

A.S. Guardians

Student Code of Conduct for Homestays

Statement

This Student Code of Conduct for Homestays outlines the positive behaviour we expect from our students while staying with a host family. It also provides information about specific laws in the UK. The aim is to provide guidance in key areas of A.S. Guardians' expectations for students, so that they get the very best out of their homestay experience. The guidance is written for the benefit of students, parents /agents, staff, and homestays.

Homestays Code of Conduct

Behaviour and conduct when staying with a Homestay

A.S. Guardians expects all students to be polite and courteous when staying with a homestay. Your homestay is different from a hotel, and the expectation is that you will be included as part of the family. You will be expected to engage with family members, joining them at mealtimes, and possibly helping with chores such as laying the table. This involvement in your homestay's life is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the British culture, to improve your language skills, and is a lot of fun! Using your good manners while staying in a homestay is a great way to show respect and appreciation to your host family. For example, in the UK, it is expected that you say "please" and "thank you" when asking for and receiving items. Each homestay will have their own house rules, and your host family will explain these to you when you arrive. Please do ask them if you have any questions.

Curfew arrangements

When staying in a homestay, it is important to follow the rules for being back home by an agreed time. This allows you to have some independence to be able to meet with friends etc, while keeping you safe and being considerate of the needs of the host family.

Students wishing to go out on their own must have the prior written approval of their parent(s)/guardian(s), as well as the agreement of their host family.

Students under the age of 14 will not have permission to go out on their own.

Students over the age of 14 who have been given permission to go out on their own will be required to return to homestays by the following times:

- Ages 14 and 15 : by 8pm or by the time it is dark
- Age 16 -17 : by 9pm or by the time it is dark
- Age 18 : by 10pm

All students who are permitted to go out unaccompanied by their homestay must take their mobile phone (fully charged) with them and keep this switched on. It is important that if students do go out unaccompanied, that they let the homestay know where they are going, with whom, and roughly know long they will be out. If for any reason they are delayed, students must contact the homestay to inform them.

A.S. Guardians suggests that student bedtimes should be as follows:

- Ages 12 and under: 8.30-9pm
- Age 13 – 14: 9-9.30pm
- Age 15 – 16: 9.30-10pm
- Age 17-18: 10-10.30pm

Any deviation to these times should be discussed with the homestay.

Use of the kitchen area

Your homestay will prepare meals for you (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). You may want to help the family in their meal preparations or cook something yourself. Please do talk to your homestay about this and they will advise you how to use the kitchen and the necessary safety rules. If you have your own food that you wish to eat during your stay, please let your homestay know so that this can be stored safely (for instance in a fridge if required). You will be able to access drinks and snacks throughout the day, such as fruit or biscuits. Your homestay will explain how you can access these.

Your guardian will ensure that any food allergies, intolerances, or special requirements are communicated to your homestay prior to your arrival. Please help your homestay to cater for you as well as possible by ensuring that you discuss any special dietary requirements or preferences with them when you arrive.

Use of the bathroom

Students are asked to be respectful of the family routines. If you are sharing a bathroom, please be considerate with the time taken to shower and bathe as others may need to use the facility. Please leave bathrooms tidy. Some families may have limits on the amount of hot water available each day due to their boiler capacity. Please discuss with your host family the best times for showering or taking a bath. Please ensure that you lock the door of the bathroom when in use and ensure that you are suitably clothed when travelling to and from the bathroom.

Use of the Wi-Fi / access to the home computer

Please discuss Wi-Fi access with your homestay. Some families have packages where they have a limit on the data they may use in a month; therefore streaming films for example would be inappropriate. Please note that homestays may have filters on their internet and may use parental controls to prevent access of inappropriate sites. Some homestays may turn off the Wi-Fi at bedtime. Students should use their own devices rather than the family's home computer.

Laws regarding the consumption of alcohol

A.S. Guardians does not permit students to consume alcohol whilst under their care, including when they are staying at a homestay, even if they are 18 years old. In the UK it is illegal for people under 18 to buy alcohol in a pub, off-licence, shop or elsewhere. In most cases, it is against the law for anyone to buy alcohol for someone under 18 to drink in a pub or a public place.

Laws regarding the use of drugs and illegal substances

A.S. Guardians prohibits students from using recreational drugs and illegal substances whilst in their care. In the UK you can get a fine or prison sentence if you:

- take drugs
- carry drugs
- make drugs
- sell, deal or share drugs (also called 'supplying' them)

If you are under 18, the police are allowed to tell your parent, guardian or carer that you've been caught with drugs.

Laws regarding smoking

A.S. Guardians prohibits students from smoking or vaping whilst in their care. In the UK, it is illegal to buy cigarettes if you are under the age of 18.

Laws regarding sexual activity

A.S. Guardians prohibits students from engaging in sexual activity whilst in their care, even if they are over the age of consent. In the UK the age of consent is 16. That means that it is illegal to have sex with someone under the age of 16.

Laws regarding tattoos and body piercings

A.S. Guardians prohibits students from having a tattoo or body piercing whilst in their care. In the UK, it is illegal to tattoo a young person under the age of 18, even if they have parental consent. There is no legal age of consent for body piercing, and so it is legal for someone under the age of 18 to have a piercing as long as they have consented to it. Children under the age of 16 cannot legally consent to a genital (or in the case of girls, nipple) piercing, as it's considered to be indecent assault.

Arrangements when Students wish to stay away from the homestay.

While staying with your homestay you are not allowed to stay away from the homestay unless written permission has been given by A.S. Guardians.

Review

A.S. Guardians are committed to regular review of policies to ensure the highest standards are adhered to.

This policy was reviewed on 18th March 2022
Signed C.Charlemagne
Date 18.03.2022