



24 May 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

UPDATE FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN MANCHESTER

After much consideration and in light of the upgraded national security warnings to “critical” level, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone all trips to Central London until this threat level is reduced. We will review police intelligence up to one week before trips planned between now and the end of July.

This decision has been taken in consultation with the Local Authority and other Harrow schools and we believe this to be in the best interest of our children, staff and parent helpers. The Local Authority has issued Headteachers this guidance:

“Re: Planning School Trips into London following the increased threat level to Critical.

Further to my earlier advice to suspend trips arranged to Central London Venues and iconic sites we have been monitoring advice and guidance to provide a steer to Head teachers. Ultimately the decision whether to send children on a school trip rests with the Head Teacher in consultation with parents, however at Harrow we feel that since schools are acting in loco parentis by taking children out of the school environment there is a need for clear central direction.

The current threat level in central London is ‘CRITICAL’ which is the highest it has been, in this situation whilst there is no specific ban on taking trips into central locations our advice is that at the moment such trips to central London or other iconic sites should not go ahead until more guidance is available.

At present the nature of any threat is not clear so it is difficult for individual schools to make an accurate assessment of the implications of a ‘CRITICAL’ level of threat without additional guidance. Until we have received this more specific guidance ourselves we are not able to provide the clarity you need so for the next few days we advise against travel into central London.”

To ask my staff or parent volunteers to take full responsibility for children beyond the classroom on any trip is a big ask, but they do so brilliantly. Add in a possible terrorist attack and I feel it is asking too much at present.

Recent events in Manchester have shocked us all, especially as young people were targeted, and we are providing as much support as we can for the children and staff at this time. We do not want to “give in” to terrorism, but the safety of our children is paramount and if the threat level is critical, I make no apologies for wanting to protect your children. In assemblies today we discussed and reassured children that they are safe and they should talk to any of us if they are ever worried about anything.

Trips outside of London will go ahead as planned.

We will refund parents if we cannot carry out a planned trip although this is likely to be at the school’s cost as the venues we go to will not always offer refunds. We will let you know in due course.

Please be assured that we are fully committed to the safety and well-being of everyone in our local community and thank you as always for your support.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or Seeta Mepani, Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely,



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