



7-1 EDUCATIONAL VISITS

POLICY

GHS places a high value on educational visits, tours and fieldwork and believes that safely managed visits, with a clear purpose, play an essential part in meeting the school mission of providing a first-class education. Visits also play an important role in allowing the school to meet its aim of developing the confidence of the pupils to take appropriate risks and its aim of encouraging our pupils to become responsible citizens.

GHS ensures that all pupils can participate on a school visit regardless of ethnic origin or religion. The needs of pupils with a disability or SEN are taken into account during the planning of any trip.

The safety of pupils on visits is of paramount importance. GHS accepts that visits cannot be completely without risk but requires staff that lead and accompany visits to assess the risks that occur and to take all reasonable precautions to protect staff and pupils' health, safety and welfare.

The types of trips organised by GHS include:

DAY TRIPS

- Theatre productions
- Museum and gallery visits
- Local visits to community centres, such as local churches or the University of Surrey
- Fieldwork and coursework visits (Geography; Art)
- Outdoor pursuits (climbing and kayaking)

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

- Fieldwork and coursework visits (Geography; Biology)
- Music and Sports tours
- Cultural visits (History; MFL)
- Expeditions (various destinations in the Lower Sixth)

The GHS Educational Visits Policy and Procedure is informed by:

- *United Learning Health and Safety policies*
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits>
- *Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) National Guidance*
- *Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations (2004) (for England, Scotland and Wales)*

This policy applies to all sections of the school, including the EYFS setting. Guildford High School seeks to implement this policy through adherence to the procedures set out in the rest of this document.

Guildford High School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of the Educational Visits Policy is non-discriminatory, in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Full details are available in the school's Equal Opportunities Policy document.

This document is available to all interested parties, including parents and parents of prospective pupils, on the school's website and on request from the School Office. It should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Policy
- Admissions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Supervision Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy (Kindness, Care and Consideration for All)

This document is reviewed annually by the Deputy Head (Enrichment), or as events or legislation change requires. The next scheduled date for review is September 2023.

PROCEDURES

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

APPROVAL: Final authorisation for each visit, including approval of the risk assessments, must be made by the Executive Head or the Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC), who acts on behalf of the Executive Head. The Senior School EVC is **Will Saunders**; the Junior School EVC is **Katy Hughes**.

MONITORING: The monitoring, review and management of visits is the duty of the Health and Safety Committee, which is chaired by the Business Director (Katherine Barnett-Christie) and meets once a term.

PUPIL BEHAVIOUR: The responsibility of the behaviour of pupils on any visit lies with the party leader.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS CO-ORDINATOR

The main functions of the EVC are to:

- Support the Executive Head in ensuring that all visits follow regulations and guidelines, together with the school's relevant policies and procedures.
- Liaise with United Learning to ensure that all educational visits meet the group's requirements, including those of risk assessment.
- Approve educational visits as agreed by the Executive Head.
- Ensure that staff are adequately prepared to organise and run a visit safely and assign competent people to lead or otherwise supervise a visit. Assess the competence of leaders and other adults proposed for the supervision of visits. They may need accreditations from an awarding body.
- Ensure that any necessary DBS checks are in place e.g. for parent volunteers on overnight stays (though this is very rare at GHS).
- Ensure the visit providers are covered by ABTA and ATOL and the external activity providers are holders of the LOtC Quality Badge and/or members of AALA.
- Check letters sent home to parents and work with group leaders to obtain the consent or refusal of parents and to provide the details of the visit beforehand so that parents can consent or refuse consent on a fully informed basis.
- Formally review their own training requirements on an annual basis and report to the school Health & Safety Co-ordinator.
- Assist with writing risk assessments and, where necessary, to arrange appropriate training to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.
- Ensure visits have appropriate support ratios and adequate cover for first aid and pupil supervision to adequately safeguard all party members.
- Organise emergency arrangements and ensure there is an emergency contact for each visit.
- Keep records and monitor individual visits through the completion of trip evaluation forms, including reports of accidents and near misses, to review in association with the Health and Safety Committee. Reports of medication given should also be kept on the paper log of medicines administered provided with every first aid kit.
- Review systems and, on occasion, monitor practice.

PROPOSING A VISIT

Senior School Staff must enter any proposed visits into the on-line calendar. Junior School Staff must liaise with Helen Burling-Smith, who oversees the Junior School calendar, for any proposed visits. If this is a proposed residential visit; a new visit; or the visit organiser has little experience in organising visits, then they must first meet with the EVC to discuss the visit.

Visits involving a whole year group missing lessons must be entered into the calendar before the termly calendar meetings, and preferably before the annual calendar meeting in early June. Visits that involve a smaller number of pupils missing lessons must be entered before the issuing of the following term's parental calendar; deadlines are publicised termly by Will Saunders.

Visits that do not involve missing lessons, such as evening theatre trips, can be planned at shorter notice but staff must give pupils and parents adequate warning.

Staff will receive notification from the EVC, either approving the visit or refusing permission for the visit to go ahead, or requesting more information.

PLANNING A VISIT

It is important that sufficient time is allocated to the preparation and planning of a visit to ensure its success and safety. A reconnaissance is advisable, where practical, to enable the party leader to identify any potential hazards.

There must be provision, either in lesson time or in a meeting, for staff to discuss the visit with pupils. This allows expectations with regards to behaviour, uniform and specific information regarding the visit to be discussed. Any pupil with special or medical needs must be spoken to before the visit to ensure that they are aware of any special provision that is being made for them.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND FIRST AID

The objective of risk assessment is to enable the staff undertaking a visit to adopt proactive procedures to managing identified risks. The risk assessment and arrangement for a visit must include consideration of matters such as:

- Hazardous activities.
- Fire precautions and fire procedures, and other emergency procedures.
- Other risks associated with accommodation, if it is a residential visit.
- Pupil supervision, including remote supervision.
- Transport.
- First aid and the administration of medicines.
- Pupil medical conditions, including serious allergies.
- Safeguarding and welfare of pupils.
- 'Plan B' procedures.
- Insurance.
- Clothing and equipment.
- Inclement weather.

Before the visit the party leader must brief all staff accompanying the visit on the need to adopt a proactive attitude to previously unidentified risks that emerge during the course of a visit, bearing in mind the nature and purpose of the visit set out by the party leader during the planning of the visit.

First aid provision must be considered when assessing the risks inherent on a visit. For adventurous activities, visits that involve overnight stays, or visits abroad, it is compulsory that there must be at least one trained First Aider in the group, and at least one member of staff with paediatric first aid training for an EYFS visit. When a trained First Aider is not accompanying a visit, the provision for First Aid must be addressed in the risk assessment. All staff should know how to contact the emergency services, including on visits abroad. The party leader must carry a mobile phone – GHS mobile phones, which also work abroad, can be booked on the room booking system. First aid kits must be available on a visit and can be booked in advance from the GHS school nurse.

Prior to departure the medical conditions of the pupils (available through iSAMS and which can be requested from Marta Bednarek) accompanying the visit must be assessed and taken into account when risk assessing the visit and arranging adequate supervision. The medical notes, which must be given to all staff going on the visit, must refer to Individual Healthcare Plans when they exist; the Party Leader must liaise with the School Nurse when this is the case to ensure that the medical needs of the stated individuals are cared for on the visit. Pupils with any special medical needs and/or physical disability must understand before the trip departure the nature of any special provision that is being made for them.

All staff accompanying a visit must be aware of how to administer an adrenaline pen. The School Nurse has a training video for any staff who have not been trained before the visit departs, which can also be viewed on the Useful Documents section of the School intranet. The school policy is that any pupil who may require an adrenaline pen must carry at least one on them; this must be checked by the group leader before departure. If the pupil is not carrying their adrenaline pen, consent must be obtained from the pupil's parents before they can accompany the visit.

APPROVAL

Risk assessments are compulsory for most visits and must be approved by the EVC. Exceptions are for visits to the local area, that for part of the pupils' usual school experience, such as visiting Stoke Park or walking to RGS or Holy Trinity church. The party leader must notify the EVC by email that the risk assessment has been completed. The EVC will check the risk assessment, make any amendments necessary, sign it and return it to the party leader (usually electronically). The party leader, if satisfied with the risk assessment, must then sign it and make paper copies for the Front Office, all staff accompanying the visit and the SMT contact, if the visit includes time outside of GHS School Office hours.

All staff on a trip must be issued with a copy of the risk assessment, which they must comply with.

SUPERVISION

In all circumstances staff must be aware that they have a duty of care to make sure that the pupils are safe and a common law duty to act as a reasonably prudent parent would. Each member of staff

must receive written or oral instructions specifying her or his duties for the duration of the visit, although ultimate responsibility for ensuring these duties are fulfilled rests with the party leader.

The staffing ratio and relevant experience of staff on the visit will be considered by the party leader and the EVC when planning the visit. The party leader should also take into account the following points when determining the staff/ pupil ratio and these points must be reflected in the visit's risk assessment:

- The ages and temperaments of the pupils involved.
- The length and purposes of the visit.
- The method of travel.
- The nature of the locality and the activities to be undertaken.
- Whether or not any hazardous activities are involved.
- Any special needs of any pupils taking part.

Other points to consider:

- Visit 'supervisors' being accompanied by their husband/partner and/or children must be discouraged and will not be counted in the ratio. Research indicates that this has proven to compromise the interests of the group as a whole. Exceptions may only occur with the permission of the Executive Head and must be reflected in the visit's risk assessment.
- If a joint visit is arranged with another school, so that both schools share supervision, staff of the other school may be included in calculating the appropriate ratio. The party leader and EVC must be satisfied that the staff of the other school have been appointed in line with our own Recruitment Policy, and this must be reflected in the visit risk assessment.
- Male staff should usually be accompanied by a female member of staff. However, if compliance would result in difficulties for small groups of pupils, the Executive Head has discretion in this matter. The nature and duration of the proposed visit and the ages of the pupils concerned will be taken into account in making a decision and the situation must be reflected in the visit's risk assessment.

There are general guidelines:

SENIOR SCHOOL

UK	Non-hazardous cultural	1:20
	Country visits/ fieldwork	1:15
	Hazardous condition (wild country)	1:10
Abroad		1:10

JUNIOR SCHOOL

EYFS	1:6 (EYFS regulations must be adhered to)
KS1	1:8

Final ratios will depend upon risk assessment and the Executive Head may make exceptions to the above ratios, for instance, for games matches and for small Sixth Form groups.

On coaches there should be at least two members of staff per coach but in some circumstances the EVC will make a final decision, based on a risk assessment of the visit. This will be reflected in the visit's risk assessment.

REMOTE SUPERVISION

If, after careful risk assessment, unsupervised time is to be allowed then guidelines must be laid down to the pupils by the Party Leader and clearly understood by all members of the party.

The following points must be taken into consideration:

- Pupils must not be allowed to wander alone – appropriate group sizes must be determined by the group leader.
- The geographical area in which pupils are allowed to wander must be clearly defined.
- A time limit must be set in proportion to the age of the pupils, the time of day and any other relevant factor. Anyone who returns late must understand that they will be penalised. Before dispersal, everyone must know where a member of staff can be found during the whole of the period and exactly where to reassemble.
- If pupils are allowed to leave their residential accommodation, on leaving and returning pupils must register with staff.
- Attendance must be checked regularly, for example at meal times and whenever the party is about to move from one venue to another. Staff should have a written check list of names at all times.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

External Providers

The Provider's safety policy and risk assessments must be obtained in writing and checked at the initial planning stage.

It is likely that there will be times when the External Provider's staff will be responsible for the pupils and in accordance with DfE guidance these times (and in what circumstances) must be set out and agreed in writing prior to the start of the visit. Pupils must know who is in charge at any given time.

If, as in the case of some visits to competitions, such as the Sixth Form Science competition run by Kingston University, the visit is unaccompanied by GHS staff, then this must be made clear to parents before the visit and the EVC must be satisfied with the safety procedures.

Joint Trips with other Schools

There must be one overall party leader and the Executive Head must be satisfied with the procedures in place for the partner school. The responsibility of staff of each school for the pupils of the other must be agreed and made clear to the pupils.

HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES

Hazardous and adventurous activities will require fully trained staff to accompany the visit. The party leader and the EVC must ensure that these staff have been vetted, either by GHS or by the company providing the staff, in accordance with our own Safer Recruitment Policy, and this must be reflected in the visit's risk assessment.

Staff accompanying the visit must be qualified¹ and competent. The party leader and EVC must be provided with written evidence that instructors and supervisors are qualified and competent and that risk assessments have been carried out; that any activity centre to be used has an AALA licence: the EVC must be provided with a copy of the centre's Health and Safety Policy.

All GHS equipment used must meet the appropriate safety standards and be regularly checked and maintained. It is important that parents are informed in writing of any hazardous activities to be undertaken and that these are specifically mentioned when completing the visit's risk assessment.

Any visits involving water-based activities, including a hotel swimming pool, must be risk assessed with the party leader before the visit and discussed with the EVC at the planning stage. Consideration should be given to whether supervision by lifeguards or National Water Safety Management Programme (NWSMP) trained staff will be available on the visit.

When planning an activity involving caving, climbing, trekking, skiing or water sports, a check is made that the provider holds an AALA licence, as required by the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004 (for England, Scotland and Wales).

PARENT AND OTHER ADULT HELPERS

Whilst GHS accepts that other suitable adults may play a useful role in connection with accompanying school visits, they must not be taken into account in the calculation of the minimum number of staff required to supervise the group as set out above. The Executive Head

¹Qualifications must be those approved by the sports/activity's national governing body. See BAALPE 'Safe Practice in Physical Education'. Qualifications must be checked in advance by the party leader.

may, however, make exceptions to this general rule, for instance for groups of 20 or more pupils, where there are at least two staff accompanying the group.

Parents or other suitable adults must only be allowed to accompany the visit if:

- Their inclusion is expressly approved by the Executive Head who must reserve the right to refuse any offer of help.
- They have been DBS checked if they will have unsupervised access to pupils on the visit or if the visit includes an overnight stay, and their names are held in a Single Central Register, administered by the GHS Director of HR.
- They have been informed of the nature of the visit and made aware of their duties and responsibilities. They have been provided with a copy of the visit's risk assessment.

STAFF AND THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

All adults accompanying visits must be aware that their primary responsibility is the care of the pupils in their charge. Therefore, the consumption of alcohol must be taken with this duty of care in mind. Adults accompanying a visit might be required to provide first aid or transport a pupil to hospital at any time during a visit and so one member of staff must remain 'dry' at all times and, for other staff, no more than one 150ml glass of wine or one 330ml bottle/can of beer may be consumed during the course of a day.

TRANSPORT

STAFF CONVEYING PUPILS IN MINIBUSES OR PRIVATE CARS

(see the separate 'Minibuses in the UK' section of the UCST Health and Safety handbook before booking a minibus).

Please also see the GHS *8-6 Minibus policy*

The use of private cars is discouraged but GHS accepts that in some circumstances the use of private cars is unavoidable. When it does occur the situation is risk assessed. Before allowing an employee to drive a minibus or to use his/her own car to transport pupils, the Facilities Manager must check that the member of staff:

- Has a satisfactory driving licence (staff must bring any endorsements to the attention of the Executive Head). Licences need to be checked annually by the Facilities Manager, **Iain Hazell**.
- Has fully comprehensive insurance [**which covers use for the purposes of his/her employer's business**]. Insurance policies need to be checked annually by the Facilities Manager.
- Has passed a minibus familiarisation course, organised by the Facilities Manager.

Whenever staff are driving, the risk assessment relevant to the trip must assess the impact of driver fatigue and include reasonable measures to stop this occurring.

COACH

The party leader must ensure that any coaches provided meet health and safety requirements. In addition, where the coach driver will have unsupervised access to pupils or accompanying an overnight visit, the party leader must ensure that the driver has been DBS checked in accordance with GHS Recruitment Policy. To facilitate this, it is recommended that staff only use one of the approved coach companies. Where more than one coach is used on a visit, staff accompanying the visit must be able to be in mobile phone contact with each of the coaches.

Approved Coach Companies

Leisuretime Travel - 01252 851644

Safeguard Coaches - 01483 561103

Farnham Coaches - 01252 737737

Newtons of Guildford - 01483 233402

Surrey Coach Hire - 01483 340844

AIR

Staff organiser must liaise with the Tour Company or airline to plan meeting pupils at the airport, or organise travel arrangements to and from airport. It is recommended the budget airlines, such as Ryanair and Easyjet, are not routinely used, as they do not offer alternative travel arrangements if the original flight is cancelled. However, where risk assessments indicate that such airlines are acceptable, then permission to use them must be sought from the EVC. There is a European Banned airlines list, which must be consulted when staff are offered unusual travel arrangements by a travel company.

FINANCES AND INSURANCE

Unless the party leader receives permission from the Executive Head, the visit must be self-financing. Parents should be asked for permission to put the cost of a visit on Fees Billing before the departure of a visit and a list of names given to the School Accounts team before the deadline for Fees Billing. For residential visits parents should be given the opportunity to spread the cost of the visit over two or more Fees Billing. This requires expensive residential visits to be proposed to parents a year before departure.

Visits are covered by the United Learning Group Travel Insurance policy. Details are held by the Facilities Manager. If a Hazardous activity is planned this must be discussed with the Facilities Manager to ensure that it is covered under this policy.

If a tour operator's insurance policy is used, then the policy must be obtained by the party leader during the planning phase of the visit. The provider must hold at least £5 million Public Liability Insurance.

GDPR FOR EDUCATIONAL VISITS

- Inform the School's Data Protection Leader when there is a need to share data with a third-party organisation, so that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) can be produced.
- If you send any data to the third-party organisation, they must provide a declaration in advance saying their procedures comply with the GDPR Act. Once we have a company in the list of allowed companies to share data with, we don't have to repeat this process unless they change their t&c. Any information shared with a third party must be transmitted via a secure method (encrypted, password protected or via a secure link).
- You should always ask whether the third company really needs all the information i.e.:
 - An airline will need passports/names etc.
 - A coach company might not need the same, perhaps only the number of students.
- If you have any data stored electronically on a device taken on a school visit, it must be password protected or encrypted.
- All paperwork linked to a visit, such as the risk assessment, medical details and photocopies of passports, must only be disposed of in confidential waste.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Part of the written arrangements and risk assessments for the visit must include details on how to contact the school during office hours or a designated member of SMT out of office hours. This member of SMT must agree to being the 'contact' and must be provided with a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of all staff and pupils on the visit – such information must also be lodged with the school office and held by the party leader.

It is necessary to contact school or the designated member of staff or parents as appropriate if there is "no show" by any pupil.

Careful estimates must be made of the need for cash (if going abroad, in the currency of the country to be visited). Staff must have sufficient funds available in appropriate form to provide for all anticipated needs plus the ability to contact the Facilities Manager/SMT, who can 'wire' funds in an emergency.

Serious or Fatal Injury – Emergency Procedures Whilst on a Trip

All staff accompanying the party must be familiar with the following procedures and must be able to adapt them to the situation in which they find themselves. A checklist of procedures is taken on each visit and is designed to allow staff to implement the following procedures whilst coping with a high-pressure situation.

The party leader (or the most senior person in charge of small sub-group if out of contact with the party leader until party leader can be contacted) must:

1. Establish the nature and extent of the emergency.
2. Call the appropriate emergency services if required.
3. Make sure all other members of the party are accounted for and are safe. Control pupil access to telephones until given permission to relax controls by GHS SMT.
4. If there are injuries, establish their extent and administer appropriate first aid if trained. Be aware of consequences that might follow if incorrect treatment is administered. Have regard to own safety regarding blood contact.
5. Advise other staff on the visit of the incident and of actions taken. Decide responsibilities to be undertaken by each adult member of the group.
6. If possible, ensure that an adult accompanies any casualties to hospital. It is important that information is elicited about which hospital casualties are taken to. If only one adult is available make a decision as to the best course of action.
7. Ensure that remaining pupils are adequately supervised and arrange for an early return to base.
8. Contact the member of SMT on call. Give full details of the incident including:-
 - a. nature, date, location and time of the incident
 - b. details of injuries, etc.
 - c. names and home telephone numbers of those involved
 - d. action taken so far
 - e. telephone numbers for future communication.
9. Do not discuss matters with the media and do not discuss legal liability with anyone.
10. The member of SMT on call must contact the Executive Head and establish who will take charge of the situation at GHS and what immediate action will be taken. The Head will advise the chairperson of the Local Governing Board and the Deputy Chief Executive of UCST. SMT will inform parents of any delays that will be necessitated.
11. The party leader must, at the first opportunity, make notes on the incident, as must other people involved. A record must be kept of the names and addresses of any witnesses or people involved.
12. Ensure accident forms are completed as soon as possible. The First Aid Policy (9-1) outlines in detail how accidents should be reported, including accidents requiring a RIDDOR form.

Procedures for Other Accidents/Incidents Whilst on a Trip

In line with GHS First Aid policy, complete the school accident/incident report form or commit to writing full details as above. Complete the Visit Evaluation Form on return to GHS and submit to the EVC.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

It is important that parents are given full and complete written details regarding the organisation of a visit. A blanket consent form is used to gain parental consent for participation in off-site sports fixtures. The PE Department is responsible for being aware of any new medical conditions affecting the pupils attending the fixture.

For all other visits off-site, a letter specific to that visit must be sent to the parents via the GHS School Post system and their consent obtained. An Annual Medical Consent Form is completed by all Senior School parents via the School Post electronic mail system; however, staff must remind parents to update any medical information nearer the time of departure, as well as checking for any updates to emergency contact details for the duration of the visit. In the Junior School, parents complete a residential trips medical form for each residential trip. This has been replaced in the Senior School, which runs significantly more residential visits, by one annual blanket form to ease the administrative load for parents and staff.

For residential visits, parents and pupils must be invited to the school to discuss details of the visit with the organisers.

Written information to parents must include the following:

- Meal arrangements.
- Travel arrangements including time of departure and return.
- Activities (include remote supervision, if relevant) and visits in which pupils will be allowed to participate.
- Name of party leader.
- Advice on clothing and equipment (if school uniform is not worn, means of identification in an emergency are recommended) and pocket money.

If the visit includes a residential stay the letter to parents must also include:

- Accommodation type.
- Health and hygiene requirements e.g. inoculations/safety or not of tap water.
- Address and telephone number of party leader at destination.

It may also be appropriate to remind parents in writing that the Executive Head reserves the right to exclude pupils from a trip (residential or otherwise) on behavioural or medical grounds.

PREPARING PUPILS

Before a visit, pupils must be aware of:

- Who is in charge of the visit.
- How to behave.
- What to do if they get lost or into difficulties.

During a visit, pupils must always know how to contact a member of staff. Where remote supervision is planned pupils must be given a card with a contact mobile number printed on it: school mobiles can be booked in advance of a visit using the on-line room booking system and can be collected from the Front Office. On a residential visit, pupils need to know the location of staff rooms.

The party leader is responsible for the behaviour of pupils on a visit. The party leader and other accompanying staff must ensure that pupils conform to the GHS Anti-Bullying (Kindness, Care and Consideration for all) policy and the GHS Behaviour and Discipline policy, for the duration of any visit. The Executive Head reserves the right to exclude a student from a trip on behavioural or medical grounds.

To ensure that both pupils and staff have an opportunity to discuss expectations it is essential that the party leader arranges to meet with staff prior to the visit and that the party leader or staff discuss the visit with pupils, either at a pre-arranged meeting or in lesson time. The party leader must brief all staff accompanying the visit on the need to adopt a proactive attitude to previously unidentified risks that emerge during the course of the visit, always bearing in mind the nature and purpose of the visit set out by the party leader.

If the party leader deems it to be necessary, based upon the age and temperament of the pupils accompanying the visit, a behaviour agreement may be drawn up before the visit, to be signed by both parents and pupils. This agreement will inform parents that any instance of severely unacceptable behaviour will lead to the pupil concerned being sent home as soon as possible and that the responsibility for paying for this, including the cost of sending staff to accompany the pupil, will lie with the parents.

Pupils must be reminded that in the UK it is an offence for persons under 18 to buy alcohol in public houses, off licences or shops. On foreign visits the age will vary and both pupils and staff must be made aware by the party leader of local laws regarding the purchase of alcohol. On Sixth Form visits the consumption of a small amount wine or beer to accompany a meal may be permitted at the discretion of the party leader. This must be discussed with the EVC before the departure of the visit and parents must be aware that this arrangement has been put in place. Parents must have the right to withdraw the privilege if they wish.

RESIDENTIAL AND FOREIGN VISITS

Residential visits must be discussed with the EVC well in advance of the visit, preferable 12 months before the visit departs. The following guidelines must be discussed with the EVC:

- A staffing ratio of 1:10 is expected on residential visits.
- If possible, the visit should be accompanied by a member of staff who speaks the language of the country being visited.
- A first aid trained member of staff must accompany the visit.
- Have all pupils and staff the correct visa to travel to the destination?
- Travel and accommodation details must be checked to ensure that they conform to acceptable GHS standards (see earlier Transport section on budget airlines), such as avoiding communal rooms in hostels.
- Whenever possible residential visits must be arranged through an established tour operator, which must provide evidence that the accommodation meets fire safety standards. On arrival at a residential accommodation, the Party Leader must check the fire exits in any group accommodation and ensure that pupils are aware of them and of the fire procedures.
- When staying overnight in a hotel or a hostel one or more members of staff must be on duty, regularly patrolling the corridors and checking pupils until all are in bed and lights out.
- Pupils must be reminded to keep their room locked during the night, but with any keys close to hand in case of fire.
- On all visits abroad the pupils' parents must be asked for a photocopy of the pupil's passport (which must be checked to ensure it is valid). These photocopies must be carried in hand luggage on a flight by the member of staff supervising the pupils.
- Staff must carry pupils' detailed medical records and contact details of parents. These are stored on the school database but staff must confirm details are up-to-date with pupils before the visit departs.
- For foreign visits, the party leader must research the location and phone number of the nearest British Embassy or Consulate. They must also be aware of how to call emergency services in that country.

INFORMATION FOR PUPILS TRAVELLING ABROAD

Pupils must be given clear safety instructions before the visit:

- On risks associated with the particular type of travel to be used.
- On any local customs they may meet which might surprise them and warned of the possibility of giving offence.
- That tap water abroad is not always safe to drink.
- In some localities abroad, that salads may need to be avoided and fruit must be carefully washed in purified water or peeled.
- That the strength of the sun must never be underestimated, especially at high altitudes, and pupils must use sun protection cream and may need a hat.
- That rabies can be transmitted by bites or scratches from infected cats, dogs, foxes and farm animals.

AFTER THE VISIT

It is very important that after the visit any necessary paperwork is properly completed. This final stage can be the most easily forgotten but it is a critical part of any visit. Staff must complete the Visit Evaluation form and return this to the EVC as soon as possible after the visit. On this form they should clearly highlight any specific areas for improvement, including in matters of health & safety. Any serious incidents should be discussed in person with the EVC, Will Saunders. It is vital that the EVC is made aware of any critical issues as soon as they arise so that he has all the necessary information to hand.

Any paperwork containing staff/pupil personal details must be disposed in confidential waste.