



6 October 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

COVID-related Travel Cancellations

Parents will naturally be concerned in committing funds to planned School trips in the current climate, given that governmental travel restrictions in the UK or at the destination may, at short notice, significantly disrupt the trip or lead to cancellations.

The School feels it is important to continue to plan trips for pupils so that they may benefit from the educational and other experiences inherent in the trips. We will plan them recognising the possibility of short notice cancellation, seeking contractual arrangements that protect monies paid as far as is possible.

The School maintains insurance for travel that covers all normal travel risks and this has served us well over the years, including paying out for trips cancelled when we first went into lockdown and were faced with decisions to cancel. However, this insurance now clearly states that it will **not pay out** for an event that is **COVID-related**.

The School is therefore seeking to engage contractually to ensure the event provider will provide refunds if the trip is cancelled due to COVID travel restrictions and will make this clear in our communications with you, with links to the companies' statements on this.

In all cases, the initial deposit for a trip is unlikely to be recoverable should the trip not proceed. The School will seek to reduce the amount of initial deposit where possible.

We must stress, however, that should the trip proceed, but parents choose to withdraw their child due to concerns over COVID-related matters, it is unlikely that refunds will be available to those parents though the School will make reasonable representations to the travel companies and insurers on their behalf. Where a pupil necessarily does not attend a trip due to testing positive for COVID, this will not be covered.

In the event that travel restrictions change whilst the trip is in progress such that the group is required to quarantine on return to the UK, the costs of this will not be met from any insurances. Where a quarantine requirement is imposed shortly before a trip commences, it is likely the trip will be cancelled and the short-notice cancellation provisions with the operator will come into play.

As all trips are paid for out of the contributions from parents, the School will not be in a position to cover any sums that cannot be recovered externally.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C McGrory
Educational Visits Administrator