THE SCHOOL JOURNEY ASSOCIATION

Child Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

As a member of ABTA, the leading travel industry body, we fully recognise that the safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility, and that the travel industry must play their part in the safeguarding of children. As such ABTA members ensure that people working in the travel industry are well-informed, appropriately trained, and armed with the skills to ensure children are safeguarded.

We at the School Journey Association believe that it is unacceptable for a child to experience any kind of harm, exploitation or abuse and acknowledge that it is our duty to safeguard children while on educational trips. We are committed to ensuring a safeguarding practice that complies with statutory responsibilities and best practice.

The welfare of children carries the utmost importance. - All children, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, or beliefs, equally have the right to be safeguarded from all forms of abuse, danger or harm.

2. Arrangements for Safeguarding of Children on School Trips

The School Journey Association, as an assured member of the School Travel Forum, conducts audits on all accommodation and transport used for trips. We ensure that all staff who come in to contact with children on residential trips are fully vetted and DBS checked. Therefore, child safeguarding measures are taken by ensuring that the necessary background checks for staff that have direct contact with children have been made.

Where a school group leader has shared information with the School Journey Association about a child, for the purpose of safeguarding arrangements during the trip and having obtained the necessary parental consent, then this information is considered by us to be confidential and is securely stored.

The Management and dedicated Tours Consultant organising the trip, together with any third-party staff that we may need to disclose any necessary safeguarding information to, are made fully aware of the confidential and sensitive nature of the information. This information is used purely for the purpose of delivering the educational trip and any services provided in a safe, secure and effective manner.

3. Supporting Procedures for Safeguarding

We offer an Incident Report form to all school group leaders and any incident or allegation of harm or abuse against a child, while on an educational trip will be treated very seriously and as a priority by the Management and Staff of the School Journey Association. We will fully investigate any incident reported to us in a sensitive and appropriate manner with all parties who may be concerned, and in liaison with the school.

Where any information regarding an allegation of child harm or abuse reported to us, this will be kept strictly confidential, as appropriate, and stored securely. Any reported concerns, and allegations of abuse and harm will be taken seriously by the School Journey Association, and responded to appropriately with follow up action, including a referral to the child's School, Local Education Authority and Law agencies where relevant and necessary.

We contact group leaders whilst on their trip both mid-tour and post-tour offering them the opportunity to raise any concerns that they may have regarding the safeguarding of children and allowing for remedial action, if necessary, to be taken immediately

The Management and Staff of the School Journey Association are regularly updated on UK and international Child Safeguarding legislation and guidance through membership with the School Travel Forum, by attending relevant ABTA training and online learning, and via the Department for Education guidance.

Continuous and regular audit checks and vetting of all accommodation and transport providers used by the School Journey Association, ensures that adequate safeguarding standards are maintained by the third parties that we use for children attending school trips.

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