

## **Student Obligations to their host family**

**\*\*This is a set of general guidelines. You can expect to find an adapted version of these in the household where you are staying\*\***

### **Fire & Security**

If you are the last person in the house, ensure that you check ALL external doors are locked before leaving. Please make sure you know how all the doors in the house work.

If you are the last person to go to bed, ensure all external doors are locked, including locking the front door from the inside. Please close all internal doors downstairs as, if a fire breaks out, this will prevent it from spreading.

Please turn off the lights when you have finished in a room and especially before going to bed or when leaving the house.

Please unplug all appliances (in your bedroom or any of your own appliances you have placed in a communal areas of the house) after you have used them. Please avoid leaving switched on lap tops on top of bedding and please do not place objects on top of electric fires or lights.

Please avoid leaving anything that will block an exit or escape route from the building.

Please ensure you check with your host family what to do in the event of a fire. Your host family should provide you with some fire safety guidelines, such as where to assemble in the event of a fire, instructions on how fire extinguishers work, details of which exits to use and instructions on how all doors work.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the house. If you smoke, please ask your host family if there is a designated area where you can smoke and a place where you can leave cigarette ends.

### **Use of Household facilities**

When using the washing machine and clothes dryer, avoid doing more than one load at a time. You may hang the clothes on a clothes airer or washing line in a designated area but please remove them promptly as others need to use this area. Ensure that your host explains to you how all washing and drying appliances work before using them.

You may use the television and DVD player during certain hours of the day as agreed with your hosts but please ensure they are switched off after use or they are kept at a low volume if the hosts are working or if children are sleeping.

If you are eating with the family, you do not need to clean your dishes after you have eaten. However, if you are in the house by yourself and preparing food for yourself, please ensure you wash and dry your plates after use and leave them tidily. Please avoid taking plates and cutlery into your room. If you are preparing meals and snacks please eat them in the kitchen/diner area and clean them up afterwards.

Please leave your room tidy and avoid leaving your possession lying on the floor. If the floor is clear, the room will be cleaned, if not, it will not be possible to clean it.

Please leave the bathroom tidily after you have used it as this may be shared with other students / house guests. Please do not try to flush any objects other than paper down the toilet.

Please hang your coats and put shoes in designated areas and do not leave them lying around the house.

You may use the garden, although please leave it tidily after use.

### Courtesy

If you come home after 10 pm and before 8 am, please make as little noise as possible as there may well be people sleeping. Avoid watching the television after the host family has gone to bed. Check with the host family if it is OK to be on the phone late at night. This may be the only time you can speak with your family (depending on the time difference) but please avoid talking loudly or go to a part of the house where you will not disturb them as often the walls between rooms can be thin.

If you are not going to be around for dinner or over a weekend, please advise your host family as much in advance as possible so they know not to prepare a meal for you. British families usually eat between 7 and 8 pm, although families with young children may well eat earlier. If you have not arrived by this time, they will assume you are not eating and will not save food for you. If you are coming home late, please let them know in advance and they can leave food aside for you.

If the host family are away for a meal time, they will leave some food prepared in the fridge although you are welcome to prepare your own food if you agree with the host family in advance. Please clean everything up afterwards.

You may help yourself to reasonable quantities of food for breakfast or at meal times if the host family are not present. If you need to eat outside of normal meal times, speak to the host family first, they may allow you space in the fridge to store your own food but please check first. Alcoholic drinks may not be taken without prior permission.

Guests may only be invited to the house with prior permission of the host family and will not normally be allowed to stay over.