

Tring School

Educational Visits - Terrorism Threat



The level of threat of International Terrorism as published by British Security services remains as “SEVERE”. Advice on travel to London and other British major cities can be viewed on the MI5 website <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>.

In the event that an off-site school visit should go ahead as planned or not lies with the school based on appropriate risk assessments being undertaken. The Head teacher will inform the Chair of Governors and Governing body of any decision made.

Parents may take a personal view on whether their child should participate and can withdraw consent if they feel it necessary.

As a school we would review and adjust our risk assessments based upon the considerations below:

- Revised security arrangements in central London and other major city centres may result in additional delays and that extra time should be allowed and factored into the visit.
- The Visit Leader and our Educational Visits Administrator to check the MI5 website for the current threat levels of terrorism in the UK.
- To know and understand the coach operators’ emergency protocols. There may be limits as to how quickly coaches may be able to return to pick up the group in an emergency.
- To ensure that all group leaders are aware of actions to be taken in the event of an incident – namely getting to a place of safety and following the directions of the emergency services at the scene.
- To ensure that the designated Emergency Contact “back at base” is contactable for the entire duration of the visit to ensure that ongoing support can be provided.

To ensure all members of staff on the visit adhere to the following:

- To have fully charged mobiles (and chargers available if necessary)
- To have sufficient credit available for the duration of the visit on their mobile phones

- To have the relevant contact details “back at base” in their phones prior to departure
- To be in a position to answer their mobile phone at all times should contact need to be made
- To advise the Visits Administrator of their mobile numbers before departure
- Staff on the visit to have an up-to-date student listing of all the students participating as well as home contact information and any medical or special requirements
- To ensure that group ratios on the visit will be 1 staff to 15 students and if and where possible 1 staff to 8 students, thereby removing the risk of having one large group which may increase the risk of being targeted.
- Staff to escort students at all times
- To ensure that all students travel back on the coach/train at the end of the visit with the group leaders unless parental permission has been given for a student to remain in the location.
- To ensure that all students follow all instructions given by school staff and staff at the venue

National websites that provide information and guidance

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements>

· <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Statement regarding visits to London and European Countries

- Groups planning to visit European countries should expect delays due to increased security checks and may have to adjust their travel arrangements accordingly.
- Visit Leaders are advised to check with their tour operators and/or transport providers prior to the departure date.