

# Educational visits policy

*This policy has been updated and will be approved by governors on 11 October 2022.*

Action	Policy to be reviewed annually		
	Owner	Date	Completed
Review	Director of Co-Curriculum	September 2022	✓
Approved	Education Committee	11 October 2022	x

To be published on the following:	
Staff Portal	✓
School website	✓



## Educational Visits Policy

### Who this policy applies to

This policy applies to all members of staff involved in organising, leading and accompanying trips and visits, as well as outlining expectations of student conduct during visits.

### What this policy is for

#### (i) This policy aims to:

- define the aims, expectations and requirements for educational visits
- outline the system for visit proposals and planning procedures, including financial and insurance matters, communication with parents, staffing and supervision of students, transport, the use of external organisations, data protection and safeguarding
- set out the expectations regarding student conduct during visits
- provide guidance for how staff and students should respond in the event of an emergency occurring on a visit
- outline the procedures for evaluation following a visit

#### (ii) Legal framework

- Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999<sup>1</sup>
- Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004<sup>2</sup>
- Health and Safety: Advice on Legal Duties and Powers 2014<sup>3</sup>
- Health and Safety on Educational Visits 2018<sup>4</sup>
- Health Protection in Education and Childcare Settings – Educational Visits 2022<sup>5</sup>

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website offers further detail on the licensing requirements for providers of activities.<sup>6</sup>

The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) provides National Guidance, advice and training related to outdoor learning and educational visits in England and Wales.<sup>7</sup>

### Other relevant school policies

- Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Managing Nut and Other Allergies Policy
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<sup>1</sup> [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukreg/1999/1201/1)

<sup>2</sup> [The Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukreg/2004/1201/1)

<sup>3</sup> [DfE advice template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274442/dfe-advice-template.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [Health and safety on educational visits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274442/dfe-advice-template.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [Chapter 6: educational visits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274442/dfe-advice-template.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [Information for the public - AALA - HSE](https://www.hse.gov.uk/education/)

<sup>7</sup> <https://oeapng.info>

## **1. Rationale**

1.1 Our programme of educational visits fulfils several of our stated aims. It augments our students' academic and cultural education, offering new experiences and challenges, which not only assist the achievement of outstanding examination results but also foster an understanding of the wider community at local, national, and global levels. We realise the importance of visits in building team spirit and camaraderie between staff and students, amongst peer groups and also between students of different ages. Our trips often help students to realise more effectively their own potential in circumstances different to their usual surroundings. Educational visits may also be an opportunity to enhance the St Paul's reputation for excellence in specific areas.

1.2 We currently offer around 130 educational visits over the course of an academic year (excluding sports fixtures). We encourage all academic departments to organise educational visits, and these are offered to all students throughout the school. We offer each year group a number of educational visits per academic year as either a compulsory part of the curriculum or as an optional extra.

## **2. Role of the Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC)**

2.1 The Deputy Head, Director of Co-Curriculum has the role of Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) and reports directly to the High Mistress. The EVC is responsible for approving educational visits and ensuring that visits represent good value for money, that they are of significant academic or cultural interest and that matters of health and safety, or other regulations, are addressed. The school ensures that the EVC role is carried out by an experienced visits leader with the skills, status, competence, and appropriate training needed for the job. They must be confident in assessing the ability of other staff to lead visits and in assessing outside activity providers.

2.2 The EVC maintains the 'visits' section of the staff portal which contains guidance for those planning and leading trips and liaises with the Business Directorate, the medical department, the Deputy Head, Director of Pastoral Care and other relevant members of staff over matters relating to visits.

## **3. Proposing visits**

### **3.1 Visit proposal**

3.1.1 There should always be a sound educational or pastoral objective for a visit, e.g., to support an aspect of the curriculum; to provide an educationally enriching experience for the students; to provide 'bonding' experiences for students and promote their wellbeing.

3.1.2 As the first step in organising a visit, the visit leader submits a proposal form via the staff portal, including: the key focus and purpose of the visit; the destination; the proposed dates and duration; the student groups to be involved; activity providers and tour operators if applicable; the mode of transport; an estimate of costs; and the staffing if known at this stage.

3.1.3 A visit may not be added to the calendar or advertised to parents and students until the EVC has approved the proposed outline for the visit.

### **3.2 Risk assessment**

3.2.1 For all school visits, both residential and non-residential, in the UK or abroad, we ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to establish safe conditions for the students and adults concerned and that levels of risk are both manageable and acceptable. The EVC oversees this process and ensures that planning for visits including risk assessment is proportionate and sensible, focusing on how to manage genuine risks.

3.2.2 Together with the visit proposal form as above, the visit leader submits an initial risk assessment, which is considered to be a working document that may require adjustment and enhancement as further details emerge in the planning of the visit.

3.2.3 The EVC does not approve any visit without having established that risks have been fully assessed, bearing in mind the age, gender, and experience of the students.

3.2.4 The risk assessment must give consideration to any potential hazards, who might be affected by them, the safety measures that are required to reduce the risks to an acceptable level, how these safety measures might be put in place and the steps that will be taken in the event of an emergency.

3.2.5 If the trip includes significant risks, e.g., overseas visits to places involving challenging terrain, going to remote places or extreme climates, we follow the guide to the British Standard for adventurous activities outside the UK<sup>8</sup> as the basis for planning and risk assessment.

3.2.6 The risk assessment for overseas visits will be informed by the FCDO Travel Advice for the destination country.<sup>9</sup> Additional information regarding health considerations can also be obtained from TravelHealthPro<sup>10</sup>, as recommended by the Government guidance.

3.2.7 The EVC must approve the initial risk assessment before the visit may be planned further and advertised to parents and students.

3.2.8 Some visits will require more detailed planning and risk assessment than others, depending on factors such as the distance from the school, the location, and the type of activity. Some off-site activities may be considered routine, such as the regular partnership activities with other schools in the local area and other nearby activities involving a lower level of risk – for these, the EVC will decide whether the activity is covered by the overarching risk assessment in place for such activities or requires a bespoke risk assessment.

### **3.3 Sustainability**

3.3.1 When considering the visit proposal, the EVC will take into account the environmental impact of the trip, with the use of a Travel Emissions Calculator. This will be weighed up against the educational and/or pastoral benefits of the trip. Staff will be asked to consider the alternatives if the same or similar outcomes could be achieved travelling to a nearer destination. Staff are encouraged to consider more environmentally friendly modes of transport whenever this is practicable.

### **3.4 Costs and staffing**

3.4.1 The visit leader must provide transparent costings and details of the staffing (including reserves) at the earliest opportunity, for approval by the EVC. Staff leading and accompanying the visit must be deemed competent and equipped with the necessary skills to do so, bearing in mind the nature of the visit and the planned activities.

### **3.5 List of students**

3.5.1 Prior to publicising the visit to parents and students, the visit leader submits via the staff portal a proposed list of students to whom the visit will be advertised. The list of students is reviewed by the Deputy Head, Director of Pastoral Care to ensure that the welfare needs of participants are considered and any pastoral concerns are identified at an early stage of planning the visit.

## **4. Finance and insurance matters**

### **4.1 Costing visits**

4.1.1 We carefully cost all visits and clarify this to parents before they commit to their child's participation. The EVC and school accountant advise colleagues about how to manage this, taking care to factor in possible variables such as party size and exchange rates. Where possible we take advantage of the TFL scheme offering free transport for school visits in London. The login details for the TFL school account are available to trip leaders on the staff portal.

4.1.2 Any costs are charged as an extra on the termly bill. This is stated in the initial letter to parents

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bsigroup.com/LocalFiles/en-GB/consumer-guides/resources/BSI-Consumer-Brochure-Adventurous-Activities-UK-EN.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [Foreign travel advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>10</sup> [NaTHNaC - Home \(travelhealthpro.org.uk\)](https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk)

regarding the visit.

## **4.2 Bursary award holders**

4.2.1 For some visits, bursary award holders receive financial assistance, particularly in those cases when all students in a year group or studying a certain subject are expected to participate in the visit. Where a student receives full tuition fee assistance, the bursary award will also include up to £250 per academic year for educational visits. Funds may be provided for additional support to cover the costs of visits where we recognise the educational value to the student. Assistance will be awarded based on financial need.

## **4.3 Insurance**

4.3.1 The school's comprehensive insurance covers all participants on visits and the school holds worldwide travel cover for overseas visits.

4.3.2 The EVC and the Assistant to the Bursar and Director of Operations should be informed of any visit involving hazardous activities to ensure that insurance cover is adequate or to assess whether additional cover is required.

4.3.3 The cover on the school's travel insurance policy for personal items is generally low and students are advised not to take items such as expensive cameras or jewellery with them, or to arrange for their own personal cover.

## **5. Detail of procedures when planning an educational visit**

The EVC must be kept informed of planning and all arrangements for visits. Any problems or changes to the agreed outline must be fully discussed before proceeding.

### **5.1 Planning activities**

5.1.1 Activities are planned, as far as possible, by staff who are familiar with the venue and the nature of the conditions likely to be encountered. They ensure that safety standards at the venue and on transport to and from the visit are adequate and compliant. In the case of overseas visits, the EVC will assess the need for a reconnaissance trip where the visit is not organised through a recognised provider. We sometimes ask for references from other schools who have used a particular venue or service provider.

### **5.2 Accessibility and inclusion**

5.2.1 The organiser must check the SEND register and any relevant Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students in the group. They will consult the Learning Support department if adjustments are needed to enable individual students to participate fully and safely in the visit. In planning a visit, the organiser must make every effort to ensure that the visit is available and accessible to all who wish to participate, irrespective of factors such as special educational or medical needs, ethnicity, religion, etc.

5.2.2 While we take all reasonable steps to ensure that visits are fully accessible to all students, we do not permit students to participate in visits or particular activities during visits if their medical needs prevent them from taking part safely and present an unacceptable level of risk. In the first instance the EVC will give judgement in such cases, in consultation with the School Nurse and the Deputy Head, Director of Pastoral Care. Where necessary, and after reasonable adjustments have been considered, the High Mistress will make a final decision and may exclude a student from a visit on medical grounds if in her professional judgement she determines it is in the student's best interest.

### **5.3 Using outside organisations**

5.3.1 The school checks that outside organisations used to provide an activity have the appropriate safety standards, accreditations, and liability insurance.

5.3.2 In the first instance, we check to see if the organisation holds the Learning Outside the

Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge<sup>11</sup> or a similar local accreditation for overseas visits. For organisations that do not hold this badge, additional checks are carried out to verify that this is an appropriate organisation to use, such as checks on their insurance, staff competence and risk assessments and control measures.

5.3.3 Before using an outside organisation, the school must be satisfied (either through the LOtC Quality Badge or through additional checks) that any third-party staff have DBS clearance. For overseas organisations where DBS checks do not apply, the school obtains verification that all reasonable checks are made on third party staff.

## **5.4 Arranging staffing**

5.4.1 The staffing for the visit is approved by the EVC. A reserve member of staff is always identified to ensure that a visit can still go ahead even if one member of staff is suddenly incapacitated. For the purposes of visits, 'staff' includes any employee of St Paul's Girls' School deemed by the EVC to be appropriate to undertake that responsibility.

## **5.5 Passports and visa information**

5.5.1 Party leaders must always ask in plenty of time for information about passport numbers and dates and, where appropriate, visas in order that parents have sufficient time to ensure that their child's papers are valid for travel. Parents are advised about any entry requirements for the destination country in the initial letter regarding the trip. In the case of travel to an EU country (except Ireland), the requirement is that the passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the return date of the trip.

5.5.2 Parents are strongly advised to obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) for visits to European Union countries for their child to ensure that appropriate medical treatment can be obtained in case of need. Alternatively, they may use the old European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which continues to be valid in the EU until it expires.

## **5.6 Health and safety procedures**

5.6.1 Visit leaders ensure that all accompanying staff know the itinerary and understand their responsibilities.

5.6.2 At least one school mobile phone and charger must be taken on all educational visits. School mobile phones are booked by the visit leader via the staff portal.

5.6.3 Accompanying staff carry an accurate list of students participating in the visit, along with medical details and parental contact details. Sections 5.12 below sets out the arrangements for handling personal data on trips and visits.

5.6.4 Accompanying staff carry a copy of the risk assessment and familiarise themselves with its contents.

5.6.5 For hazardous outdoor activities, the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004 apply (for England, Scotland, and Wales) and therefore the school will check that the provider holds a license. The licensing requirement applies to caving, climbing, trekking, off-piste skiing, and water sports.

5.6.6 When planning water sports, the school considers the need for instructors and lifeguards. Care is taken when assessing whether it is appropriate to use hotel swimming pools or other water leisure activities which may not have a trained lifeguard.

5.6.7 Risk assessments must give particular attention to any water-based activities on rivers or canals, and to the collection of specimens from ditches, streams and ponds. If such activities are planned, it is communicated to parents in advance that if their child becomes ill following their

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<sup>11</sup> [LOtC Quality Badge - Learning Outside the Classroom](#)

participation, the treating doctor should be made aware of the child's participation in water-based activities. Where relevant, parents are advised on the risks of tick bites, Lyme disease and Weil's disease.

5.6.8 All accompanying members of staff are made aware of the needs of those students on the visit with special medical requirements, e.g., those at risk of anaphylactic shock, students affected by epilepsy or diabetics. They are briefed and where necessary trained by the School Nurse. Sometimes a supplementary meeting is held with parents of a specific student in order to make the most appropriate arrangements to meet the medical or pastoral needs of the student. The party leader also ensures that host families, centres, hotels etc. are aware of any special dietary or medical requirements.

5.6.9 A First Aid kit must be taken on every school visit, to the extent that this is feasible. In the event that a large section or whole of the school community will be making a journey outside of school and it is not practicable to supply all groups with a First Aid kit, the risk assessment must give special consideration to the procedure that should be followed if a student requires medical treatment (e.g., staying within an urban environment, proximity to pharmacies/hospitals, availability of emergency services). The School Nurse manages the issuing and maintenance of First Aid kits. Parents are reminded that students need to have with them any special medical equipment (e.g., inhalers, EpiPens) and this is checked before departure.

5.6.10 For residential visits, parents update and confirm their child's medical information via an online form. Through this process, we obtain parental permission for St Paul's Girls' School staff to authorise medical treatment should they not be able to contact a sick or injured student's parent in time.

5.6.11 A note must be kept recording any first aid and/or medication given, or accidents/illness reported. A record must be kept of any special diet or health problems.

## **5.7 Planning transport**

5.7.1 We always select the mode of transport with the safety of the students as the paramount concern. Wherever possible, it is school policy to use only coaches and minibuses that are fitted with seat belts and the school holds a list of preferred companies. We also use an accessible coach where a visit involves a student or teacher with limited mobility. Staff must not use their own cars to transport students except in an emergency. Older students who may hold a driving license are not allowed to give 'lifts' to other students when on a school visit or trip.

## **5.8 Supervision**

5.8.1 National Guidance states that activity and visit leaders must ensure that young people are supervised in accordance with the principles of 'effective supervision', requiring them to take account of:

- The nature of the activity (including its duration)
- The location and environment in which the activity is to take place
- The age and gender (including developmental age) of the young people to be supervised
- The ability of the young people (including their behavioural, medical, emotional, and educational needs)

5.8.2 The level of supervision must realistically reflect the purpose, location and nature of the visit, the age and maturity of the students and any special needs. Visits are therefore planned in accordance with the principles of effective supervision. When deciding staff to student supervision ratios, the EVC will also take into account factors such as staff experience, first aid qualifications, the potential risks and making adequate provision to allow for emergencies.

5.8.3 Parents are given information of the staffing to be provided for any residential/overseas visit well in advance.

5.8.4 Staff accompanying visits are responsible for students in the group according to a supervision ratio and risk assessment approved by the EVC. Therefore, a supervising member of staff will only

separate from the main party in unforeseen circumstances such as injury or illness.

#### **i. Indirect supervision**

5.8.5 Where students on visits are not directly supervised, they are told where staff may be found and how to contact them by mobile phone should they be given free time, for example for shopping. The itinerary is approved by the EVC in advance of the visit.

#### **ii. Unaccompanied visits**

5.8.6 Some activities may be unaccompanied or involve a sole teacher in charge, for example study days involving students in the VII or VIII which are lower risk and involve students over 16. In all cases, staffing details are made clear to parents when they are notified of the visit.

#### **iii. Individual travel arrangements**

5.8.7 The school cannot undertake to provide for individual arrangements for students to join or leave visits individually. Parents are made aware of this in the briefing communications. It is not permissible to compromise the group's activities or distract a member of staff from their responsibilities towards the group.

### **5.9 Safeguarding measures**

5.9.1 The school will undertake the necessary safeguarding checks in accordance with guidance given in the DfE's *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2022). Any person on a residential visit designated to act in a supervisory role must have an enhanced DBS check and in the majority of cases a Barred list check. This includes any person who is not a member of staff such as a volunteer. A DBS certificate/Barred list check may not be required if a volunteer (such as a parent helping as a one-off) accompanies a **non-residential** visit and will be supervised by another member of staff and not left in sole charge of students. In such cases the EVC will be consulted and will confirm the requirements.

#### **5.10 DBS certificates and Barred List check for host families (foreign exchanges)**

5.10.1 The school is required to adhere to statutory guidance provided in the DfE's *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2022) and, as such, will obtain a DBS enhanced certificate with barred list check for all adults in a household where the visiting child is staying. Should a DBS not be received by the date of the exchange, a risk assessment will be undertaken.

5.10.2 The DBS is not able to conduct the same checks overseas and therefore the school will follow any DfE guidance and obtain appropriate assurances from partner schools or language schools as to the suitability of host families overseas in providing accommodation. Parents are made aware of this arrangement and the steps that are being taken to effectively safeguard every child taking part in the exchange.

#### **5.11 Briefings and correspondence concerning educational visits**

5.11.1 Parents are informed about educational visits in writing by email or letter and the following details are specified, some of which may be provided in follow up documentation:

- Year group or forms
- Date(s)
- Time(s)
- Itinerary
- Third-party trip operator (if applicable)
- Mode(s) of transport with departure and return times
- Arrangements for meeting and dismissing students
- Venue(s) with address and contact details
- Aims and objectives of the visit
- Detail of any unsupervised time
- Whether meals are provided
- Passport and visa requirements
- Insurance arrangements



- Health formalities (inoculations etc)
- Clothing, food, equipment required
- Total cost

5.11.2 Through the school's standard terms and conditions, parents' consent to their child taking part in **non-residential** visits, including those that take place at weekends or school holidays. Parental consent is assumed, provided that details of the visit have been given as outlined above and sufficient time (at least one week) has been allowed for parents to indicate that their child should not participate. The information letter includes a deadline by which a parent must notify this to the visit organiser in writing.

5.11.3 Any **residential** visits in the United Kingdom or overseas, or any visit that involves some element of high risk or adventure activity (such as mountaineering, caving, canoeing, or sailing), are subject to a separate agreement and require parents to submit an online consent form. For some visits we hold an information evening for parents before any commitment is made, especially if the visit is to somewhere distant, if the cost is considerable or the activities to be undertaken involve heightened risk. The EVC advises whether this is necessary.

5.11.4 Before the visit, the visit organiser fully briefs supervising staff and students about the nature of the visit, all practical requirements, and expectations of behaviour. For residential visits the visit organiser holds a briefing with parents to explain the arrangements in detail.

## 5.12 Data protection

5.12.1 For non-residential visits, one copy of the medical and parental contact details is carried by the trip leader, with additional copies given to other accompanying staff if students are split across more than one location or across two coaches, for example. The distribution of trip booklets to accompanying staff other than the trip leader is at the discretion of the EVC, with due consideration given to the protection of data.

5.12.2 On residential visits, due to the higher level of risk involved, all accompanying staff are provided with copies of the trip booklet including medical and parental contact information.

5.12.3 Staff are routinely reminded of the importance of keeping this data secure.

5.12.4 Trip booklets are returned to the Co-Curricular Administrator upon the visit's return, within one working day. One copy of the trip booklet will be retained by the Co-Curriculum team from conclusion of the trip plus 3 years, and the remainder will be shredded within one working day of the booklets being returned.

5.12.5 Should any data breaches occur during an educational visit, staff must inform their SMT out of hours contact without delay. If a data breach occurs during the working day, it should be reported to the Bursar.

5.12.6 Personal data, including medical information, may be shared with third parties (such as tour operators, partner schools and exchange schools) if necessary, for the purposes of organising the trip and on a need-to-know basis. Transfer of personal data outside the EU may be subject to separate arrangements. The school checks the data protection policies of third-party organisations prior to sharing personal data with them and maintains a log of data checks carried out. All exchange schools sign an agreement with us confirming that they will abide by our data protection guidelines.

5.12.7 Parents are given details of third-party trip providers in the letter publicising the trip and advised that they should look at the privacy policy of operators to satisfy themselves that their child's data is being kept secure.

5.12.8 Staff are aware that all personal data should only be stored on the school's systems and destroyed securely once no longer required.

## 5.13 SMT contact

5.13.1 The EVC assigns a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) as the school link contact

for all visits that take place out of school opening hours, during weekends and during school holidays. The EVC (being a member of SMT) sometimes acts as the SMT contact.

5.13.2 The visit organiser also has contact details of several members of SMT as part of the visit paperwork. The emergency contact person is given all details of the visit including contact telephone numbers for parents, appropriate medical details for students, host family addresses in the case of exchanges, the risk assessment for the visit and an emergency contact for accompanying staff.

5.13.3 In the case of residential visits, as a minimum the visit organiser must text the staff contact on arrival and return.

## **6. Emergency on an educational visit**

6.1 In the event of a serious accident or emergency, the priority of the visit leader and accompanying staff is to ensure the safety of students. The visit leader will liaise with local emergency services and staff will accompany any injured students to hospital and ensure that any other students are supervised.

6.2 The visit leader is also responsible for arranging that the High Mistress, or the SMT contact if in school holidays, is notified as soon as possible.

6.3 The school provides the following advice and guidance to members of staff leading or taking part in school trips to urban centres.

### **i Prior to the visit**

6.4 The possibility of a potential terrorist attack should be taken into account at the planning stage for each visit and should be included in the risk assessment. Staff should keep up to date with the latest news relating to their destination by accessing links on the trips guidance information sheets for UK and overseas trips found on the staff portal.

### **ii During the visit**

#### **a) Busy locations**

6.5 When visiting crowded places such a city centre, venue or event, staff should consider possible safe areas, near to where the group intends to be, that can act as an emergency meeting point, secondary emergency meeting point or emergency shelter. Staff should think through how to get away in an emergency and bear in mind that planned transport routes may be disrupted.

6.6 Groups are discouraged from congregating for long periods at the entrances to public sites and to be aware of the aforementioned emergency guidelines where this is unavoidable. Staff should have sufficient funds to cope with the possibility of an enforced overnight stay and envisage how to cope were there an enforced group split.

#### **b) Vigilance**

6.7 All students are aware of the 'stay safe' principle 'Run, Hide, Tell' and staff and students alike are encouraged to be vigilant, aware of their surroundings and to report any suspicious items. Students should be aware what to expect if they encounter armed response officers. All school issued mobile phones have the 'Citizenaid' app that provides advice in the event of an attack and staff are encouraged to refer to this if necessary.

#### **c) After any incident**

6.8 Once it is safe to do so, staff should follow the guidelines for 'emergency on an educational visit' as outlined above.

### **iii Communications plan**

6.9 The visit leader will notify the SMT contact of a serious incident or emergency at the earliest safe

opportunity. In response to a crisis situation, the SMT contact will inform the High Mistress (or if she is unavailable, the Senior Deputy) and the crisis management plan will be followed. The communications plan will include communications to inform and reassure parents and further check-ins with the staff involved. Staff accompanying visits are advised not to speak to the media and any press enquiries are referred to the High Mistress's office.

## **7. Student conduct during visits**

7.1 Before departure, students must be reminded of correct behaviour during the journey, i.e., seat belts must be worn, litter to be placed in litter bags, orderly walking if on foot, preferably in twos, staff to be at the front and back of the group.

7.2 Meeting times must be clearly stated and adhered to. The group leader must establish rendezvous points and tell students what to do if they become separated from the group.

7.3 Students must not wander unsupervised in groups of fewer than three and geographical area must be specified.

7.4 Students must not make unnecessary noise in public places and must behave courteously at all times. Students must know where a member of staff can be found at all times.

7.5 Headcounts must be taken regularly. (Dividing a large party into groups with a member of staff in charge makes life easier for headcounts and any changes of plan.)

7.6 Any students whose behaviour is such that the group leader is concerned for their safety, or that of others, should be withdrawn from the activity and kept under direct supervision.

7.7 We remind students and parents that normal school rules apply on visits and that any student grossly disobeying these rules may be sent back to school or home at the parents' expense.

## **8. Evaluating visits**

8.1 The lead teacher on a residential visit must complete an evaluation of their visit and submit this to the EVC within two weeks of returning (with the exception of this period falling outside term time). This evaluation should include an assessment of how successfully the objectives of the visit have been met, and any adjustments which may be required in the future or potential problems (e.g., in respect of changes to the itinerary, staffing, accommodation, etc.).

8.2 The visit organiser should review the risk assessment in the light of any particular challenges which arose and should, if necessary, adapt the risk assessment for future visits.

8.3 If there were any non-emergency medical issues arising, the lead member of staff should report these to the School Nurse upon returning home. The EVC will also check these have been raised by referring to the evaluation form.

8.4 For day visits, all teachers involved in the visit are encouraged to discuss any problems or concerns they have, relating to students or other matters, with the EVC or the Deputy Head, Director of Pastoral Care. This is of particular importance if there were any unforeseen problems on the visit.

8.5 The visit leader should securely destroy any confidential materials e.g., copies of passport details.

### **Availability of this policy**

A copy of this policy may be downloaded from our website <http://www.spgs.org/school-policies> or is available on request from the school office, St Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green, London, W6 7BS (tel: 020 7603 2288). This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

## Appendix A – COVID-19 measures

1. On 1 April 2022, the Government withdrew its operational guidance for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the guidance relating to educational visits.

2. However, the situation regarding overseas travel remains complicated. As of September 2022, many countries have removed all travel restrictions, but some have not. For the foreseeable future, when launching international trips, parents will be advised of any entry requirements regarding COVID-19 testing and/or vaccination and warned that these rules are subject to change at short notice. Furthermore, it is made clear to parents that it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child will meet any COVID-19 entry requirements, rather than the school's, and they will be directed to the FCDO Travel Advice for the destination country.

3. For the time being, all risk assessments for trips will continue to include a section on COVID-19 protective measures. Chiefly, students should not take part in a trip if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or isolating due to a positive test. At the time of writing in September 2022, face masks are now a matter of personal choice in the UK – however, mandatory mask-wearing may be in place in some other countries or reintroduced for the autumn and winter months. In this event, this will be communicated to students and parents.

4. The school will stay alert to any new public health advice and be ready to step up measures accordingly. If the COVID-19 situations worsens again, additional protective measures may include:

- Requirement for students and staff to take a lateral flow test before departure
- Requiring students and staff to wear face coverings, including when using public transport or school-organised transport
- Controlling the level of mixing with other people outside of the school group; when such mixing is unavoidable, maintaining appropriate social distancing
- Improving ventilation of indoor spaces wherever possible

5. There is now a much-reduced likelihood of a student or member of staff testing positive for COVID-19 on a school visit, given that mandatory testing has come to an end. However, in the event that a student does test positive whilst on a trip, wherever feasible the parents of the student concerned will be asked to collect them directly from their location on the trip as soon as possible. If this is not possible, the individual should continue to wear a mask and maintain distancing between the student and others to the greatest extent possible, both during the trip and on the way home. If in another country, local policies and regulations will be followed regarding what to do if someone tests positive for COVID-19. The situation will be discussed with parents and the SMT contact for the trip, to decide what actions to take.

6. If a member of staff tests positive for COVID-19 while away on a trip, they will distance themselves from the group and take precautions such as wearing a face mask – if they are able to leave the group and go home without compromising the school's duty to maintain effective supervision, they will do so. The situation will be discussed with the SMT contact, possibly with a view to sending out an additional member of staff to replace the colleague who has become unwell or tested positive.