



Patrician Presentation Secondary School

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"Our mission is to encourage all pupils to reach their potential in a caring and Christian environment"

Foreign Tour Policy

Introduction

Patrician Presentation Secondary School has a duty of care to all its students and to school personnel. We seek to safeguard the welfare of students while on foreign school tours and also to support school personnel who accompany students.

Approval

The Tour Leader must obtain permission from the Principal and the Board of Management to take students on a school tour. An outline of the tour, including travel dates, tour company details, travel insurance, the total tour price and the general tour itinerary, must accompany the request for permission of the Board of Management.

The Tour Leader must ensure that:

- Every reasonable step be taken to ensure the safety of all tour members. Students must not be placed in situations which expose them to an unacceptable level of risk.
- There should be appropriate and adequate supervision for each activity undertaken on the tour, supervision is at the discretion of the Tour Leader.
- The ratio of adults to students – At least 1 teacher for every 15 students travelling. (e.g. 32 students = 2 teachers; 40 students = 3 teachers.)
- Child protection procedures are in place in line with the DES guidelines and the relevant child protection procedures put in place by Patrician Presentation Secondary School.
- Parental consent forms have been issued and returned signed; the onus is on

parents to return all completed documentation and failure to do so may mean that a student may not be permitted to travel.

Students must present an up to date EHIC card to the Tour Leader when payment of the deposit has been forwarded to the tour company.

- Suitable arrangements have been made for the medical needs of all pupils.
- He/she is in possession of the following information:

a) Details of medical conditions.

b) The student's GP's name, address and telephone number.

c) Written details of any medication required (including instructions on dosage/times) and parental permission to administer same.

- First aid provision is available. The medical kit should always include a thermometer and the medical conditions of all participants, the information being acquired from the Parents/ Guardians.

- Parents/Guardians are sent the following information:

a) Dates and times of departure and return – parents/guardians must have agreed to meet their student on return.

b) Details of accommodation such as hotel or exchange family name, address and telephone number.

c) Names of Tour Leader, of other staff and of other accompanying adults.

d) Standards of behaviour expected in respect of, for example, alcohol, smoking and general group discipline.

e) Details of insurance taken out for the group as a whole, and whether parents/guardians need to arrange additional cover.

f) Details on the cost of the tour including methods and deadlines for payments.

All payments are to be considered non- refundable including the final payment.

It would also be expected that all teachers travelling would have appropriate experience of

supervising students of the relevant age on the tour.

Notice to Parents:

1. Once permission has been granted by the Board of Management the parents/guardians of the selected group/year/class should receive a circular outlining the general nature of the proposed tour. In as far as possible, all the students in the target group should receive the circular on the same day.

2. The circular should specify:

- The itinerary and duration of the tour.
- The full costs involved and the method of payment (deadlines etc.).
- Information regarding insurance and indemnity.
- The general rules of behaviour to be observed (detailed rules to follow).
- If the numbers are limited and a deposit is required to secure a place.

3. Parents should also be made aware, through the circular, of their duty to inform the school of any relevant Health or Safety issues which might affect their children while on tour.

4. The signed consent/permission of parents/guardians is an essential pre-requisite for the participation of any student on the tour.

5. Parents pay a non-returnable deposit. It is made clear to parents that this deposit is nonreturnable and that students will not be taken if their behaviour is unacceptable or unsafe in the interval before the tour takes place to the date of departure.

6. All students must complete the Application form for the tour

7. Partaking in school tours is a privilege not a right, students who misbehave in school or on previous tours/visits/outings may be refused participating in this and future school tours or outings.

8. Transition Year students who don't go on the Specific Transition Year Tour will not be considered for inclusion on the foreign school tour.

Meeting Parents:

Preferably in the week before departure, a meeting of the parents of all students going on the tour should be held. Where possible, all students and staff travelling should attend this meeting as well. A representative of the Tour Company may also be invited to the meeting to address parents.

The following information should be given to parents at this meeting:

1. A detailed itinerary – dates, times, locations, hotels, addresses, contact phone numbers etc.

2. Advice on a reasonable daily allowance, in the currency of the country to be visited, for each student to bring.

3. Advice as to how best students can safeguard their money when on tour.

4. Parents should also use the meeting to provide the Tour Leader with written information on the form provided about the student/s medical background.

- Where a student requires constant or regular medication specific written details must be given to the Tour Leader. Parents/guardians may request a private meeting at another time to inform the Tour Leader about the illness and the manner in which the medication should be administered.

- The Tour Leader should establish if a non-medical person can administer the medication.

- Each parent/guardian must fill in a form which includes medical history, contact numbers, allergies and medication to be taken. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that a student has medication sufficient to last the entire Tour.

- In the event of a medical emergency/dental emergency while on tour it may be necessary for a member of the Tour Team to act in loco parentis. The following agreement should be issued to all parents/guardians and must be signed prior to the tour.

- We, the tour leaders (named below) will act on medical advice presented to us if in the event of an accident or emergency and it is not possible to contact parents, guardians or next of kin either by phone or due to time considerations.

Before the tour leaves parents/guardians must specify in writing the person/s they wish the Tour Leaders to contact in the event of parents/guardians being unavailable. In the event of an emergency parents/guardians will always be contacted first.

Contact Information:

A school emergency contact has been nominated, the Tour Leader and the Principal have these details. The Tour Leader should also ensure that all those accompanying the trip and school Contact Person have a copy of the agreed emergency procedures and the names of all members of the group, with emergency contact details of parents/guardians or next of kin.

The Tour Leader must ensure that complete contact information is left on file in the Office, available for use in the event of an emergency.

The list should include:

1. Names, addresses and home contact numbers of all those going on the Tour.
2. Full details of the itinerary, hotel addresses, phone numbers etc.
3. A contact number, day or night, for the Tour Leader(s).

Student Code of Behaviour:

The Code of Behaviour is to be observed by all students. The Code itself should be positive and consistent with the objectives of the Tour and with the age and level of maturity of the students involved.

The Principal/Deputy Principal will meet with the students prior to departure and outline the Code of Behaviour as follows:

1. Students must adhere to the school rules at all times where they are applicable.
2. Students must adhere to the Tour dress code as set down by the Tour Leader.
3. Students must follow the rules of the hotel, hostel or other type of accommodation where they are staying.
4. Students must be well behaved on public and/or private transport while on tour.
5. Students are responsible for leaving seats on all forms of transport in a tidy condition.
6. Students are responsible for leaving their bedroom tidy.

The Tour Team should check all rooms before students have access to them and make a note of any damage done prior to their arrival. Vacated rooms should also be checked for damage.

Sanctions on Tour:

Should a student be guilty of minor misbehaviour, the incident should be dealt with in a swift and firm manner and a verbal warning may be all that is needed. The Tour Leader may, however, feel that specific sanctions are required such as:

1. The student missing a half-day's activities (not, however, an activity related to health and safety).
2. The student missing out on a specific activity e.g. bowling.
3. The student missing an evening activity e.g. disco.

If a sanction is being imposed, it must be made clear to the student why it is being imposed.

A student prevented from attending an activity must be supervised by a teaching member of the Tour Team for the duration of the activity. Further sanctions may be imposed when

the student returns to school e.g. the student may be banned from involvement in future tours.

Examples of 'serious misbehaviour' include:

1. Use/possession of alcohol.
2. Use/possession of illegal substances (drugs etc.)
3. Use/possession of cigarettes.
4. Misuse of legal substances (lighter fluid, type etc.)
5. Disruptive behaviour on coach, plane, boat or in the hotel/hostel.
6. Lack of respect for accommodation rules.
7. Lack of respect for Tour Team or any other supervising adults.
8. Theft or criminal damage to property of others etc.

Where a student is guilty of 'serious misbehaviour' the Tour Leader may decide to phone the student's parents/guardians to provide them with details of the incident/s.

In on-going and extreme cases of dangerous and/or gross misbehaviour a student may be sent home at the expense of the parents.

In the event of this happening, the parents/guardians will be informed and if necessary a teacher will travel home with the offending student. The Tour Leader will decide which teacher accompanies the student home.

In the case of a serious/criminal incident (shop lifting, a violent attack etc.) the parents/guardians will be informed immediately and the matter will be handed over to the local police authorities.

Incidents of serious misbehaviour must be reported to the Principal/Deputy Principal on return to school.

Payment

The school will use a licensed tour operator or travel agent to arrange the travel package including accommodation and other services. All monies will be paid directly to the tour operator or travel agent, not to school staff or event coordinator.

Compliance ensures that the event is covered by the relevant bond held by the tour operator or travel agent with the Commission for Aviation Regulation as part of the annual licensing requirement. If for any reason the license holder ceases to trade, it is imperative that the tour operator or travel agent chosen to arrange the overseas trip holds a current license.

All school tours travelling outside of the Republic of Ireland must be booked through a bonded licensed travel agent or tour operator from the approved list on www.aviationreg.ie

Payments from students should be made directly to the travel agent or tour operator and not collected through the school. Many tour operators and travel agents can accept payments electronically or by cheque and cash.

The tour leader will work closely with the tour operators in establishing procedures to ensure the school retains full control of the tour.

Information retained at the school.

Full details of the visit should be retained at the school while the tour is in progress.

This should include:

- a. the itinerary and contact phone number/address of the group.
- b. a list of group members and their details.
- c. contact names, addresses and phone numbers of the parents/guardians.
- d. copies of parental consent forms.
- e. copies of travel documents, insurance documents, medical papers.

f. a copy of the contract with the tour company/hotel etc.

It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure that this information is available at all times, particularly if the tour takes place when the school is closed.

Prohibition

Going on a school tour is a privilege and not a right. Students who misbehave in class /school forfeit the right to participate in the school tour. It is at the discretion of the teachers going on the tour to decline a student's request to participate in a school tour. Up to the time of departure it shall remain the prerogative of the Tour Leader in consultation with the teachers going on the tour and the principal, to refuse a student's participation on the tour without a refund should the student's behaviour give cause for concern.

The consumption of alcohol by students is strictly forbidden for all tours.

Parents/Guardians should be made aware of this policy and put in writing that they have become so, before making any payment.

Prudence Code for Foreign Tours

Students on their own

A member of staff on his/her own should not be with an individual student on his own unless there is a window to the corridor or to a public place, others enter the room often or if it is a public room (e.g. a classroom or staff room) or they have told another member of staff that they need a private conversation there.

- If visiting students in rooms on their own, staff should leave the door open or tell another member of staff that they need to have a private conversation there.

- It is wise for members of staff on their own to avoid being in cars or on expeditions with students on their own unless another member of staff has been informed about it (e.g. visits to hospital).

Groups of students

Staff should not feel that lavatories, changing rooms, dormitories and showers are off limits but they should avoid being there with an individual student and they should exercise caution and sensitivity in these areas particularly.