



1-3 Marlborough Place Brighton East Sussex BN1 1UB  
Email: [accommodation.brighton@stgiles.co.uk](mailto:accommodation.brighton@stgiles.co.uk)

Telephone (01273) 682747  
Website: [www.stgiles-international.com](http://www.stgiles-international.com)

## Staying in Homestay Accommodation Notes for Students aged 14 to 17.

### Contents

- 1 General information
- 2 Homestay accommodation
- 3 Before arriving
- 4 Your study-bedroom
- 5 Meals and mealtimes
- 6 Baths and showers
- 7 Heating and lighting
- 8 Laundry
- 9 Telephone and Internet
- 10 Absences
- 11 Damage and insurance
- 12 Keys
- 13 Guests
- 14 Medical treatment
- 15 Problems

### 1 General Information

We have arranged for you to stay in homestay accommodation, and we hope that you will be happy there.

Many people in Britain enjoy having guests from a different country in their house, sharing part of their daily life with them. We like to place our students with people who will talk to them and welcome them as members of the household. However, please be aware that hosts may have a full-time job and/or children, so can be busy at times. We hope you will understand that there will be times when your hosts would like to have some time on their own, but they should socialise with you at mealtimes and regularly during the week.

Remember you are staying in someone's home and must respect their way of life, which may be different from what you are accustomed to in your country. Naturally, the hosts should also respect your culture as well. If you have any difficulties or problems with your accommodation, first talk to your host. This often solves any problems, but if you are still unhappy or find it difficult to talk to your host, then please speak to our Accommodation and Welfare officers.

### 2 Homestay Accommodation

Homestay accommodation does not necessarily mean two parents with children. A widow or two people whose children are away at school or grown up, can make excellent homestay hosts with more time to spare for their student guests. Younger students in particular may feel happier in the home atmosphere provided by homestay.

You can expect to learn English more quickly if you live in a British home and practise English there. The UK is a multicultural country, and not all hosts were born here. However, all our hosts are fluent speakers and are expected to speak English in the home and in their daily lives.

### 3 Before Arriving

It is very important that you contact your host as soon as possible to confirm your estimated time of arrival. This is to ensure someone is at the house when you arrive.

You can email, telephone, or send a WhatsApp message to your host. If you do not contact your host, it cannot be guaranteed someone will be there to greet you. If you are badly delayed during your journey, try to telephone your hosts to say that you will be late.

### 4 Your Study-Bedroom

Depending on the size of your room, it should contain a full-size bed, wardrobe or fitted cupboard, chest of drawers or dressing table, mirror, desk or table with a table lamp and chair. If there is no desk in the room, there should be a quiet place with a table for you to study in the homestay. You should make your own bed each day and keep your room tidy so that your host can clean it. Your host will provide bath and hand towels and will change bed linen each week. Please bring your own towels for use in sports centres or for swimming.

Your host will give you a key to the house. In your room you may expect privacy. If you wish to change the arrangement of furniture in your room, talk to your host first. You should not fix your own photographs, pictures or posters to the wall without permission. Be especially careful with hair straighteners, lighted cigarettes, hair spray, and nail varnish, and do not smoke in a non-smoking household.

Do not leave valuables in your room. St Giles cannot accept responsibility for any loss of personal belongings. You are welcome to use the safe at St Giles. Please speak to the Finance Officer in the School, who will be happy to help you with this.

**Ask your host before using any of your own electrical equipment and note that the normal voltage in the UK is 240 volts.**

### 5 Meals and Mealtimes

You will normally eat with your hosts according to their custom. If you cannot eat or do not like any particular food for dietary, religious, or other reasons, tell your host as soon as possible. It is important to be punctual at mealtimes. Tell your host if you are likely to be late, or if you will be absent from a meal.

#### **Half-Board accommodation**

This is the best opportunity to practise English with your host.

Your host will give you breakfast and an evening meal each day. Weekend lunches are not included. A typical breakfast may include fruit juice, yoghurt or cereal, toast and tea or coffee. Your evening meal is the main meal of the day and should be well-balanced, including meat or fish (or other protein – particularly in the case of vegetarians).

**You should not expect to use the kitchen to cook for yourself. You should be able to make yourself a cup of tea or coffee at any time, but never help yourself to food or drink without permission.**

### 6 Baths and Showers

You should be able to have a bath or shower at least once every day. Most homestays have only one bathroom, so ask your host how you can best fit in with their routine. Please consider other family

members and keep your shower time to a minimum. Do not use the shower late at night. Ask for help if you do not understand how the equipment in the bathroom and toilet works.

**Always leave the bathroom clean after use.**

## 7 Heating and Lighting

In the UK, heating and electricity are very expensive. Switch off electric lights and close windows when you leave the room.

**Central heating is usually switched off from about 10.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. and during the day when your host is out of the house.  
Ask for extra blankets if you are cold during the night.  
Remember to pack warm clothing if you are coming to England during the winter months.**

## 8 Laundry

We recommend to hosts that they include one wash per week free of charge. The host may make a small charge for extra washing, say £5.00 per week. If they cannot do your washing, ask them when and where you can do your own washing, and where to put the wet things. They may suggest that you use a nearby launderette, and they will probably let you borrow the ironing board and iron. Make sure you know the arrangements for washing, drying and ironing your own clothes.

**Never leave wet clothes in your room on chairs, radiators, etc.**

## 9 Telephone and Internet (☎)

Most students bring their own mobile telephones so hosts generally do not allow you use the house telephone except in an emergency.

We expect hosts to offer free Wi-Fi access as most students bring their own laptops. Free internet facilities are of course also available at the school.

## 10 Absences

For security reasons, you MUST return home no later than your curfew. If you are 14 or 15 you must be home by 9pm during the week and 10pm on Friday and Saturday nights. If you are 16 or 17 you must be home by 11pm during the week and midnight on Friday or Saturday nights. If you do not return to the homestay, your host will contact the school emergency phone which could lead to us contacting the police. Please give your host your mobile number so they can contact you, and make sure you keep it charged at all times.

If you are 16 or 17 and would like to stay away on an overnight trip you must get permission from the school. Your parents must complete a consent form and if the Principal approves, she will notify your host.

If you are 14 or 15 and would like to leave Brighton on a day trip you must get permission from the school. Your parents must complete a consent form and if the Principal approves, she will notify the host. You are not permitted to stay away from the homestay overnight.

See Terms and Conditions at the end of this document for information about holidays and other absences.

## 11 Damage and Insurance

Always tell your host immediately if you accidentally break or damage anything in the home.

**You should offer to pay for any such damage immediately.**

We strongly advise all students to take out comprehensive travel insurance before they leave their home countries. The school can arrange insurance for you if you wish. Please contact us before travelling for details.

## **12 Keys**

Students must be given their own house key for the period of their stay. If you lose the key, you should be expected to pay for a replacement as the school cannot accept responsibility for this.

## **13 Guests**

If you want to invite your friends to your host's house for a visit, ask your host beforehand. Ask what time your guests should arrive and leave the house. If your host provides food or drink, you must offer to pay for this. Try to be sure that your friends are reasonably quiet and do not disturb the rest of the household, especially late at night. Guests should not stay after 11pm.

**It is not possible for friends to stay overnight with you while you are in homestay accommodation.**

## **14 Medical treatment**

If you need medical or dental treatment, please discuss this with the Accommodation and Welfare Office in the School. They will be happy to help you with details of the local medical centre or dentist.

## **15 Problems**

If you have any problems or are unhappy with your accommodation, please see the Accommodation Officer (or another member of staff) as soon as possible: they will advise you what we can do to help. You may prefer to discuss a problem with a member of your family in your own language, in your own country, or with an agent who arranged your course for you. We can only help if you talk to us in the office when the problem arises.

**We hope that you will be happy in your accommodation!**

# **Accommodation Terms and Conditions**

## **Payment**

You must make all accommodation payments direct to the school, who will pay your hosts for you.

## **Accommodation Dates**

We arrange your accommodation from the Sunday before the course begins, until 10.00 a.m. on the Sunday at the end of the course, unless you request otherwise. Earlier arrival is not always possible. It may be necessary that you arrange alternative accommodation until your homestay is available. Please do not arrive at your new homestay after 11pm.

## **Late Arrival/Cancellations**

If you arrive late during the first week, you must pay in full from the date of arrival given in the accommodation letter. We cannot guarantee that your room will be available if you arrive more than

one week late unless you advise our office in advance. If you need to cancel your accommodation you must give 7 days' notice prior to arrival or pay for the first 7 days of your accommodation booking.

### **Departure Date**

Please note that accommodation has been booked only for the dates stated on the confirmation letter, and you must vacate your room by 10:00am on the Sunday after the end of your course. If you need accommodation beyond that date you must speak to the Accommodation Office. (See 'Extending Your Stay' below).

### **Extending your Stay**

In order to ensure continuity of accommodation with the same homestay, we strongly recommend that you book homestay accommodation for the entire length of your course. If you book for only a short period (e.g. 4 weeks), we cannot guarantee that the same accommodation will be available, if you later decide that you want to stay longer, and it may be necessary for you to change your homestay. If you want to extend your stay, you must tell the Accommodation Office as soon as possible, and they will advise you whether the same homestay is still available and if so, they will ask you to pay for a further period. If it is not, the Accommodation Office will arrange a new homestay for you.

**Note: You cannot arrange this yourself direct with the homestay, because all accommodation placements are arranged by our Accommodation Office.**

### **Leaving Accommodation Early**

If you want to leave your accommodation before the date of departure given in the letter, you must tell the office and your host at least 7 days before your intended departure from the homestay. If you do not give 7 days' notice you must pay for that week *in lieu*. You must also give at least 7 days' notice if you extend your original booking by a further period or wish to leave early.

If you have a serious complaint about your homestay at any time, and you wish to change your accommodation, you should discuss the matter with our Accommodation Office. If they support your complaint, they will arrange a new homestay as soon as possible.

### **Christmas**

There are no classes in the week when Christmas Day falls. If you stay in your homestay during that week, you receive full board (i.e. all meals) on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December and pay an extra charge (see the **Course Dates and Fees**). Students on bed and breakfast arrangements can opt for full board on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December if the host is able to provide it. Not all homestays are available during the Christmas week. It may be necessary for you to move to a temporary homestay.

### **Absences**

If you are 16 or 17 and have permission to be absent from your accommodation for one night or more, the Principal will tell your host. There is no reduction in the weekly accommodation charge if you are absent for six *consecutive* days or less. If you are absent for more than six consecutive days, the office will deduct 50% of the weekly charge and refund it to you.

### **Sharing a Room**

Shared accommodation can be reserved only for students travelling together.