



## Off-Site Schools Visits Risk Management and Coronavirus/COVID-19

**Advice from DMBC who have taken advice from the Department for Education (DFE) and FCO: in black**

**School response: in red**

### Overseas-based school visits

Both the DFE and FCO have advised against all international based visits for the foreseeable future. All establishments are to follow this guidance until advised otherwise and to 'put-on-hold' the planning of and payment towards any future international based visits in the long-term, again until the advice from the DFE/FCO is amended.

#### School response:

*The school is monitoring the situation in relation to the planned trip to South Africa. The tour company is working hard to provide the necessary information. In the first instance we will be looking to reschedule. Further updates will be provided for parents as and when we receive the information.*

### UK based school visits

Currently there is no guidance from the DFE or OEAP against the undertaking of domestic off-site school visits. As part of the risk benefit analysis/management of visits in light of the current situation, the following (non-exhaustive list) points are to be considered:

- Contact your activity provider/travel operator to seek assurances as to what measures they have in place with regards their own risk management and hygiene practices.
- Ensure that your group's own hygiene routines (as per [Government guidelines](#)) are maintained for the duration of the visit from leaving to returning to school. Make sure that whilst on your visit, all group members have access to handwashing facilities, if necessary take your own supply of soap, tissues etc.
- Know your group – is there any group member (young person or adult) who has any type of underlying medical need (diabetes, high blood pressure, respiratory including asthma, heart related, reduced immune system etc.) that will make them more susceptible to being unable to cope with the virus? If so, is it acceptable for them to participate?
- There are sufficient competent staff on the visit to be able to deal with any foreseeable incident that may arise.
- All adults on the visit to be fully aware of the symptoms of the virus.
- What is your contingency plan in the event that whilst on the visit a group member starts to show the symptoms of the virus? How and where will they be isolated from the remainder of the group?

- Parent/carers may be anxious about their young person participating in an off-site visit. As far, as is practicably possible they need to be fully informed of the plan for the visit.
- If travelling on public transport or through major areas of population, can travel plans be amended to minimise contact with the public?
- Not only consider what impact may the general public have on your group members, but also what may be the impact of your group members on the public?

Every visit must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Do the benefits of participation outweigh the risks posed by participation or vice versa? Can the objectives of the visit be amended, can the planned activities be amended or after considering the points above does the visit need to be postponed? Such decisions should be made with the relevant groups - employers, governors, activity providers, insurers etc. with the primary aim being that the health, safety and duty of care owed to all group members is fulfilled.

**School response:**

***We have decided to take a swift but considered approach and as mentioned in the letter 12.03.20 we have decided to cancel or postpone visits and trips from 13.03.20 to 22.05.20. After that we will reconsider the latest advice and guidance.***

Latest update 16/03/2020