is your own responsibility and if you start to use too much you will be asked to pay towards the cost of the data. Most homestays will have unlimited wifi.

## Transport

If you catch a bus to and from school, your homestay family will explain to you where and when to catch the bus. If you wish to catch a bus/train to another town, into Auckland city, you must check with your homestay family first. If you choose to use local transport this is at your own cost if the homestay is within walking distance.

## **Walking**

In New Zealand, it is considered normal to walk around 15-25 minutes to and from school each day. We will not consider moving you from your homestay because of the distance you walk to school each day.

## **Valuables and Money**

Carry only what you think you will need. You SHOULD NOT keep large amounts of money in your wallet or take it to school. Keep money in a safe place.

Look after your valuables (eg wallets, electronic dictionaries, cameras, and cell phones)

The International Director or your homestay family will help you to open a New Zealand bank so that you can deposit your living expenses money into this account. You will have access to your money through a money card, which you can use at any time.

## **Emergencies**

**In New Zealand we telephone 111 for emergencies** (Police, Fire and Ambulance).

We call an Ambulance for an accident or dangerous health problem such as a heart attack. Police in New Zealand are friendly and helpful. It is okay to trust the Police here – we do!

**In an emergency: DIAL 111**

Tell the operator what service you require – Police, Fire or Ambulance.

Give your name, address and phone number.

YOU MUST ALSO call the **school emergency** number **021 224 6456**

## **Homestay Questions**

If you are unhappy in your homestay, please contact the International Department and we will discuss any issues you may have.

If we are unable to resolve any issues you have with your family, we can arrange other accommodation for you.

After the 1st change of homestay, students will be charged an additional fee of \$250 for each placement thereafter.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Homestay Coordinator if you have any problems:

Homestay Coordinator – Lydia	021 224 6456
Pukekohe High School	09 237 0117
<b>International Director – Lynda</b>	<b>extension 199</b>

**ENJOY YOUR STAY IN PUKEKOHE, NEW ZEALAND!**

## Code of Conduct – International Students

- 1 Students who sign the Tuition Agreement are subject to the same school rules as all other Pukekohe High School students. The student will comply with all rules including those set out in the prospectus.
- 2 All international students are required to have a comprehensive health insurance policy during their stay in New Zealand.
- 3 Students must always abide by the school rules and laws of New Zealand.
- 4 Students must have a parental representative who is approved by the school. Students are not permitted to change parental representatives unless gross misrepresentation can be shown to the school.
- 5 Students must live in school approved homestay accommodation. Students must obey parental representative/homestay rules. A parental representative can talk to staff at the school if this relationship is strained or breaking down.
- 6 Students must always be aware of their responsibility as an international student and make a determined effort at school, and always have correct school uniform.
- 7 Students must attend school daily and complete all homework and assignments. Absenteeism may result in a student's dismissal from school. A note of explanation from the homestay is required for any absences due to illness or similar reason. Attendance must be always be above 85%.
- 8 The student acknowledges that the school may from time to time amend or add to these rules in the interests of the school and student, and the student is bound by such amendments.
- 9 Pukekohe High School is a smoke and drug free environment. No drugs, tobacco products or alcohol are permitted at school, any school function, while wearing school uniform or when travelling to and from school. Any infringement of this provision will result in the student being repatriated at the parent's expense.
- 10 Students must notify the school office of any change of address, phone number or any home circumstances.
- 12 Students must respect the school term dates. **All holiday travel should be within school holiday time unless prior permission is gained.** Travel involving time away from homestay accommodation requires parental consent in writing and permission from the International Director.