



THE ROADMAP TO RESTART

FULL PROPOSAL

**Getting the School Travel
Sector safely restarted in 2021**

Prepared and presented by the School
Travel Sector Stakeholder Group
March 2021

STSSG Proposal



GUIDANCE

- Phased restart of educational visits in line with the new Government Roadmap
- Step 1B – 29 March: Day and Local Educational Visits are permitted
- Step 3 – 17 May: Overnight Educational Visits are permitted with specific COVID-secure measures in place
- Step 4 – 21 June: Educational Visits can take place with revised COVID-secure measures, in line with Government requirements
- 1st September: International Educational Visits are permitted
- Amended guidance to enable planning and booking of educational visits, including international, from 29 March 2021 for future travel



SAFETY

- All school travel providers to meet COVID-safe Charter
- Sector to adhere to new COVID-secure protocols that provide in-depth guidance for providers on reducing the risk of transmission
- All providers to ensure visits are carried out in accordance with Government's school bubbling policy, until Step 4
- Compliance and oversight to be managed through the existing, unique health and safety infrastructure such as CLOtC Quality Badge, AALA and the OEAP



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Extension of Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to 30 September 2021
- Access to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Culture Recovery Fund via a new Culture Recovery Fund for School Travel Providers of £50m
- Improved access to existing BEIS grant funding through Local Authorities, such as the Local Restrictions Support Grant
- Sector-wide agreement with HMRC on Time to Pay



INSURANCE

- Develop and launch a Government-backed School Travel 'Indemnity' to cover pre-trip cancellation due to COVID-19 for domestic educational visits travelling from 28 March 2021 and international educational visits travelling from 1 September 2021
- The indemnity would be available to all schools making new bookings, both domestic and international, post-Easter with providers that meet new Government guidelines, to be agreed with STSSG
- Clear guidance issued confirming process in relation to bookings to be cancelled as a result of Government guidance against travel for educational settings, e.g. international visits over Summer Term



COMMUNICATIONS

- Clear, positive communications around changes to Government guidance on travel for educational settings, including timely and proactive publication of the DfE Roadmap for Educational Visits
- Collaborative and positive promotion of educational visits by the Department for Education and STSSG members encouraging residential educational visits
- STSSG to remain operational and engaged with the Department for Education to manage the restart of educational visits and tackle sectoral inconsistencies highlighted by COVID-19



INTERNATIONAL

- Target the start of international educational visits in the 2021/2022 academic year
- Amended guidance to enable planning and booking of international educational visits from 29 March 2021 for the 21/22 academic year
- Financial support for the sector open to international visits providers
- School Travel 'Indemnity' for new bookings to be undertaken in the 2021/2022 academic year

Proposed Timeline



November 2020

**DfE November Review of Guidance
Creation of STSSG**

December 2020/ January 2021

STSSG consultation process

Ongoing consultative process between STSSG, DfE, DCMS, RPA and PHE to develop proposal and action key workstreams on financial support, safety and insurance



February 2021

8 February – STSSG Initial Proposal Submission

Full and final draft of the proposal to be submitted to the DfE for consideration ahead of the Review of Guidance

28 February – First DfE Review of Guidance
Initial deadline for review of DfE guidance with clear communications on the intention to set out the roadmap in Mid March, the need to engage with providers, as well as additional financial measures that can be announced.

March 2021

2 March – STSSG Final Proposal Submission

15 March – DfE School Travel Roadmap

Key decision deadline for the DfE to change guidance for a phased restart of domestic educational visits and the booking of international educational visits

Joint DfE/STSSG Communication of Roadmap

Joint communication to schools and sector to explain the roadmap and outline timeline

STSSG Guidance and Procedures Finalisation

Finalise guidance and Procedures for providers ahead of phased restart

29 March – Step 1B – Proposed Restart of Day and Local Educational Visits



April 2021



School Travel Indemnity Implementation (available for the Start of the Summer term)

Government delivery of School Travel Indemnity to support future bookings of both domestic and international educational visits

12 April – Publication of Travel taskforce Review into International Travel

19 April – Summer Term Start



May 2021

1 May - DfE Review of International Educational Visits Guidance

Formal DfE review of guidance ahead of a potential September restart of international educational visits, to concern the cancellation of trips due to travel prior to 1 September and official change of guidance to allow for international educational visits for Academic year 2021/2022

17 May - Step 3 – Proposed Restart of Residential Educational Visits

Residential educational visits to go ahead as part of Step 3 in the Government's Roadmap with COVID-secure measures in place

June 2021



21 June – Step 4 – Proposed Expansion of Residential Educational Visits

Residential educational visits to begin operating with revised COVID-secure measures, in line with Government requirements



July 2021

15 July - DfE Review of International Educational Visits Guidance

Formal DfE review of guidance ahead of a potential September restart of international educational visits

August 2021



STSSG International Guidance and Procedures Finalisation

Finalise guidance and procedures for providers ahead of September restart



September 2021

1 September – Start of international educational visits subject to FCDO advice
1 September – Autumn Term Start

Side-by-Side Roadmap Comparison

Government Roadmap	'No earlier than...' Date	Relevant Permitted Business and Activities	Proposed STSSG Roadmap
Step 1 A	8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School attendance Wraparound care, including sport for children 	
Step 1 B	29 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised Outdoor Sport (children and adults) Outdoor sport and leisure facilities All outdoor children's activities Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents) 	Day and local educational visits to be permitted
Step 2	12 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children's activities Outdoor hospitality Most outdoor attractions Indoor parent and child groups Self-contained accommodation Domestic overnight stays 	
Step 3	17 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor hospitality Indoor entertainment and attractions Organised Indoor Sport Remaining Accommodation Remaining outdoor entertainment International travel Indoor events up to 1,000 people Outdoor seated events up to 10,000 people 	Residential educational visits to be permitted with COVID-safe guidance
Step 4	21 st June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining businesses, including nightclubs 	Residential educational visits to be permitted
Beyond	1 st September		International educational visits permitted

Impact

1. The school travel sector is a £700m+ sector, with around 200 operators spanning private, charity and local authority provision. Together, they account for 16,000 jobs (pre-pandemic) and deliver over 2m educational visits undertaken by young people annually. Educational visits represent 89% of turnover for the sector.
2. The current guidance against educational visits, in its various forms, has therefore been a disaster for the sector, with over £600m of revenue lost due to cancelled bookings. Companies are now closing on a regular basis, with 30 residential centres now permanently closed.
3. Three surveys of over 168 providers accounting for £590m off the sector's annual turnover were undertaken by the school travel sector

Impact of Delayed Restart

4. Summer Term 2021 represents the start of the majority of the sector's high season where considerable revenue is made. It also represents the Government's own target for mass vaccinations, school reopening and the end of furlough.
5. If the sector is unable to operate from this point, the sector will be one of the only in the UK to have been effectively closed and without revenue for 12 months. This would be catastrophic and result in further closures and significant job losses, permanently scarring the sector. The sector estimates any recovery from such an impact may take over 5 years.
6. As the STSSG has regularly conveyed, the sector's long lead in times have meant that Summer, though valuable, contains a significantly lower level of bookings to previous years. This Summer's bookings also mainly comprise of existing bookings that have been rolled as a result of ongoing guidance.
7. Even with a restart in the Summer Term, revenue levels will not return to close to previous run rates until Spring 2022, corresponding to the average lead





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School Travel Sector Stakeholder Group

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