

Friday 6th March 2020

Dear parents and carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Update 3

Some of you have enquired this week about prospective educational trips and visits that we have planned and what will happen if they are unable to go ahead due to the Coronavirus.

We have been informed by our French partner school that it is no longer possible for them to host next week's exchange. The parents of the students affected will be contacted individually by the MFL department in due course, outlining the insurance process.

At present all other planned trips will go ahead, unless we inform you otherwise.

Our insurers, Zurich Municipal, have offered the following clarification which I thought may be helpful to you if your child has a place on a school trip or activity and you have concerns about what may happen in the event of a cancellation:

'Your policy includes Cancellation, Curtailment, Extended, Re-Arranged or other Expenses up to the limits stated in the Policy Schedule for reasons beyond your control. However, the Policy also includes an exclusion relating to "disinclination to travel":

- If you were due to travel to an FCO (Foreign & Commonwealth Office) restricted area, we would expect the cancellation cover to operate as you should not travel against FCO advice.
- If you are unable to travel because the transport hubs have been closed, we would see this as a reasonable cancellation for reasons beyond your control. If you were due to travel back but are now unable as the transport hubs are closed, we would see this as an extension and reimburse reasonable costs.
- If you are due to travel to other areas, not restricted by the FCO guidance, we would expect you to continue with your travel plans. Your risk assessment should be updated to reflect the current health position and you should comply with any prevention or screening advice provided by the World Health Organisation and Public Health England'.

In short, if the World Health Organisation or Public Health England note a specific area is restricted (in the UK or abroad) then Zurich would see this as a reasonable cancellation for reasons beyond our control. However, if we decide not to go on a trip and there's no advice or warning regarding the location concerned, then it's unlikely our policy would cover cancellation and reimbursement.

Please follow this Zurich link for up to date information relating to Coronavirus: <https://www.zurich.co.uk/municipal/en-gb#Coronavirus>

We will be in contact with Zurich for further guidance as this situation continues to develop. If additional clarification is needed, regularly updated FCO advice can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

The Chief Medical Officers' advice is regularly updated, as this is still a changing and dynamic situation. If you have any concerns regarding the Coronavirus, please refer to the government guidance, which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

A Public Health England blog can also be followed at: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

I would like to thank you for your continued support and will continue to keep you updated with the situation in school.

Yours sincerely,

MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher

