



AN INTRODUCTION TO HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

WELCOME TO THE ROSMINI COLLEGE COMMUNITY

We are delighted you are interested in becoming a host family for Rosmini College. Hosting an International Student is a very rewarding experience both for the student and our homestay families. We find that our host families and students develop very close relationships and maintain this contact when the student returns to their home country.

Rosmini College pays a weekly reimbursement of \$420.00 per week (\$60/night) for students in Year 9 to 13 and \$470.00 per week (\$67.14/night) for students in Year 7 and 8. The homestay payment period is one week in advance paid every Friday.

However, please note that:

- Rosmini College reserves the right to decline any application without explanation.
- Once you become a registered host family, we are unable to guarantee a student placement with your family.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Our preference is to place students with families who are already part of the Rosmini College community.** This arrangement ensures that the student has a familiar companion to travel to and from school with, making their transition smoother. Additionally, being part of a Rosmini College family helps foster a sense of belonging and a stronger connection to the school environment.
- All homestay caregivers must be 25 years of age or over.
- Except by prior agreement with the school, all students must have their own bedroom, at least 3m x 3m within the home (no sleep-outs are accepted).
- Homestay families must speak fluent conversational English (while hosting students, English must be spoken at all times in the home by all residents).
- Supervise the student appropriately.
 - They may never be left home alone overnight or for long periods of time.
 - Students under 14 should always be supervised.
- Holiday Guidelines:
 - We understand that occasions like family holidays may arise. We encourage our homestay families to include their international student in these experiences

whenever possible (with travel costs covered by the student).

- If this isn't feasible, we are happy to arrange a temporary host family for the student during your absence. Two week's notice is required, to allow time to arrange.
- If you'd like to take your international student away with you on holiday, you must first apply for permission through the International Department. They will seek permission from the student's parents.
- It is expected that students get involved in extra-curricular activities within the school and homestay families may need to help out with transport to and from these.
- Once a Homestay placement has been confirmed it is always a nice idea for host families to make contact with your new student before he leaves his family and home. Contact details will be on your student profile.

HOST FAMILIES MUST AGREE

- To submit to a police vetting check (every 3 years) for all persons aged 18 years or over residing in the house, or those who stay overnight on a regular basis.
- To be available for an initial homestay assessment interview with all family members present.
- To provide two character references.
- To agree to the monitoring process, as required by the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021 (the Code). A school staff member will visit your home every 6 months, or more often as the school deems necessary.
- To agree to attend the biannual caregivers' dinner meetings held at Rosmini College.

SOME HELPFUL POINTS TO KNOW

- Your student is a young person, away from home, often lonely and faced with customs that are very different from their own.
- Your student will need the love and care that you would like your own child to receive in the same situation. If in doubt about what to do, it's helpful to ask yourself "what would I like a host family to do for my son/daughter if they were living overseas?"
- The student may need help to open a bank account, join the library, obtain a sim card, and understand New Zealand money. Please provide them with this help.
- Homestay payments will be made weekly in advance. Please do not discuss financial arrangements with the students or ask them to pay for any extras without prior discussion with the school's international department.
- Your student should not be asked to do housework, but they should participate in chores such as table-setting, loading the dishwasher and should make their own beds and keep their rooms tidy.
- Communication is very important in a positive relationship between the student and your family. We would also encourage you to invite your student to join your family on outings.
- **SIM card:** The Rosmini International team provides free SIM cards. Please contact us if your student requires one.
- If your student is worrying about subject choices or their future career, please direct them to us. This process can be quite overwhelming for students, so we prefer to guide them directly to ensure the best outcomes. We have specialist staff to help

them through this complex process.

- Please note that International students are not permitted to drive while they are studying at Rosmini College.

THE HOST FAMILY IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE THE STUDENT WITH:

- Three meals a day plus snacks, including a packed lunch during the school week.
 - Ask your student what foods they like and don't like.
 - If you have takeaways or invite the student out for dinner, you are expected to pay for the student's meal.
 - If they go out or buy fast food with their friends, they will pay for their own food.
 - Take them to the supermarket and ask them what they like to eat.
 - They may take some time to adapt to the food here. If your student is from an Asian country, you may want to visit an Asian supermarket with them, if one is available in your area.
 - Please try to provide food and snacks they enjoy, while encouraging them to eat the same meals as your family.
- A supportive English-speaking environment. To help the student improve their learning, please avoid using other languages when the student is present.
- All linen and soap for washing, and the student's laundry and ironing done for them.
- Bedroom with a window, a door that closes, a table/desk, chair, mirror, lamp, bed with linen and blankets/duvet, heater, storage and smoke alarm.
- Internet access (Wi-Fi) for study and communication.

THE HOST FAMILY IS ALSO EXPECTED TO:

- Make decisions about acceptable behaviour and set some limits. The student should have the same rights and duties as any child in the home, provided these are reasonable and understood. Host families are expected to take on the role of substitute parent for the duration of the time the student is living in your home.
- Provide a safe and nurturing living and studying environment.
- Treat the student with respect. Make them feel comfortable and part of the family.
- Respect the student's privacy and belongings (this applies also to other children in the home who should not enter the student's room without their permission, and never when they are not there.)
- Abide by the Rosmini College International student curfews.
- Know the whereabouts of the student at all times, how they can be contacted and who they are spending time with. Please ensure your student always has his mobile phone on him, that it is charged, as well as having credit on it so he can always make contact with you. If a student is staying at a friend's place overnight, contact should be made with the parents beforehand, and we recommend obtaining the student's natural parents' consent for sleepovers.
- Be responsible for monitoring the student's device usage and are strongly advised to require that all devices be handed in to the host parents by an agreed time (11:00 PM at the latest).
- Ensure that your student can get to and from school safely. It is important to accompany the student on the first few days even if they say they can find their way alone.

- Take an interest in the student's schooling. Contact the school if you have concerns.
- Notify the school if there are any changes or additions to the household.
- Notify the school if you have concerns over the student's health or behaviour.
- Inform the school if the student seems very homesick or sad.

THE HOST FAMILY IS NOT EXPECTED TO:

- Pay for the student's telephone calls
- Insure the student's belongings
- Provide accommodation for visiting friends or relatives
- Transportation fees from and to school

SUPPORT

We are here to support our Homestay families. Whenever you wish to discuss any matter relating to your International student, or any of the information outlined in our Handbook, please contact the International Department.

NOTICE OF TERMINATION

Please note that Homestay situations do not always work out.

Rosmini College will move the student if the host family or student are unhappy or if circumstances have changed. We do however try to resolve the issue before this action is taken, please remember in all cases this is not undertaken lightly and requires the parent's permission.

We require two weeks' written notice of termination either from the homestay or the student. If the school has any concerns with the arrangement, the school reserves the right to withdraw a student from a homestay without explanation. Homestays will be given two weeks notice.

In extreme cases, if Rosmini's International Department have any serious concerns about the emotional or physical well-being of our student, we will remove the student without prior notice.

BECOMING A ROSMINI HOMESTAY FAMILY – THE PROCESS

After you have read this introduction, and have decided you'd like to proceed to apply to become a Homestay family for Rosmini College, these are the next steps:

1. Go to the Homestay section of the Rosmini College website - <https://www.rosmini.school.nz/international/homestays>
2. Click on the International Student Caregiver Handbook button and carefully read through this important document. If there are any doubts or queries about anything in the Handbook, please email international@rosmini.school.nz.
3. Download from the Homestays webpage and complete the following paperwork:
 - a. Application Form
 - b. Carer Agreement Form
 - c. Welcome Letter Template

- d. Police Vetting Form (*all household members over 18 years of age*).
 - e. Email the 4 documents to international@rosmini.school.nz and we will put your details in our Homestay database.
4. We will confirm receipt of documentation and will arrange a home visit.
 5. When a student becomes available that aligns with your family, we will get in touch. We will send you the students self-introduction and ask for you to accept or decline the placement.
 6. If accepted, we will then send your family's Welcome Letter to the student's agent for approval.
 7. We will then liaise as information arises regarding things such as arrival details, flight details, online pre-orientation, student preparation, and their first day orientation.

CONTACT DETAILS

For any questions or queries regarding Homestays, in the first instance please contact:

Ellen Jung

International Student Accommodation and Welfare Coordinator

E: ejung@rosmini.school.nz

Alternatively, you can contact:

Misook Rylev

International Student Director

P: 0275426890

E: mrylev@rosmini.school.nz



We hope you have found this information useful, and we look forward to welcoming you as one of our valued host families!

The International Team
Rosmini College

