



Homestay for Regional, Interstate and International Students – Policy and Procedures

Introduction

Tenison Woods College Homestay program caters for regional, interstate and international students seeking quality accommodation and pastoral care whilst they attend a study program or complete their secondary education at the College. Parents need, above all, peace of mind when their children are studying away from home and we particularly assure them of our care. We believe that successful study is enhanced by living within a secure and supportive family environment.

Homestay accommodation means that students stay with a family for the duration of their studies or for an agreed duration. Homestay families provide a safe, friendly, supportive and caring environment for students and assist them in settling into school and a new home environment. In return host families are rewarded with long term friendships and greater cross-cultural awareness with international and regional students and their families.

Policy Statement

Tenison Woods College is committed to providing a quality education for regional, interstate and international students, where the opportunity to live with a homestay family in a safe, welcoming, supportive and caring environment makes a positive contribution to the wellbeing and success of each student.

Tenison Woods College will assist regional, interstate and international students and their families, where requested, to find secure and appropriate accommodation with homestay families while they are studying at the College.

The College will take responsibility for ensuring that all homestay host families meet appropriate standards of care and safety.

Procedures to Arrange and Confirm Homestay Families

All international students require a loving family environment where they can safely integrate and for our international students to experience the Australian way of life.

To facilitate positive experiences for all students and their home-stay families the following procedures will be applied when arranging homestay accommodation for regional, interstate and international students.

- Potential homestay families must complete all the relevant applications, forms and agreements.
- All members, over 18 years of age, in households with responsibility for regional, interstate and international students from Tenison Woods College will be required to undergo a police check organised by the College. This information will be held in a confidential file and maintained by the Homestay Coordinator at the College.
- All homestay families will provide the College with information indicating their suitability to host regional, interstate and international students (Homestay Family Registration form). This information will be held in a confidential file and maintained by the Homestay Coordinator at the College.
- All homestay families will agree to the guidelines and criteria of the Homestay Program (Host Family Guidelines and Declaration form). This information will be held in a confidential file and maintained by the Homestay Coordinator at the College.
- All homestay families will be advised, in writing, of the requirements, criteria and conditions of an agreement to host regional, interstate and international

students attending Tenison Woods College (Letter to Families re Homestay Program). This letter will accompany the Homestay Family Registration form sent to interested families. Signed and addressed copies of these letters will be held in a confidential file and maintained by the Homestay Coordinator at the College.

- It is essential that English is the main language spoken. International students must have the opportunity both to speak and hear the spoken language.
- It is essential that potential Homestay families have the resources and commitment to provide a friendly, supportive and caring environment for homestay students and assist them in settling into school and a new home environment.

Most importantly, a good Homestay experience provides many rewarding memories for the student, the host family and the school community.

As the College has a guardianship role for all international students it is important that communication is maintained between those who provide care in the home situation and the school; therefore, **all household members over 18 must have a Police Check and any changes in who lives in the household must be advised immediately.**

The homestay program is managed by the Homestay Coordinator and supported by the Principal.

If you would like further information regarding Homestay and what is expected of Homestay families and students, please contact the Homestay Coordinator, Yolande Langford on 0408830835 or email langy@tenison.catholic.edu.au.