

Year 6 School Journey 2017

Monday 12th June to Friday 16th June 2017

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Objectives of this session



- Outline rationale behind School Journey to France
- Summarise steps taken to keep children safe
- Respond to questions submitted and concerns raised
- Provide opportunity for further discussion/ clarification

Objectives of School Journey



Provide pupils with the opportunity to:

- Develop their independence and sense of responsibility before the transition to secondary school
- Practise their French language skills in purposeful, 'real-life' situations

Objectives set and agreed with Governing Body

Why France?



- Not because “we’ve done it before”/ “that’s what we always do”
 - Evaluation showed it met objectives
- Progression from Year 5 School Journey
 - In terms of activities and scale
- Greater independence
 - Château de Grande Romaine (CGR) site 20km outside Paris
 - Secure site but large enough for children to feel they have freedom and independence
- Opportunities for exposure to French language, culture and history
 - School visit
 - Paris sightseeing
 - Market visit
 - WWI memorial
- Adventure

Security, travel and cost



- Security
 - Follow FCO advice
 - Plans and risk assessments (11) submitted to, and approved by, Governing Body and Local Authority
 - Ongoing risk assessment and flexible approach
 - Paris
 - Itinerary is adaptable
 - Paris
 - Calais
- Travel and cost
 - Travelling by Eurostar increases cost by c. £100 (and required travel to Paris)
 - Eurotunnel decreases journey time but no amenities/opportunity to stretch legs
 - No one excluded on grounds of cost

Q&A (1)



- Can a UK trip be considered?
 - Yes, although it would not meet all the objectives of School Journey
- Is it necessary to visit Paris?
 - No, and it is possible to exclude Paris from the itinerary, or for parents to opt their children out of the Paris trip. Should it be deemed too risky to visit Paris while we are there, we will not do so
- Is it necessary to travel via Calais?
 - No, it is possible for us to travel via Dunkerque (30 mins longer)
- Is it necessary to visit the same site in France (20km from Paris)?
 - No, and we have already made enquiries about availability at an alternative PGL site in Hardelot on the north coast. This site does not offer the same benefits as CGR, although it does have its own qualities
- Can the school prevent isolated incidents occurring?
 - Staff will address any foreseen risks and there is a procedure (in all trips) for dealing with unforeseen risks
- Is the market trip safe?
 - This trip is carefully managed: it is quite a small, enclosed market; children are in groups of 10, accompanied by an adult and at no point are they out of that adult's sight

Q&A (2)



- Can the journey time be shortened?
 - Yes, although the shorter alternatives have their disadvantages (Eurostar requires travel to Paris; Eurotunnel does not offer the same amenities/ opportunity to stretch legs as a ferry trip)
- Can the cost be reduced?
 - We receive a number of discounts from PGL (early booking, repeat booking) so the planned trip is arranged at the lowest cost possible. Similar UK trips are cheaper, but not substantially so
 - No one will be excluded on the basis of cost – please see Miss Bentham or Mr Samuel if you wish to discuss the cost
- How will the school communicate with parents?
 - Blog and photos updated daily
 - ParentMail upon arrival, after return from Paris and upon return to UK
 - Additional communications if deemed necessary
 - Parents can contact the school office with urgent requests
 - The school is in frequent contact with Miss Bentham
- If children don't go on School Journey, what will they do?
 - They are allocated to Year 5 and will be given tasks and responsibilities around school
- Could two trips (one in UK and one in France) be offered?
 - No, this would not be possible as too many staff would be out of school