

What you can expect from your host family

Your host family are obliged to provide you with an evening meal. You can expect the whole family to eat together in the evening. British families usually eat between 7 and 8 pm although families with young children may eat slightly earlier. The evening meal a really good opportunity to talk to the hosts and practise the English you have been learning in the classes.

The host family are also obliged to provide breakfast, although given that you may well be leaving the house at different times, this is unlikely to be a sit down meal for everyone. Your hosts will show you where everything is so you can help yourself, or they will leave something out for you. You will need to provide your own lunch on week days and weekends. If you are around and your hosts are having lunch on the weekend, they may invite you to join them although they are not obliged to.

You can also expect the hosts to provide you with a front door key. The house should be accessible at all times of day and you should be allowed to use the communal areas. Please bear in mind that people in Britain often work from home so if you are in the house during working hours, try to avoid making too much noise, especially if your rooms are close together. You will also be allowed to use clothes washing facilities, although please remove your clothes from the washing machine / dryer / clothes airer promptly. You may or may not have your own private bathroom; if you are sharing a bathroom with the household or other students, please ensure you leave it as you found it and please avoid taking showers outside of waking hours as this may disturb other members of the household. You should also be able to gain access to the internet as most British households have broadband.