

Threat from Terrorism

On the 23rd May 2017 the threat level for international terrorism in the UK was increased to CRITICAL. This means an attack is expected imminently. Below is some practical advice for Schools conducting off site visits.

The general advice is to continue as planned, but:

- be especially vigilant (staff should be this anyway);
- keep an eye on the news for any changes;
- avoid any areas which the Police state to avoid;
- ensure that you have a 'Plan B' in place for the day, if necessary;
- continue to undertake due diligence and dynamic risk assessment.

Below is:

- the National Guidance document on 'Visits and threats from terrorism' – taken from www.oeapng.info;
- the National Police Chiefs Council 'Run, Hide, Tell' Advice
- some practical advice for leaders.

If you would like clarification, EVCs or Heads are welcome to contact me using the details below.

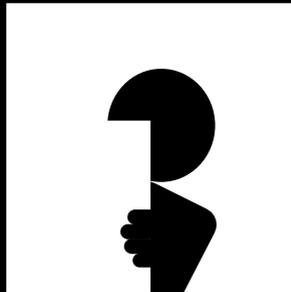
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Terrorism: Practical advice for school trips

- Consider increasing supervision ratios from normal arrangements. If for example small groups of older students are allowed to spend short periods of time indirectly supervised by staff, consider removing this additional freedom
- Stay alert to local and national news before and during
- Carefully consider the relative benefits of visits to religious or political venues and events that could be considered higher risk
- Assess the needs of SEND students and their ability to react and respond to dynamic situations
- Remind students to remain vigilant and alert, reporting anything suspicious to leaders
- Brief participants what to do if separated from each other in the event of a security incident. This should include designating specified physical meeting points and contact telephone numbers for staff. Remember that mobile phones may not work in the immediate hours after an incident so it is additionally important to designate a meeting location.
- Consider providing all participants with a printed emergency contact card with the school's or office's landline telephone number on it and provide space for them to write down their own home landline number.
- Each Leader should carry a attendee list with all participant details, including medical conditions and next of kin noted
- Carry water (not just fizzy drinks!) and snacks on visits in case of travel disruption and long delays, especially in warmer months or climates
- Carry additional personal medication in case of long delays
- Be additionally vigilant in crowded places such as shopping centres and travel hubs

**IN THE RARE EVENT OF
a firearms or weapons attack**

RUN HIDE TELL



RUN to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then...

HIDE. It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally and only when it is safe to do so...

TELL the police by calling 999.

RUN HIDE TELL



At the moment, the issue of terrorist attacks is regularly in the news. But it's been on our agenda for much longer.

The police and security service have been working constantly to foil terrorist attacks for years, not months.

But we are not complacent about keeping you safe.

Due to events in the UK and abroad, people are understandably concerned about a firearms or weapons attack. These attacks are very rare but in the event of such an attack, it helps to be prepared.

Remember, attacks of this nature are still very rare in the UK.

So Stay Safe, and just remember the words:

RUN. HIDE. TELL.

To watch the Stay Safe film, visit
www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe

Information is vital. If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, trust your instincts and call the confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline on **0800 789 321**. Our specially trained officers will take it from there. Your call could save lives.

Always in an emergency, call **999**.



<http://oeapng.info>

Frequently Asked Questions – Visits and the threat from terrorism

What should we do about visits given the current threat of terrorist attacks?

The current global situation means that the possibility of being close to, or caught up in, a terrorist attack is a risk faced by us all. Like all risks this needs to be kept in perspective and managed in a thoughtful and proportionate way. To provide some perspective, the UK government identifies five levels of threat - from 'low' to 'critical'. Since 2006, when the levels were first published, it has never been below 'substantial' – the middle level.

When planning any off-site visit consider the likelihood of the destination, venue or transport hubs being at risk of a terrorist attack.

It is sensible to:

- Be aware of the latest news relating to your destination
- In the UK, know the current threat level (available at: www.mi5.gov.uk/home/the-threats/terrorism/threat-levels.html).
- When travelling abroad check the FCO website www.fco.gov.uk in the early stages of visit planning, at regular intervals and immediately prior to leaving.
- Consider the threat of terrorism as part of visit risk management and include it within visit emergency plans.

When visiting a major city, venue or event, where the risk of attack may be greater, consider within your planning:

- Possible safe areas or venues, near where you intend to be, that you could use as an emergency shelter.
- How to minimise waiting time at busy transport venues.
- How you would get away in an emergency, bearing in mind that the direct route and planned transport might no longer be an option. Are you aware of alternatives and can you access emergency funds to pay for them?
- The possibility of an enforced overnight stay and what this might entail – for example do you need a reserve of any critical medication?
- How the leadership team might manage an enforced group split.

During the visit:

- Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings – know where the exits are and where you would run to.
- When staying at any place for more than 30 minutes identify emergency meeting points in case the group is forced to move and becomes split.
- Avoid congregating too long around entrances to major public sites.
- At ports and airports don't linger unnecessarily on the public side of security screening.
- Be aware of the 'Stay Safe' principles: 'Run, Hide, Tell' and know what to expect if you encounter armed response officers (see point 2 in 'recognizing the terrorist threat': <http://tinyurl.com/pp4fxmu>)

Another useful source of information is the website of the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office>

If this link doesn't work, try <http://tinyurl.com/o5qjkvs>.

