



# Welcome to your homestay!

We wish you an enjoyable stay here.

Please take the time to read through this guide, which is designed to help you make the most of your homestay experience.

## The London School of English homestay guide

We have produced this guide to help you to understand what you can expect from your London School of English homestay experience.

Your homestay host will treat you as a welcome guest and you should feel able to participate in their home life as far as is practical for you and your hosts. Naturally they will expect you to be courteous and respectful of the home and behave responsibly at all times.

The following pages should help you to understand what you can expect from your hosts and what they can expect from you. The objective is to help avoid any misunderstandings. If in doubt, please feel free to discuss anything you like with your host – it's always better to ask than assume!



## Feeling at home...

We know that an important reason many clients choose to stay in homestay accommodation is to have an opportunity to experience British home life and practice their English. Please bear in mind that many of our hosts are working professionals, but although they may have busy lives, they will set aside some time each day to be able to speak with you. Some hosts spend time talking with their guests over breakfast, others make time in the evening over dinner. If you are keen to have as much contact as possible, discuss this with them and try to understand how this can be achieved while also respecting their busy schedules.

You may not be the only guest staying in this accommodation. If there is another visitor he or she will speak a different language to you, so you will have plenty of opportunity to practice speaking English.

You may find the home and lifestyle different to your normal routine, but remember that this is all part of the experience. Your host will make you feel welcome, but will also want some privacy, so do not expect them to be there just for you all the time.

Remember that you are staying in a private home, which is not a substitute for a hotel. You should not expect the same services and facilities that you might get in a hotel and you should be prepared to adapt to your homestay host's way of doing things.

## House rules...

Every home has its own rules. In most homes these are not written down, but understood by everyone living in the home. To help you understand your host's routines they may include a list of house rules which will apply to everyone.

**If no additional rules are included, you might ask if there is anything you should know about to help you integrate into their home life.**







## What if things go wrong?

Problems are very often due to misunderstandings or cultural differences. Where issues arise, you should discuss them if you feel they are making your homestay experience less positive.

A good way to start discussing a slightly uncomfortable issue might be to say something like: "It may be a misunderstanding, but..." or if you raise an issue you could always add something at the end such as: "... but perhaps these are cultural differences that I don't yet understand."

**If you feel that an issue cannot be resolved by talking to your host, please contact the school as early as possible so that we can help to find a solution. You can contact the accommodation team through our main number: 020 7605 4123.**