

Pre - Trip Planning Document.

To be read before a trip is arranged. The TRIP documentation must be completed for all off site visits.

CCSS encourages staff to organise offsite visits and trips as these enrich the educational experience of our students. However, health and safety of our students is paramount and staff must be aware that permission for trips may be withdrawn, even at the last moment, if paperwork is incomplete.

CCSS General Statement of Policy on trips

With the welfare of our students and the concerns of their parents in mind, our policy is to ensure that:

- all reasonably foreseeable risks are identified, controlled and monitored
- realistic and practical standards of care and attention are followed to avoid incident and student distress
- adventurous activities will always be supervised by qualified professionals who will ensure correct equipment and emergency procedures are in place before departure
- transparent, effective and measurable procedures are in place at all times
- we will involve emergency authorities, including the police, if a student is separated from the trip group for more than 2 hours without consent
- CCSS management and affected pupils' parents will be notified as soon as appropriate after a significant incident
- responses to incidents will be appropriate to the affected students

Summary procedure for the organisation of all trips.

No.	Action	Time frame
1	Discuss trip with your Head of Faculty to check on objective, details including dates and staffing and cost.	
2	Preliminary Trips form (section 20, 21 or 22) to be completed and sent to DP/Principal. The Principal needs to give his permission for overseas trips and visits, and trips involving an overnight stop in the UK	4 weeks in advance for UK trips. 2 terms in advance if abroad
3	Check visa requirements	6 months in advance
4	Trip request granted or reasons given for refusing	7 days after initial proposal
5	Financial and insurance arrangements agreed with the Director of Finance in advance of any financial commitments	6 months in advance if overseas trip
6	Students informed & letters sent to parents - no formal letters to go home until the request has been signed and permission has been obtained from the appropriate quarters.	4-5 months in advance of trip if abroad
7	Initiate DBS checks for any responsibly adult accompanying the trip.	4-5 months in advance of trip
8	Contact hire company to ensure minibus is booked	
9	Make risk assessment trip to venue including age, aptitude & ability of students for the trip. Detail arrangements made for the students with SEND.	4 months in advance for overnight/abroad 3 weeks for UK trips
10	Any CCSS equipment (tents, fieldwork equipment, cameras, etc.) must be checked for serviceability and safety. Consult the appropriate member of staff if unsure.	
11	Section 22 to be completed and sent to the college nurse (for medical advice). Copy to be sent to DP.	As close to the trip as possible to allow for any updates.
12	List of students attending MUST be published and discussed with the DP. Students with poor record of attendance and behind in work maybe refused permission to take part.	As soon as trip is agreed.
13	Liaise with Boarding Staff, if your trip involves a very early start or very late return, or if the trip may involve students needing to stay in CCSS accommodation at a time when it would normally be closed.	2 weeks in advance
14	Speak to the College Secretary to arrange the 'List of Travellers' form to ensure visa exemption for students who are nationals of countries who normally require visas for travel in EU countries	4 weeks in advance
15	Risk Assessment to be completed Risk assessment needs forwarded to college health and safety manager for checking	
16	Submit paper work to DP. For final approval	
17	Copy of Passport/Visa documentation, parental permissions, contact numbers and detailed itinerary to be given to DP.	5 working days before departure for overseas trips
18	Meeting for all Students & Staff involved Students to be given a written summary of the meeting and asked to sign to show acceptance and agreement. All students to be given emergency contact form and laminated ID card for Student wallets giving them details of accommodation and mobile number for GL.	One week before departure
19	Staff should collect and check contents of the trips bag and be familiar with the operation of the mobile phone and how to top up credit if required.	1 day before departure

Key controls

Colleagues need to consider the following when arranging staffing for any trip or visit

- the number of pupils involved;
- pupils with specific educational or medical needs;
- their previous experiences of being away from school/home and of the activities involved;
- the degree of responsibility and discipline shown by the group;
- the type of visit and the nature of the activities involved;
- the amount of risk;
- the location and travel arrangements;
- the time of year;
- the experience and quality of the supervisory staff available (including venue's own staff, experience and qualifications);
- requirements of the organisation or location to be visited;
- First aid cover.

Minimum staff to student ratios are:

CCSS Students are all Year 11 onwards and many have a chronological age a year or two beyond their National Curriculum Year Group because of the nature of the College intake. They are thus much more mature than typical school pupils. For these reasons the College sets a ratio of 1 member of staff to 20 students.

CCSS students are, as identified above, older than typical secondary school pupils, more mature and of above average ability so the College operates a 1:10 ratio for overseas trips.

Consideration is given to the need for staff of both gender, but the nature of the CCSS student group means that this is not generally necessary. In determining staffing requirements, the availability of other suitable adults will also be taken into consideration, such as the staff employed directly by a residential centre, sports hall, etc.

Important staffing notes:

- Additional adults: it is possible for non-CCSS adults to accompany a trip in addition to the minimum ratios stipulated above. Such accompanying adults **must hold a CCSS generated DBS check**.
- Staff considering being accompanied by their own family (partners or children) need to discuss the arrangements with the Principal in the initial planning phase and may be counted as supernumerary.

Group Leader

All trips must have a designated group leader. The trip leader should have appropriate experience and competences for the demands of the trip or must ensure that the staff team have a range of appropriate competences and experiences to cover all reasonable eventualities, according to the approved risk assessment.

Risk control

You should anticipate risks or problems which could arise and plan "reasonable safeguards" to minimise them. Anticipating risks is particularly important if there is any element of physical danger involved.

You should assure yourself that the provider of any such activity is qualified, licensed, and capable of providing all necessary safeguards. Get confirmation in writing.

For overseas visits you must visit the venue in advance to help planning and to anticipate risks – the costs of this need to be budgeted. If this is not possible it must be raised in the initial planning meeting with the Principal. Only the Principal can decide whether the pre-trip visit does not need to take place.

Planning transport

By minibus

Check hire arrangement and vehicle safety.

By public transport

All students must go and return with the party unless written parental permission has been obtained for alternative arrangements. If parent arrives at departure point and asks for ad hoc arrangement to take student away this should only be allowed if parent can offer photographic identity e.g. passport and documented verification of their relation to the student. If in doubt telephone emergency contact number for guidance but do not release student. **Parents & students must be made aware of this requirement.** In your pre-trip information to students you should make it clear that permission for alternative return arrangements must be dealt with at least 48 hours before the trip sets off.

Bus companies and safety

Always make sure to use a recognised coach company. If you are unsure speak to the DP

Use of private transport

If the trip involves use of private transport you **must** ensure that the driver has insurance which covers use of the vehicle for this purpose, and that he or she is aware of the responsibility involved.

This applies particularly if you are intending to drive students in your own car – not uncommon where the group is a very small one. Most car insurances cover ‘social, domestic & pleasure’ whereas this would be counted as business/work.

You should not allow students to travel in another student’s car.

Make sure your students know what is expected of them

Please tell your students in advance exactly what you expect of them in terms of general behaviour and in terms of attendance, meeting points, timings, etc. (refer to the sample letter).

Paperwork – TRIP

All paperwork must be signed off by the Health and Safety officer and the Deputy Principal – please complete the **TRIP documentation** on sharepoint/staff common – the documents are listed below.

The Trip Notification Form (T)

We use the information to ensure that our insurance cover is valid, and to publicise the trip to all staff via the staff calendar. You will be sent an acknowledgement of the Trips Form, which will include details of who to contact at CCSS in case of emergency, and how to get in touch with them.

The Risk Assessment Form (R) - parts a and b

You need to complete a risk assessment form for each day/activity. The GL **MUST** have visited the site before the trip takes place in order to complete the assessment unless special permission has been given by the Principal in the initial planning meeting.

a. Medical notes from Nurse

You must send the College Nurse a copy of the trips form. The nurse will check through the confidential medical information we have and add relevant medical details that you should know and then sign the form.

b. Risk Assessment Form

Individual Responsibilities Check List (I)

Post Event Evaluation Form (P)

Instructions for trip members:

You must draw up written guidance for your students so that they know the following before they set off.

- What you want them to bring
- What to do if they have a problem, what number to ring if they get separated from you, rendezvous points and times, travel details
- Guidelines on behaviour and possible sanctions
- Any other material relevant to getting the best out of the trip

Ensure all have the same briefing and record the date, time and those present for the briefing.

Document copies

On the trip, you will need copies of the TRIP documentation and where relevant, copies of your students' passports/visa details, medical forms and travel insurance policy (for overseas trips). It is good practice to have an additional documents file for another member of staff. Copies of all documentation should also be left with DP.

CCSS contacts cards

For overseas trips give each student a credit-card sized list of important contacts, to include: staff contacts, CCSS emergency contact, local information (emergency services – police, ambulance).

During the trip

Do insist on good behaviour at all times. CCSS is on public show and we expect our students to behave appropriately. If you feel that any members of your party have behaved inappropriately, the trip leader should deal with the situation as they see fit. In extreme cases, you should inform CCSS immediately, who will consider repatriation or another appropriate sanction. It is particularly important that breaches of health and safety are reported without delay.

Crisis Management Procedures

The Group Leader (GL) should take charge of emergency situations.

In the event of an emergency the priorities are to:

1. Assess the situation

Establish the nature and extent of the emergency as quickly as possible

2. Ensure that the uninjured group members are safeguarded

The GL, a back-up supervisor, or a responsible third party should ensure that further injuries do not occur. All group members must be made aware of the incident and must comply with emergency procedures.

3. Attend to the casualty/casualties

Establish casualty names and get them immediate medical attention.

4. Inform the emergency services and the Principal/Deputy Principal

For example: Ambulance, Police and Rescue Services. The Principal/Deputy Principal must be informed as soon as possible after emergency service contact. Follow the procedures set out in Emergency Contact Information.

Details that must be communicated to the CCSS emergency contacts include:

- Nature of the incident
- Date and time
- Location
- Names of casualties
- Details of their injuries
- Names of others involved so that parents can be reassured
- Action taken so far
- Action yet to be taken (and by whom)

As soon as is appropriate the GL should write down all relevant facts and details of the incident.

No staff or students should speak to the media or parents. The priority of those on the ground is to look after the students and each other. Dealing with the media, parents and all other issues must be handled by the Crisis Management Team.

Injury and Illness Procedures

The Group Leader (GL) should assess the extent of any injury or illness.

Planning to reduce risk

- i. Ensure you have contacted the college nurse for medical information on participants
 - a. So that you are forewarned about pre-existing conditions
- ii. CCSS Emergency Contact Information is available
- iii. Local Contact Information is available
 - a. Your planning should include finding out how to contact local emergency services
- iv. Back up cover is available especially if you cannot rely on the availability of local and responsible help on the spot
- v. They know who is trained in First Aid amongst the adults taking the trip.

Injury

The GL must ensure that the CCSS Off-Site Visits Emergency Procedures are carried out. If the injury is assessed as requiring hospitalisation the GL must ensure that:

1. Any First Aid administered is by a trained First-Aider

2. Transport is arranged

Either by contacting the emergency services or via a designated CCSS vehicle

3. The student is accompanied to hospital by a responsible adult

The casualty and the remaining students will need to be supervised

4. The CCSS Emergency Contact is informed (as well as the Principal/Deputy Principal)

Information given must include the points ALL the 8 points of the Emergency Procedures.

5. Decide whether to abort the activity/trip

If it is decided that the activity / trip should stop students will then need to return, or be returned to CCSS

If the injury is a minor one any First Aid should be administered by a trained First Aider. If there is some doubt the college nurse should be contacted (07810 318461) for advice.

As soon as is appropriate the GL should write down all relevant facts and details of the incident. An accident report must be written in the visits formal Accident and Incident Book (It should be made as soon as appropriate). DP must be notified on return.

Illness

The GL must assess the extent of the illness and whether recovery is likely without hospitalisation. If there is any doubt the student must be accompanied to hospital in accordance with procedures 1 to 5 above. The CCSS Crisis Management Procedures must also be followed. The different types of illness and suitable actions are:

A. Sudden Illness: unknown cause

Assess the potential recovery rate. If hospitalisation is required check the Local Contact Information then proceed in accordance with procedures 1 to 5 above

B. Sudden Illness: known cause

GL should ensure that students with known illnesses carry the right quantities of medicine with them. The GL should ascertain if the student involved is capable of administering his /her own medicine or treatment. If hospitalisation is required proceed in accordance with emergency procedures

C. Gradual

The GL should check if students are well before setting off (see pre-departure checklist). Any students becoming unwell will need to be assessed and supervised. If hospitalisation becomes necessary proceed as directed by emergency injury procedures 1 to 5

If an illness does not require hospitalisation it may be necessary for the GL to arrange contact with a local doctor. The Local Contact Information may be useful.

Administering Medicines

- Students should normally be responsible for their own medicines and for administering them.
- The Trips bag you will be given contains analgesics. You may administer analgesics (unless the medical information you have from the college nurse indicates otherwise). But, you must check that the student has not taken other analgesic-containing medicines, and you must make a written record.

Group Stranded/Group Member Lost Procedure

Planning to reduce risk

- Ensure that you have the mobile telephone numbers of the students and the CCSS emergency contacts
- Notify the CCSS emergency contact of the trips start time and estimated time of arrival back at college (on the visits form)
- Access available road atlas or location/site maps
- Ensure your students have been briefed and given written information about procedures
- GL to establish and provide Local Contact Information (including local police and emergency services)
- If using the college minibus check: the vehicle log book, First Aid kit is complete, fire extinguisher, torch and batteries are present and 2 litres of drinking water are on board

During the trip the GL should:

- Inform students, before dispersing, of meeting place and time
- Brief the students on the actions they must take if they get delayed or lost
- Check students have written mobile details of the GL and ensure mobiles are on and fully charged
- Set up any necessary "buddy system" for safety
- Distribute maps if site is complicated
- Remind students of expected behaviour codes

If the Group gets stranded through a transport breakdown/delay the GL must:

- Follow the Transport Breakdown Procedure

If the group gets stranded in non-transport circumstances the GL must:

- Phone the CCSS Emergency Contact if the estimated time of arrival is going to be more than 2 hours delayed, or is likely to be outside curfew hours
- If for any reason the GL is unable to contact any of the CCSS Emergency Contacts, the GL must contact the emergency services

If an individual or small group is lost during a site visit the GL must:

1. Assess the circumstances of the loss
2. Gather information
3. Attempt mobile phone contact
4. If close send a search party but do not leave a group of students unsupervised

If any group members are missing for over 1 hour the GL must:

- Phone the CCSS Emergency Contact detailing the circumstances and names of the missing group member and take advice

If any group members are more than 2 hours overdue the GL must:

- Contact the local Police giving them full details of the circumstances. If telephone number of local police is not known then 999 should be dialled.
- Make Second Contact with CCSS (see later section on emergency contact procedure)

Transport breakdown/ Failure procedure

Before using the minibus the GL should check with the Hire company that:

- A risk assessment is supplied with the hired transport
- A safety checklist is supplied
- Emergency contact details are on the bus
- There is sufficient fuel at the start of the journey
- **If there is doubt about any of the above you should not commence the journey**

In the event of a minibus breakdown the GL must:

1. Phone the hire company for assistance
2. Contact the CCSS Emergency Contact detailing the circumstances
3. Advise the CCSS Emergency Contact of the revised estimated time of arrival (e.t.a.)
4. Consider an overnight stop if the fault is not repaired by 9pm

If the fault is not repairable the GL must proceed as above (points 1-4) and also:

- Notify the CCSS Emergency Contact of an alternative mode of transport
- Consider an overnight stop if an alternative mode of transport is unavailable and it is after 9pm

If a breakdown occurs on Public Transport the GL must:

- Ensure that the group is kept together
- Contact the CCSS Emergency Contact if the e.t.a. is expected to be more than 2 hours delayed
- Consider an overnight stop if an alternative mode of transport is unavailable and it is after 9pm

In event of a transport accident

If there is a transport accident the GL, or back up supervisor, must proceed in accordance with the Crisis Management Procedures

Should the minibus driver be taken ill proceed in accordance with the Injury and Illness Procedures and also:

- Allow the back-up driver to complete the journey
- Contact the CCSS Emergency Contact detailing the circumstance

Behaviour/supervision procedure

Prior to the trip you, as the GL, need to:

- Undertake a behavioural check of the students
- Explain to the students what is expected of them in terms of general behaviour, attendance, meeting points, timings etc
- Issue specific rules on alcohol and drugs
- Remind the students of their own duty to act responsibly and not to endanger themselves or others (to include wearing seatbelts on all journeys)
- Assess the required staff /student ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
- Check staff experience, health and ability to complete the trip
- Ensure that First Aid cover is available
- Head counts should be taken regularly

During the trip the GL must ensure that:

- **Illness through alcohol or drug abuse is dealt with appropriately**
- **Injury caused by misbehaviour, by accident or by deliberate act**
- **Sanctions**

Any formal sanctions that come into effect if a student fails to adhere to the behavioural guidelines should be recorded.

Arrest

Should a group member be arrested the GL should contact the **CCSS Emergency Contact**. Detailing the:

- Names of group members involved
- Nature of the incident
- Date and time
- Location
- Local Police Station telephone number and address
- Action taken so far
- Actions yet to be taken (and by whom)

- **Gross misbehaviour**

Ring the CCSS Emergency Contact to get advice on what to do, especially if you feel there is a case for sending the offender home immediately.

Down Time Procedure

Down Time

It is good practice to:

- ensure that all staff and students understand the standards of behaviour that apply at all times
- ensure that handover between activities is properly supervised, with a named supervisor responsible for the group if there is down-time between activities,
- ensure that all supervisors understand that their supervisory role continues in the evening – however hard a day it has been, that it is not time to relax in the bar or in front of the TV,
- use down-time in the evening or at the beginning of the day to brief the group on the planned activities for the day to come, e.g. the planned learning outcomes, specific health and safety issues, meal and break times etc,
- use down time after activities for individual reflection on personal learning outcomes,

Night Time

Group Leaders should ensure that, where possible:

- the group's immediate accommodation is exclusively for the group's use,
- students share rooms with their own gender and are, whenever possible, allowed to choose the students who they will share a room with. If allocation of a room is difficult or there is a problem with the students in a room the group leader will have the final decision.
- teachers (of both genders where appropriate) have sleeping accommodation on the same floor immediately adjacent to the student's accommodation,
- there is a teacher present on that floor whenever the students are there,
- child protection arrangements are in place to protect students and staff,
- where hotel/hostel reception is not staffed 24 hours a day, security arrangements should be in force to stop unauthorised visits,
- in the absence of 24 hour staffing of reception, external doors must be made secure against intrusion and windows closed as necessary to prevent intrusion,
- where possible, internal doors are lockable but staff must have reasonable access to the students' accommodation at all times,
- where students' doors are locked, teachers have immediate access, as necessary, to a master key,
- all staff and students know the emergency procedures/escape routes in the event of a fire. Where windows and doors are locked against intrusion at night, ensure that alternative escape routes are known and that all fire doors function properly,
- accommodation is on the first floor, not the ground floor if possible.

Accommodation Incident Procedure

Planning to reduce risk

- **Regulations now dictate that the accommodation must be visited beforehand for risk assessment procedures.**

On arrival at the accommodation the GL must ensure that:

- Group members are aware of the Fire Exits and sites Fire Safety Procedures
- Group members are aware of the behaviour expectations and non-smoking policy

In the advent of emergency evacuation the GL must ensure that:

- All group members are accounted for
- Group members stay together until told otherwise by the GL

In the advent of food poisoning the GL must also phone the CCSS Emergency Contact detailing:

- The nature of the incident
- Date and time
- Location
- Names of group members affected
- Details of treatment
- Actions taken
- Actions to be taken (by whom)

Theft or Loss

Planning to reduce risk

- **Brief students on:**
 1. Personal safety
 2. The dangers of displaying valuable items in public (cameras, mobiles, money, gold etc)
 3. Keeping their personal belongings with them (i.e. not to leave bags, coats etc unattended)
- **Ensure that the group is in possession of all the necessary documentation**

Decide in advance whether you will keep tickets to stop loss (but you will need to hand them out when necessary). Ditto passports, though it is likely that students will need to keep their own passports in case they need to prove identity to security

- **Ensure that passport copies have been made and that you have them with you and a copy is left with the SLT member on call.**

Theft of Property or Documents

The GL should:

- Take details from the group member
- Report the theft to the hotel, venue or site management
- Report the incident to the local Police
- Get a crime or incident number from the Police
- Notify the Bursar on return from the trip

Loss of Documents

The GL should:

- Keep the group together
- Designate two group members to conduct a search
- Notify the authorities

Emergency Contact Procedure

The following contacts must be made after a significant incident on a visit or trip. A significant incident will cover:

- a car, minibus, bus or train accident involving collision
- a student missing from the group without permission for more than 1 hour
- a hotel fire involving building evacuation
- student or supervising staff illness or injury requiring emergency services or hospital treatment
- student or supervising staff arrest by police
- return to CCSS delayed beyond 2 hours: immediately if estimated arrival after curfew

The procedures below are designed to ensure that the GL has a clear line of communication with CCSS-base for advice and to relay information to others who need it (e.g. parents) without having the distraction of making a series of calls in the midst of an incident.

Staff at CCSS base will be responsible for notifying DP for guidance.

First Contact

The first contact to be made is with appropriate staff at CCSS.

The longest period before making contact is 2 hours, in the case of a delayed return.

In all other cases, make contact as soon as possible after the incident – but only when an assessment has been made of the outcome of the incident, and the relevant information CCSS need to know.

First Contact will be Principal or Deputy Principal.

Do not leave messages on the CCSS answer phones.

When making contact, advise when you will next be in touch, and stick to the arrangement. Leave more than one mobile/other contact number.

Internal Communication

In the case of vehicle breakdown, or minor accident/fire not requiring emergency medical treatment (where the main consequence is likely to be delayed return), DP/Senior House Manager will advise day students parents of revised pick-up times, and house managers. If the SHM is not the first point of contact, the person contacted should try to get in touch with SHM as well.

In all other cases (which will involve serious accident/injury/student missing), the first contact should set up a line of contact with Senior Management. The Deputy Principal should designate her/himself to lead the process, should seek assistance from other SLT members.

Contact with Emergency Services

The emergency services should be contacted either immediately (in the case of serious illness/injury/arrest) or within 1 hour in the case of a lost student or stranded group.

In this instance, if you have not already done so, make first contact with CCSS. Also make contact with the emergency services if for any reason you are unable to make First Contact with anyone at CCSS.

Second Contact

This should be within 1 hour of first contact; to the same contact unless a more senior member of CCSS staff has already contacted you. Again, you will need to have made a thorough assessment of the likely outcomes, key issues, and information to be passed on.

Parental Contact

Immediately after the second contact is made, or earlier if there is a clear analysis of the situation (in the case of serious accident/injury/student missing), the parents of all the children on the trip will be contacted. Ideally this will be by the Principal but otherwise the Deputy Principal. Their initial contact will be with the parents of students known to be the most seriously affected by the incident. *Students should be strongly discouraged from making outside contacts as they will probably each give a different version of events and could cause unnecessary alarm amongst parents. The College will take over the role of liaising with parents/guardians and any press contact.*

Ongoing Contact

After initial contact has been made with parents of affected students, continuing regular contact will be agreed direct with parents. In most cases, it will be preferable for the GL to relay information direct to the Crisis Management team contact rather than direct to parents – otherwise management of the incident may be prejudiced. As soon as practical, arrangements should be made for affected students to speak to their parents.

The Principal will decide the point at which an incident is to be deemed closed.

Coastal visits

The Group Leader will want to bear the following points in mind when assessing the risk of a coastal activity:

- Consider which areas of the terrain are out of bounds, and whether the risk assessment allows swimming in the sea;
- Group should keep to a safe distance from the cliff edge at all times – a “buffer zone” between the students and the hazard.
- Be aware that cliff falls can mean that cliff paths stop abruptly at the cliff edge;
- Do not allow students to ride mountain bikes on any route that is near a sheer drop e.g. coastal path or canal towpath.
- If the risk assessment indicates that the risk could be managed adequately, then there should be a small known group of skilled and experienced riders accompanied by appropriately qualified staff;
- Provide information and advice to the nature and location of hazards.

Swimming in the sea or other natural waters

Swimming and paddling or otherwise entering the water of river, canal, sea or lake should never be allowed as an impromptu activity. The pleas of children to be allowed to bathe – because it is hot weather, for example, or after kayaking exercise – should be resisted where the bathing has not been prepared for. In-water activities should take place only when a proper risk assessment has been completed and proper measures put in to control the risks. The activities should be formal and supervised.

It is good practice that, wherever possible, Group Leaders seek out recognised bathing areas that have official surveillance i.e. qualified lifeguard cover. But, even then, Group Leaders should be aware that students might mingle with members of the public and be lost to view. Students should always be in sight and reasonable reach of their supervisors.

The Group Leader should:

- be aware that many children who drown are strong swimmers;
- ascertain for themselves the level of the students' swimming ability;
- check the weather;
- be aware of the local conditions – such as currents, weeds, rip tides, a shelving, or uneven or unstable bottom – using local information from the lifeguard, coastguard, harbourmaster, police or tourist information office;
- be aware of rocks, breakwaters and other potential hazards;
- look out for warning signs and flags: a red flag means it is unsafe to swim: yellow flags mean that lifeguards are on patrol in the area between the flags; a black and white flag means it is an area used by surfers and not suitable for swimming;
- designate a safe area of water for use by the group;
- brief the group about the limits of the swimming area;
- avoid crowded beaches where it is harder to see students;
- be aware of the dangerous effects of sudden immersion in cold water;
- be aware of the dangers of paddling especially for younger students;
- ensure that students have not eaten (at least half an hour) before swimming;
- ensure the activity is suitable for the students, especially any with special needs or disabilities;
- adopt and explain the signals of distress and recall;
- ensure that buoyancy aids, lifejackets etc, are used where appropriate;
- carry out regular head counts;
- be aware that it is not always possible to tell when someone is in difficulties.

Supervisors should:

- have clear roles – at least one supervisor should always stay out of the water for better surveillance;
- take up best position from which to exercise a constant vigilance;
- divide their careful watching between staff who stand in the sea and look landward towards the group and staff who stay on land and watch the group from that vantage point;
- give the children their full, undivided attention;

- always follow the advice or directions of a lifeguard;
- never swim themselves unless it is to help a child in distress;
- not join in any of the children's games;
- ensure that no child is allowed to wade out or swim further than his or her waist height;
- nevertheless, be aware that it is possible to drown in one's own depth, and to act immediately when a child appears to be in difficulties;
- ensure that children leave the water immediately if they get too cold, especially if toes and fingers look blue or feel numb -- could suggest the onset of hypothermia;
- recognise that a child in difficulty is unlikely to wave or shout – all of their energies will be in trying to keep afloat.

It is good practice for the Group Leader, or another designated adult in the group, to hold a relevant life saving award, especially where lifeguard cover may not be available.

Farm/Wildlife Park Visits

"There is a seasonal increase in the number of cases of E. coli 0157 infection, and there is a link between farm visits and infection in young children. This means that some simple and sensible precautions should be taken." – Chief Medical Officer – 12 April 2000

GL's should check the provision at the farm to ensure that:

- eating areas are separate from those where there is any contact with animals;
- there are adequate clean and well-maintained washing facilities;
- there is clear information for visitors on the risks and the precautions to take.

Ensure that:

- there is adequate trained adult supervision wherever children can come into contact with animals and need to wash their hands;
- all children wash their hands thoroughly immediately after touching animals and before any eating or drinking;
- Shoes are cleaned and then hands are washed on leaving the farm.

Never let students:

- place their faces against the animals;
- put their hand in their own mouths after touching or feeding the animals;
- eat or drink while going round the farm;
- eat or drink until they have washed their hands;
- sample any animal foodstuffs;
- drink from farm taps (other than in designated public facilities);
- touch animal droppings – if they do then wash and dry hands;
- ride on tractors or other machines;
- be in the farm area, or in other areas that are out of bounds such as grain storage tanks, slurry pits etc.

Safety tips for travel on the London Underground

Safety and security has always been our top priority. Following terrorist attacks on the Tube, we have implemented a number of additional security measures to complement those already in place.

Here's what we do to help keep the Tube safe:

- Each of our 275 stations has its own evacuation plan.
 - Every member of staff has had training in evacuation and safety procedures and are currently in high visibility clothing (as are police patrols, both BTP and Metropolitan at stations throughout central London).

- A thorough check of all public areas of the train is now being undertaken by the train crew in the course of their normal duties and this includes when changing ends at terminal stations, and when each train is entering or leaving service.
 - Extra staff patrols are at stations and additional search teams are currently on standby.
- There is close liaison between Tube, police, fire and ambulance services.
 - We hold regular emergency exercises, like Operation Dartboard in June 2005, and are constantly re-evaluating our evacuation procedures
1. You, our customer, also have a part to play in maintaining security.
 - Please be alert for any unattended bags or luggage. If you see something that looks suspicious, please contact the nearest LU staff member.
 - Please keep your luggage with you at all times – this helps us avoid unnecessary security alerts and delays
 - Please follow the instructions of LU staff in the event of any emergency - they are trained to ensure your safety.
 2. To encourage the public to help us keep the network safe:
 - We are undertaking additional PA announcements regarding keeping belongings with you and to reassure you when the train has to stop in a tunnel for longer than a few seconds.
 - We have engaged the media and called on you to be vigilant, keep belongings with you, and report anything suspicious to staff.
 - New posters have been produced to remind you to '*Help us keep the Tube safe*'
 3. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the Underground.
 4. Flash photography is not allowed.
 5. Please be prepared to take your litter and put it in a bin when you leave the system - this helps us to keep your stations and trains clean.
 6. Please be careful when you step on and off the escalator, especially when you are carrying luggage. Stand to the right and hold onto the handrail. Avoid standing near the edge of the steps.

Guidance on getting parental permission where necessary

If your trip involves any of the following you will need to obtain parental permission before the trip takes place:

- **A night or more away**

Doesn't matter whether this is in or out of term time. The key point is that the students are in our care.

- **A trip outside the United Kingdom**

Includes issues of health, insurances, visas etc. Almost always involves nights away too

- **A high-risk activity**

How to define 'High Risk'? Depends if you need specialist instructors / safely equipment to pursue the activity or / and there is a real increase above normal risk of getting hurt. Climbing and White-water rafting are High Risk. Going to Alton Towers is not. Going quad biking is, Go-karting in supervised arena is somewhere in between. If in doubt, ask for permissions

- **An expensive activity**

Parents do not always share their offspring's view of what can 'go on the bill'. Permission from parents must be sort for any trips costing £30 or more.

How does permission help us?

- Parents know what is involved and agree to it, greatly reducing the possibility that they will take action against us if something does go wrong despite our best efforts.
- There are no ambiguities about parental willingness to pay. You do not want to organise an expensive trip based on student enthusiasm, only to find that the parents won't pay and your trip becomes unviable.
- To give parents the opportunity to tell us about any change of contact details, medication issues etc, which will improve our risk control.

What should I send, when etc?

You should send parents:

- **a covering note / email**

Explaining briefly what the trip is about, including dates, the cost, and what you require them to do, and by when

- **a description of the trip**

Going into reasonable detail, purpose where you will be staying, brief description, plus activities to be undertaken, travel arrangements, staff supervisors etc. We suggest enough detail so the parent has a clear idea of what they are signing up to. You should make sure you describe any high-risk aspects and how those will be kept as safe as possible.

- **a form to complete and return to you**

Agreeing to the trip and its cost, disclosing any concerns, health issues etc. See overleaf for a suggested text.

Send the permissions request as early as possible because sometimes parents are slow to respond, and you may not be able to firm up arrangements until you know you have the consents. **You certainly cannot take a student for whom you have not received the consent for which you have asked.**

We suggest that you:

- Use email if possible. Ask your students for their parent's email address, but do check that the parents are happy to receive the information in the form of a Word format attachment – not all parents have Microsoft software to hand.
- Alternatively, FAX. If neither is possible, use the mail, but beware of delays overseas.
- Tell the student what you are doing. Give them a copy. Tell them it is up to them to get the permission turned round fast.
- Request replies by FAX – in exceptional circumstances we may accept email (check with DP)
- Be ready to chase, send reminders etc.
- Permission from an official guardian is OK, but do check that the person is on our files as the official guardian

Suggested cover letter / email

"Dear <parent or guardian name>,"

Permission for trip: information needed from you

I am writing to let you know that <**student name**> has expressed interest in joining a trip I am organising. I've given details on the attached sheet, but briefly, the trip involves <**a few lines of description, dates, costs**>.

Because the trip involves <**overnight stay / risky activity / overseas / cost – whichever apply**> I must have your written consent before I can include <**student name**>. It will also help planning a safe and enjoyable trip if you can let me know of any medical issues I should take account of: allergies, illness, any medication your child is currently taking etc. I'm aware that you will already sent CCSS a medical history, but I need to have the most recent information you can give me, and to know about any other concerns you may have.

I also need to confirm whether the contact details we currently use for communications to you are the correct ones to use for the period of the trip. This will ensure that we can contact you quickly if we need to.

Please contact me if you require any further information about the trip and how we intend to control identifiable risk.

I would be grateful to have your reply no later than <date> to enable me to confirm the trip. Please send your reply by FAX if possible, to 01223 517530, or by email to: <your address> or by post.

Yrs etc”

Suggested consent form wording

“I agree that <name of child> may take part in the forthcoming trip to <where>, due to take place between <dates>. I agree with the information I have received on the details of the trip and I am aware of CCSS’ general policy on trips management as described in the Parents’ Guide. .

Please complete the following information:

Information required	Yes	No	Details
Conditions requiring medical treatment (include medication)			
Any allergies, including to medication.			
Passport No.			
European Health Insurance Card number.			
Do you agree to your son daughter receiving emergency medical treatment including blood transfusion and anaesthetic			

Contact details:

Name	
Address	
Work telephone number	
Home telephone number	
Mobile telephone number	
Other emergency contact numbers and names	

Name of parent or guardian (please print)*

Signature..... Date.....

*If you are signing as guardian, we would be grateful if you could ensure that the student’s parents are aware of the trip details

Please return to <details> NO LATER THAN <date>.

Guidance on student rules of behaviour

[Copy to be sent to Parents with letter asking for consent]

There are two main reasons for staff at CCSS organising trips:

1. To help you with/enhance your academic course of study
2. To help you enjoy activities that are outside your normal course of study

Trips often mean that everyone will be going into unfamiliar environments. This means that we must respect those environments, the people we meet and their associated laws and culture. Each one of us has a 'duty of care' to everyone else in the group. That means we must look out for and not do anything that will hurt, upset, inconvenience or put each other at risk. It also means that we must extend that duty of care to people that we meet in the course of our trip. Please read below what we expect from you and make sure you understand the points before you sign at the bottom of the page to say that you agree to follow them. Needless to say – if you cannot agree it will not be sensible for you to come on the trip.

1. Much of the planning will be done as a group but there will be specific activities that are planned at which you must attend and take part.
2. You cannot go off and 'do your own thing'. No one will be allowed to leave the group or go out on their own unless there are good, specific reasons and it has been agreed by the Group Leader.
3. You must always meet at the agreed places at the agreed times.
4. Make sure that you know the emergency contact numbers for the staff with your group.
5. We expect you to behave like ambassadors for the college. Be courteous to others, respect local customs and cultures and do not do anything to bring the college or yourself into disrepute.
6. You will be unfamiliar with local laws and custom. In addition to your liberty, your health and safety (and the safety of others) may be compromised if you consume alcohol or become associated with illegal activities or substances. Alcohol may only be consumed if agreed by the group leader and with the written permission of your parents. In all aspects, you should assume that normal college rules apply throughout any trip or visit.
7. If you have a problem with your accommodation or anybody you encounter do not try to solve it yourself – see a member of staff.
8. If there is free time we must know that you are safe. To make sure of what we expect you must:
 - (i) ask the group leader if you can go out and not go out alone
 - (ii) ensure you are back when expected and contact us if there is a problem
 - (iii) ensure you are accompanied by a member of staff if it is dark

These are very important points. If they are not followed we will:

- (i) contact CCSS within an hour of a student not being at an agreed place on time
- (ii) contact the local police if a student is missing for two hours
- (iii) send you home if you are jeopardising the safety and well being of the trip

9. In case of an emergency you must stay with the group and report to the Group leader immediately. Do not contact other people until allowed to do so by the Group leader.

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE

SIGNED..... NAME IN CAPITALS.....

GL Procedure & Equipment Check List

The Group Leader should check that following are complete / in order / done. A copy of this checklist should be completed and given to DP before trip departure.

GROUP LEADER NAME	
Procedure, information, equipment	Yes / No /n/a
PERMISSIONS You don't have to take the permissions forms with you on the trip.	
PARENT CONTACT DETAILS LIST Use the emergency contact for problems.	
ANY BOARDING ISSUES If students will need to stay in Houses outside normal term, or very early start, late back etc	
MEDICAL INFORMATION From College Nurse	
BEHAVIOUR INFORMATION Form tutors or DP	
TRIPS FORM	
INSURANCE Check that our normal insurance covers your trip.	
MINI- BUS Operations Manager	
CCSS Trip Bag Collect this from the offices at SV or (BP)	
CCSS OFF-SITE VISITS FILE - SHAREPOINT	
OFF-SITE VISIT RISK ASSESSMENT A copy must be reviewed by the college health and safety manager and given to DP and you must take a copy with you.	
PHOTOCOPIES OF PASSPORTS Staff as well as students. Suggest you include a copy of UK visa if the student has one. Lodge a copy of each passport and visa with DP.	
MAPS AND SITE INFORMATION, TRAVEL DETAILS, TICKETS ETC	
ITINERARY OF TRIP All travel times, companies, excursions and activities to be handed to DP	
SUFFICIENT CASH / CREDIT CARD If necessary talk to the Finance Director about the best way to ensure you have adequate emergency funds	
TORCH	
BOTTLED WATER	
INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS To be given at a briefing meeting 5 days before departure. All students on the trip must sign a summary of briefing confirming that they have attended the meeting and understand all topics mentioned in the briefing meeting. Briefing should include a written sheet with guidance, expectations, emergency numbers etc. Make sure your students understand it, have a few spares with you too.	
ID CARDS GIVEN TO STUDENTS	
24HR SUPERVISIONS DECIDED (Overnight stays & trips abroad)	
OTHER	

Student Emergency Contact Sheet

THIS MUST BE KEPT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES

STUDENT NAME.....

STAFF CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

NAME	NUMBER
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

CCSS TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01223 716890

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER (if contact with staff not possible):

NAME	NUMBER
.....
.....

College Address:

Cambridge Centre for Sixth-form Studies
4-5 Benet Place
Lensfield Road
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1EL
ENGLAND

Tel: 0044 (0)1223 716890
Fax: 0044 (0)1223 517530
Email: office@ccss.co.uk

Disclosures

The more relaxed, informal environment of a trip, albeit a day or a week, can lead to students talking more freely about a variety of topics including those that they would not normally broach. Sometimes these informal talks can lead to a 'disclosure' that, although given in a very informal atmosphere, must be taken seriously.

The GL must be familiar with the Safeguarding Policy and act accordingly by contacting the DSL as soon as possible by mobile.