

# Outdoor Education and School Trips Update

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

The current [advice from DfE](#) advises against any overnight educational visits at this stage but does enable some non-overnight domestic visits to take place, however it is important that schools ensure these visits are compliant with COVID 19 measures. There is a generic [Covid19 offsite visits risk management document](#) that should be referred to for planning all visits and the [OEAP National Guidance](#)

Below is a FAQ that is accurate at the time of writing.

## Can visits in my local area take place?

Yes, these should involve walking to and from the destination, the school should ensure that they are following the normal policy and operating procedures and generic [Covid19 offsite visits risk management document](#). You must where possible operate in your bubbles at all times.

## Do you have any support documents to help schools deliver outdoor learning onsite or in the local area?

Yes, there are many resources available a [resource list](#) has been created in partnership with Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development.

## Can we continue with our UK based residential?

Currently the DfE is advising against residential trips for the autumn term '*In the autumn term, schools can resume non-overnight domestic educational visits.*' Before cancelling such visits you are advised to consult with the provider to see the terms in place for a cancellation, also consult with your insurers. ESCC insurers can be contacted on 0800 917 7207 (option 2).

## Can we continue with our Overseas visits as FCO states we can travel to some countries?

No, under current DfE guidance international travel is not permitted for schools at this time. However before cancelling such visits you are advised to consult with the provider to see the terms in place for a cancellation, also consult with your insurers. ESCC insurers can be contacted on 0800 917 7207 (option 2).

## Can we book futures visits?

It is important to be mindful that advice relating to schools trips could change and current restrictions could be in place for a significant time. When considering future day trips, please ensure you discuss with the provider the terms and conditions of the booking, especially the cancellation aspect, and discuss with the provider issues relating to Covid19 such as needing to cancel at last minute due to the implementation of restrictions. The insurance industry may consider restricting cancellation cover in future travel policies to exclude pandemic flu causes and therefore this should be considered before committing to future bookings. This clearly will have an impact on the school's decision to book future trips and so this should be raised with the tour operator to see if they can change their terms to offer refunds in this scenario. It is advisable at this time not to consider booking new residential or overseas visits until DfE guidance has been revised as this could place the financial pressure on the school or parents in the event of cancellation and cause unnecessary distress to the students.

## Should we continue to make payments for visits in the Autumn term?

No, given that the DfE advice is not to undertake residential trips as yet, we would not expect schools to risk further financial loss and therefore we would suggest that before cancelling such visits, you are advised to consult with the provider to discuss the remaining payment terms and cancellation options available to you. Our view is that you are entitled to a full refund of monies paid to date if the trip is unable to proceed due to DfE or FCO advice. You should not make any further payments if the trip is due to depart during the Autumn term. ESCC insurers can be contacted on 0800 917 7207 (option 2). At this stage it is unclear whether insurance claims can be made for trips commencing from the Autumn term and we are working with insurers to clarify this. We would advise you to contact ESCC insurers directly to discuss the situation on 0800 917 7207 (option 2).

## Can we still complete a DofE expedition if they are sleeping in their own tents?

The DofE have released what they consider to be acceptable adaptations for expeditions that can be implemented until summer 2021, however it is important that you consult with your employer or technical adviser before making any plans.

ESCC advise that it is not appropriate under the current DfE guidance for overnight expeditions to take place, this includes camping in their own tents. Please refer to generic [Covid19 offsite visits risk management document](#) before planning any expeditions.

## Can we camp over on the school grounds?

Under the current DfE guidance overnight stays are not allowed and this includes sleepovers or camping on the school site.

## If a visit can take place and a parent withdraws their child will they be entitled to their money back?

As the parent and the school have entered into a contract when booking the visit, it is typical for deposits to be non-refundable. It may be possible that some of the remainder of the balance can be refunded however this will come down to the terms that have been agreed when booking. Any financial loss due to a parent withdrawing their child will not be covered under the insurance policy as this is disinclination to travel.

## Can sports fixtures take place?

AfPE has produced a document [COVID-19: Interpreting the Government Guidance in a PESSPA Context: A practical self-review tool for risk assessment](#) which should support you in assessing and planning appropriate Physical Education School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA). As PESSPA is meant to take place within the confines of bubbles it therefore implies that PE fixtures at present should not be taking place.