



Brockenhurst College

# Homestay

## Statement of Principles and Practice

**Introduction to Homestay accommodation at the College**  
Our Homestay service is offered to all our students requiring accommodation away from home. We offer the students the opportunity to stay with recommended, vetted local hosts in clean well maintain rooms with breakfast and evening meals week days and full board at weekends and holidays (not including the summer holiday). This enables our students to start to live independently and develop the skills required to prepare them for adult life and progress in both social and academic contexts.

## **We aim to:**

- Provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for all students and staff at Brockenhurst College, abiding by the principles set out in the College's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Provide a high level of student support for all students and ensure Homestay students have access to a member of the Accommodation/International team 24 hours a day 52 weeks of the year.
- Provide Student Support services which are accessible, sensitive and effective in dealing with all student enquiries and concerns, and maintain student confidentiality within the limits set out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Ensure that Homestay accommodation is of a high standard and complies with health and safety requirements.
- Ensure that all necessary health and safety checks are undertaken and that any actions identified are completed in a timely manner.
- Promote safe, healthy and responsible lifestyle choices among the students at the College in compliance with all current legislation and best practice guidance.
- Facilitate, through Student Services, the Students' Union and through the enrichment programme a varied and comprehensive programme of sporting and social events.
- Organise and deliver a full range of student enrichment and pastoral support activities, including specific events designed to promote active and responsible citizenship, personal safety and healthy lifestyles.
- Implement systems for recording and tracking significant student incidents, including behavioural issues, accidents and emergencies, and ensure that such incidents are dealt with fairly and rapidly in accordance with established College policies.
- Develop and maintain systems to ensure the Homestay provision meets the National Minimum Standards.
- Ensure that Homestay accommodation is allocated in a fair, transparent and efficient manner.
- Support families providing Homestay accommodation through as range of means including a specific contact point at the College for queries and support, initial and ongoing training, and access to and support through relevant College policies.
- Promote effective communications with the wider College student body, Student Services and all other key staff, including Estates, catering, student support, personal tutors and tutors, on all issues relating to student welfare and pastoral support.
- Maintain accurate records for activities undertaken, advice and guidance given and the Homestay accommodation allocated to students.
- Take account of the student voice through regular surveys and meetings, and use the feedback to improve activities and services for Homestay students.
- Maintain effective communications with parents as appropriate.
- Monitor and improve service quality through the production of a self-assessment report to support the planning and organisation of Homestay accommodation.
- Deliver services according to principles of fairness and equality of opportunity, and celebrate and promote diversity through all aspects of the team's work, in line with the College's equality policy.
- Meet students' individual needs e.g. disability, religious and cultural.