

What to expect and how to behave at your Host Family

Our Host Families offer a warm welcome to you and the opportunity to find out what life is really like living with a British family. They will be interested to know about your life at home, your family, your country and your cultural way of life. However, life in a British family is likely to be different from your own family at home. We want you to find this a happy and enjoyable experience, so please make an effort to speak to your Host Family and to get to know them.

Here Are Some Helpful Suggestions About Your Stay

Please be polite and courteous at all times – please and thank you go a long way when someone is caring for you. In the UK it is the custom to always welcome each other with Hello! When you leave, again it is the custom to thank your Host Family for having you and to say goodbye.

You are staying in someone's home – please be respectful of the house and the belongings of the Host Family. You should expect to keep your room tidy and to clear up after yourself while staying.

Please understand that in the UK it is not polite to shut yourself in your room or just stay on your phone or computer all the time. Please join in with your family and you will have a much more interesting and enjoyable time. Remember the rules regarding what you should be accessing via a computer at school and only access what is age appropriate.

Taking Part

Our Host Families will invite you to take part in family activities – please make an effort to take part in these activities and to be friendly and interested in what the family are doing. You will find your stay much more exciting and enjoyable if you do. Sometimes students want to relax, and that is fine, but do not stay in your room for long periods. You are on holiday and we want you to have a good rest and relax – however by joining in, your stay will be much more enjoyable and fun!

Responding to Requests

Please respond quickly if you are told dinner is ready, or the Host Family are taking you out on a trip. It is considered rude to respond, "In a minute," if you are asked to do something, or not to do something, so please do not use this phrase

Use of Technology

It is not the custom in the UK to use your phone at the dinner table, so please leave it in your room or keep it out of sight while eating.

Gaming on your phone or tablet all night is not an acceptable way to behave. It disturbs your host family and means you miss out on valuable sleeping time.

Food

Tell your Host Family if there are any foods you really do not like – otherwise please try all the food your Host Family provides for you. This will help you to learn about British customs and find out what foods you like to eat here! Please do not take food or drinks into your bedroom without permission first. If you are hungry, let your Host Family know. They will make sure drinks and snacks are available to you in between meals, but do not take food without asking first.

If you would like to order in take away food please ask your host family before doing so. They may already have cooked you a lovely meal!

Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking

Just as at school, we have a strict policy of NO SMOKING, NO DRUGS and NO ALCOHOL for all our students while you are staying at a Host Family.

Accidental Damage and Breakages

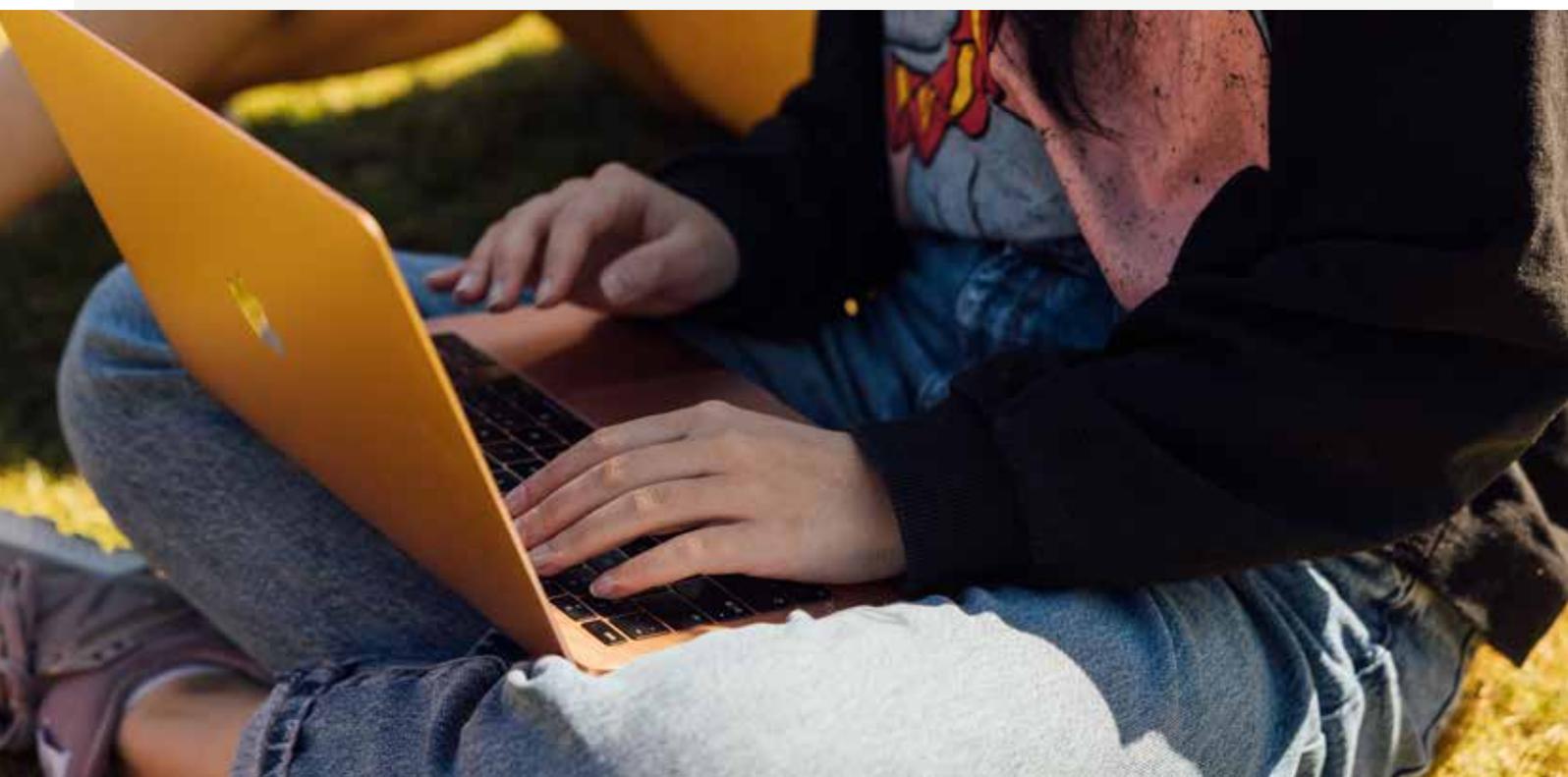
Please do be careful of the Host Family's belongings. If you do break something by accident then please tell your host family straight away so we can arrange to have it mended or replaced.

Please don't use hair dye when you are staying with your host family as it can cause a mess and permanent staining to sheets and towels.

Please don't leave the family to discover the breakage once you have left!

Pets

Some Host Families own pets – this is customary in the UK. Our Host Families understand you may not be used to this – but give it a chance! When a pet, particularly a dog, meets you for the first time, he or she may be excited, but they will soon calm down and you will make a new friend! Please always show kindness and respect to your host family pets.



Online Private Tuition

We understand you may want to organise this during your host family stay. Please tell your Area Manager in plenty of time if you plan to do this so we can work out suitable times for you to organise this. We need to make sure that your tutoring is at a convenient time for the host family. They may already have plans for the time you would like to have your lesson.

Going Out

Never go out without asking permission from your Host Family – they are there to look after you and keep you safe in the holidays. Depending on your age, we ask that you let the Host Family know where you are going and what time you will be back. If you are going far from the Host Family, you must tell your Area Manager as well and there needs to be a plan in place to make sure you are safe at all times.

Aged 14 and Under

If you are aged 14 or under 14, you are not allowed to go out on your own or be left unaccompanied in the home.

Aged 15 to 16

You are allowed to go out on your own for short periods of time to the local town shopping, leisure centre or cinema for example – as long as you make sure you tell your Host Family where you are going and who with and how to contact you in an emergency. You must be home before it is dark or 7pm – you need to arrange a time with your Host Family so they know when you will return. You are not allowed to travel further than local amenities unless you have permission of your Area Manager, parents and Host Family.

AGED 17 to 18

If you are aged 17 and 18, you may want to go out unaccompanied. You are allowed to do so, within reason, but must make sure you agree your plans with your Host Family and be back at 10pm at the latest when going out alone. You may want to go to London or another city during the holidays, while you are staying at a Host Family. In this instance, your parents must give approval in writing to us in good time and the plan must be very detailed.

Staying Away

While staying at your Host Family it is forbidden for you to stay anywhere else overnight unless specific permission has been given by Pippa's Guardians. This will only be granted with written permission of your parents – we have to notify the UKVI where you are staying at all times to comply with your visa regulations and to ensure your safety.

Host Cancellation and Changing Your Plans

We confirm the arrangements with your Host Family, your school, your parents and you AT LEAST two weeks in advance of your stay. Please do not change your plans at the last minute unless it is for a very important and genuine reason.

If you change your mind about your plans for an exeat or half term, please let us know EARLY or a Host Family Cancellation Fee will apply, which your parents will have to pay. It is also not polite to change plans at the last minute, as your Host Family will be planning your visit and looking forward to your arrival.