

Mind the Gap

Duty of care - Are you really covered for your next off-site trip?



School trips are beneficial

Off-site trips provide clear benefits for pupils, creating new experiences and learning opportunities. Those benefits should always outweigh the risks associated with travel but unfortunately the extent of potential risks can be given the wrong emphasis in the media.

What is true, however, is that more can be done to cater for potential safety issues by preparing differently in advance of the trip and closing often unknown gaps in that preparation process.

“Those running school trips need to focus on the risks and the benefits to people – not the paperwork.”

– HSE*

What are some of those gaps, and how do we close them?



“We have insurance.”

Insurance is mandatory and seen as the catch-all safety net that mitigates the risk. However, like all insurances, it exists to help solve problems after they have occurred.

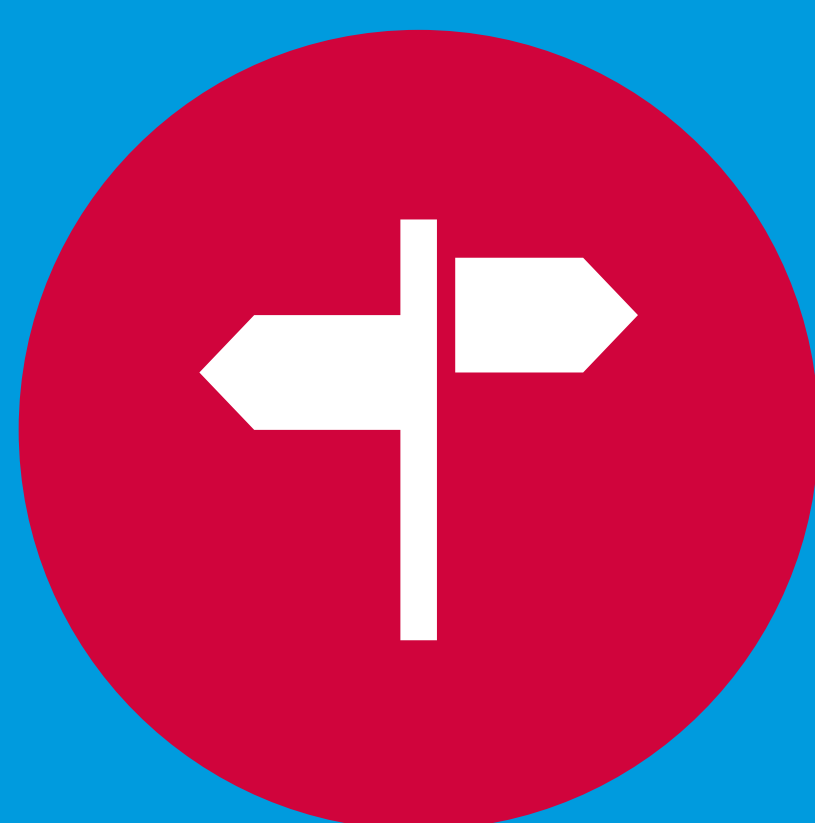
Insurance is a reactive solution, whereas effective risk management tries to pre-empt the problems in the first place through detailed assessments of known and unknown risks.



“We have a fixed itinerary”

Detailed planning of activities, timings for travel and accommodation, and overall logistics are crucial to a successful trip. The itinerary alone is often seen as the main way of knowing where people are – but only tells you where they should be, not where they actually are.

New technology enables different levels of location mapping that can be set in advance, adjusted and controlled throughout the trip in order to locate people to an individual level with personal preferences.



“We’re being guided on the trip”

Local knowledge throughout the trip can give assurance that each aspect of the journey will run more smoothly. However, the local people who are familiar with local environments, may not be aware of the specific impacts on people from other places.

Detailed briefings about the potential risks assessed on the specific needs of your pupils and teachers enables you to set detailed criteria that every part of the trip should meet.

Our Approach

We believe that effective and advance Travel Risk Management creates opportunity: to increase peace of mind and safety reassurance, but also opportunity to do more and enjoy new experiences that might previously have been discounted.

At Securewest, we provide a structured, advisory-led process that is tailored to the needs of your school and the trips you take – avoiding any unnecessary products or services that you don’t need.

Securewest currently support many education establishments including:



PREPARE

Travel Policy Review

We review your current travel policies and plans for any given trip, to identify the key details that are often missed:

- Is your current travel policy fit for purpose based on your travel plans?
- Does it fully cover your Duty of Care to pupils and teachers that will be travelling?
- Where are the gaps that exist in each key aspect of your trip: travel, accommodation, activities etc?
- What are the protocols in place for responding to incidents?
- How do you incorporate best practice at every level?

Pre-travel Guidance

Our extensive knowledge and continuous research means that we can provide detailed briefings about the country, environment and risks at a local level in advance of travel. This valuable information allows you to plan more effectively.



SAFEGUARD

SPHERE, Securewest’s intelligent travel risk platform, enables the seamless risk management of all aspects of travel for your school. Crucially, it can be tailored to meet your specific requirements, so you can take advantage of only features you need.

Intelligent Monitoring:

Tracking of pupils and teachers can be applied in different ways, based on the risk level of the travel destination and nature of activities, along with personal preferences. From passive monitoring based on a set itinerary and agreed check-ins, to locating people at an individual level – you can be assured of knowing where your people are.

Updates and Support:

Live travel updates can be provided to ensure your awareness of your environment is always up to date. Our Global Response Centre operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is there to provide support and advice anytime.

Technology:

The SPHERE app is a central tool available for teachers and trip leaders that provides advice and alerts, personal tracking and check-in functionality, two-way messaging and a quick call function to our Response Centre.



RESPOND

Through our Global Response Centre our experienced emergency responders will rapidly assist, managing and supporting your travellers following your agreed incident response protocols. We can link to other providers such as an insurance or healthcare company or offer full support incident management, so you only have a single point of contact.



What next?

To understand more about how Securewest can assist you with your Travel Risk Management, or to arrange a free assessment with one of our team, contact us:

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FREE ASSESSMENT