

Code of Conduct for under 18s

This **Code of Conduct** outlines the expectations and responsibilities for students under the age of 18 who are participating in SCOTS English College's accommodation hosting program. These guidelines ensure a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for both students and host families.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of students under 18.
- Foster a positive relationship between students and host families.
- Promote responsible, respectful, and culturally aware behaviour in a homestay environment.

All students under 18 who are part of the accommodation hosting program must always adhere to this Code of Conduct.

2. Student Responsibilities

Students must act respectfully and responsibly towards their host family and follow the rules outlined by SCOTS English College and their host family. Responsibilities include:

2.1 General Behaviour

- **Respect:** Treat your host family with respect at all times, including respecting their privacy, cultural practices, and household rules.
- **Communication:** Maintain open and polite communication with your host family. Let them know where you are, who you are with, and when you will return home if you are going out.
- **Courtesy:** Be mindful of your host family's daily routines. Be quiet during late hours, especially if others in the home are sleeping or working.

2.2 House Rules

- **Curfew:** Adhere to the curfew set by your host family, as agreed upon with SCOTS English College. Curfews are mandatory for students under 18 for their safety and well-being.
- **Permission for Outings:** Always ask for permission before going out. Provide details such as where you are going, with whom, and when you will be back.
- **Attendance at School:** Attend all classes at SCOTS English College regularly and punctually. If you are

sick or cannot attend, inform your host family and the college immediately.

- **Study:** Dedicate appropriate time to studying and completing homework. Your host family may set quiet times to help with this.

2.3 Respecting the Home Environment

- **Cleanliness:** Keep your room and shared spaces clean and tidy. Be responsible for your personal belongings.
- **Meals:** Participate in shared meals if provided, and communicate any dietary requirements or preferences respectfully. If you are not going to be home for a meal, inform your host family in advance.
- **Laundry:** Discuss laundry arrangements with your host family. You may be asked to do your own laundry or assist in maintaining your clothing.
- **Utilities:** Be considerate of water, electricity, and internet use, and follow any guidelines provided by your host family regarding their use.

2.4 Safety and Welfare

- **Emergency Contacts:** Always carry your host family's and SCOTS English College's emergency contact information. In the case of an emergency, contact your host or SCOTS immediately.
- **Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking:** The use of alcohol, drugs, and cigarettes is strictly prohibited. Students under 18 must abide by Australian laws, which ban the use of these substances for minors.
- **Health and Safety:** Notify your host family and SCOTS English College if you feel unwell, experience an injury, or have any safety concerns.

3. Host Family Rules

Each host family may have their own household rules, which students must respect. These rules may include:

- Specific times for meals.
- Protocols for using household amenities (e.g., kitchen, internet, television).
- House-specific curfew times.
- Guidelines for the use of shared spaces (e.g., bathroom, living room).

Discuss these rules upon arrival and ask questions if you are unsure about anything.

4. Behaviour Outside the Home

Students must behave responsibly and safely both in and out of the host family's home. This includes:

- **Obeying the law:** Follow all local laws, including those related to public behaviour, transportation, and curfews for minors.
- **Safety:** Always inform your host family of your whereabouts, do not travel alone at night, and avoid dangerous areas or situations.
- **School Rules:** Adhere to SCOTS English College's student code of conduct while at school and during college-organized activities. Behave respectfully towards teachers, staff, and fellow students.

5. Consequences for Misconduct

Failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in the following actions:

- **Verbal Warnings:** For minor breaches of the Code of Conduct, students will receive a verbal warning from either their host family or SCOTS English College.
- **Written Warnings:** For repeated or more serious breaches, a formal written warning will be issued to the student and communicated to their parent/guardian.
- **Temporary or Permanent Removal:** If the misconduct is serious or persistent, the student may be removed from the host accommodation. This may result in relocation to a different host family or, in extreme cases, expulsion from the hosting program and SCOTS English College.
- **Legal Action:** In cases of criminal activity (e.g., theft, assault), SCOTS English College will contact law enforcement, and legal action may be taken.

6. Support for Students

SCOTS English College is committed to the welfare and support of all students, particularly those under 18. If you experience any issues or have concerns about your living arrangements, health, or well-being, you can access the following support services:

- **Student Support Officer:** SCOTS has a dedicated support officer for students under 18. You can approach them with any concerns about your homestay or personal well-being.
- **Counseling Services:** Confidential counseling is available to assist students in dealing with any emotional or mental health issues.
- **Emergency Assistance:** A 24-hour emergency contact is provided to all students, enabling you to reach

SCOTS English College staff at any time in the event of an emergency.

7. Cultural Awareness

Students are living in a new environment with different customs, cultural norms, and expectations. To ensure a harmonious relationship with your host family:

- **Be Open-Minded:** Embrace the cultural differences you encounter in your host family's home and the wider community.
- **Ask Questions:** If you don't understand certain customs or rules, ask your host family respectfully. They will appreciate your interest and willingness to learn.
- **Share Your Culture:** Feel free to share aspects of your own culture with your host family, fostering mutual respect and understanding.

8. Review and Acknowledgement

This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. All under 18 students must review this Code of Conduct with their parents/guardians and host family upon arrival. Both the student and their parents/guardians must acknowledge in writing that they understand and agree to comply with the terms of this Code.

By adhering to this Code of Conduct, students under 18 participating in SCOTS English College's accommodation hosting program will contribute to a safe, respectful, and positive living environment. This will ensure a successful and rewarding experience during their time studying in Sydney.