

# Castle School Homestay Provider Guide

Welcome to the Castle School homestay program. As a host family, your support and hospitality are crucial in helping our students adjust to life in the UK. Below are your responsibilities to ensure a comfortable and enriching experience for everyone involved.

## Cultural Adjustment

Students may encounter challenges adapting to life in the UK, particularly if their English skills are limited or if they come from non-European backgrounds. They might have different schedules for sleeping and eating. It's helpful to discuss meal times and ensure that students feel comfortable communicating their plans, such as going out for dinner or staying out late. Your patience and support will be greatly appreciated and can foster lasting friendships. Making students feel welcome in your home will ease their transition.

## Bedroom

- *Furniture:* Provide a bed, wardrobe, desk or table, and chair.
- *Lighting:* Ensure adequate lighting for study purposes.
- *Study Space:* If not in the bedroom, offer a quiet study area elsewhere.
- *Sharing:* Bedrooms should not be shared unless arranged with the school.

## Heating

- *Provision:* Offer heating for reasonable periods in the bedroom and study area.
- *Additional Comfort:* Be prepared to supply extra blankets or duvets as needed.

## Board basis

- *Self Catering:* You do not have to provide any meals, the students will be allowed use the kitchen facilities at the home stay to cook their own meals, they should have some free space in the fridge and in the cupboard to place their own food.
- *Half Board:* Breakfast and dinner must be provided by the host from the day of arrival until the day of departure.
- *Full board:* Breakfast, lunch and dinner must be provided by the host room the day of arrival until the day of departure.

If the students are arriving after lunch or dinner time to their homestays, they will miss those meals, please provide some food upon arrival if necessary as they will arrive tired after their trip.

Please provide breakfast and packed lunch for the students on their departure day as they will have a long journey on the way back home. Communication is very important between host families and students.

In case of an emergency where the host must be absent, please ensure dinner is prepared and available for the student. Also, if the student will be unable to join the meal with your family because they have a group activity, please ensure dinner is prepared and available for the student.

## Meals

- *Breakfast*: Provide a substantial breakfast with options such as cereals, toast, eggs, ham, cheese, yogurt, fruit juice, and tea/coffee.
- *Packed Lunch*: Supply a packed lunch for all-day excursions at the weekend and from Monday to Friday during the school days (This could be like sandwich/wrap/salad + snack + drink. Provide a light lunch on the weekends if the students do not have any activities and if they will stay at home.(This option will be provided when the students book full board basis with breakfast, lunch and dinner included)
- *Dinner*: Offer a balanced dinner with the family, varying throughout the week. When the students are vegetarian, please provide veggies and also some proteins like omelette, eggs, chickpeas, lentils or beans.

## Key and House Rules

- *Front Door Key*: Give students a key as they are temporary household members.
- *House Customs*: Clearly explain any household customs or rules.
- *Curfew for under 18's*: Under 16 years old students must arrive at the homestay at 9pm the latest. Students from 16-17 years old can arrive at the homestay at 10.30pm the latest. Please refer to their social programme for any exceptions due to activities, as they may be allowed to arrive after the curfew time.

## Bathroom Access

- **Shower Access**: Ensure students have regular access to the bathroom, with daily showers considered normal.

## Communication and Technology

- **Mobile Phones**: Students will have their own phones.
- **Internet Access**: Provide free WiFi access 24/7 for students to use their laptops or mobile phones.

## Laundry

Include washing services at least once a week.

Thank you for your commitment and support in making our students' stay a memorable and positive experience. Your efforts are invaluable in helping them thrive both academically and personally.