

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Staff,

RE: International travel

I am writing to clarify the government advice and school position on international travel during the summer holidays, the attendant quarantine risks and impact on employee responsibilities to be at work. I am reminding everyone that you will be expected to return to school from 1st September 2021.

If you have successfully managed to book a holiday abroad, please be aware it is your responsibility to understand the legislation and guidance around travel. Below is the formal stance that I have to apply.

- Current government guidance is very clear that people should not travel to [Red List countries or territories](#). However, should an employee set out to travel to or through a red list country, they will be doing so in full knowledge of the **requirement to quarantine** in an approved hotel on their return. Therefore, the period of that quarantine should be taken into account in order to ensure they are available to attend school on the first day of term,
- Current government guidance is very clear that people should not travel to [Amber List countries or territories](#). However, should an employee set out to travel to or through an amber list country, they will be doing so in full knowledge of the **requirement to quarantine** for ten calendar days (at home) on their return. Therefore, those 10 days should be accounted for in their leave plans ensuring they will be available to attend school at the start of the term.

From 19 July, people traveling to [Amber List countries or territories](#) will not need to quarantine on arrival in England or take a day 8 COVID-19 test, as long as you:

- have been fully vaccinated under the UK vaccination programme
- have not been in a red list country in the 10 days before you arrive in England

Fully vaccinated means that you have had your final dose of an approved vaccine at least 14 days before the date you arrive in England.

If you are **not fully vaccinated** under the UK vaccination programme, you will have to quarantine on arrival for ten calendar days (at home) and take both the day 2 and day 8 tests. Therefore, those 10 days should be accounted for in your leave plans ensuring you will be available to attend school at the start of the term.

- From 17 May 2021, travel has been allowed directly to / from [Green List countries](#). There is no requirement to quarantine on return but a COVID test must be taken on arrival or within two days of arriving back home:
 - If that test returns a positive result, then the employee will be **instructed to self-isolate**, in which case the current advice will apply: stay at home (working if possible, although this will not



Associate
School



be possible for many posts within the school and should be agreed prior to making any travel plans).

- If that test is negative or further tests return a negative result and they can return to work.

This applies to all travel and return to England, by train, ferry, coach, air or any other route.

If you have been in a country or territory on the red or amber list

- If you have also been in or through a country or territory on the [Red list](#) in the 10 days before you arrive in England, you must follow the red list rules.
- If you have also been in or through a country or territory on the [Amber list](#) in the 10 days before you arrive in England, and have not visited a country on the Red list, you must follow the Amber list rules.

Read about [making a transit stop in an Amber or Red list country or territory](#).

Countries moving to the amber or red list

- The government guidance is clear that if conditions change in a country or territory, it can be moved from the green list to the amber or red list and vice versa. If there is a sudden change in conditions, a country or territory may be moved between lists without warning.

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue to affect international travel for some time. No travel is risk-free, and many countries have closed their borders, restricted entry to UK travellers and introduced requirements for a negative test result and/or quarantine measures. Therefore, anyone can expect that any country may further restrict travel or bring in new quarantine rules at short notice, for example due to a new COVID-19 variant.

Employee responsibility

All staff at the school will want to guard the start of term carefully, considering the impact on children of the previous two academic years. Therefore, we recommend that you plan carefully, following local advice and avoiding any unnecessary risk wherever possible. If you have booked a holiday abroad, please inform me.

- Staff are reminded that under the current restrictions someone who has recently travelled abroad must follow relevant requirements to quarantine or self-isolate on their return. As a result, a staff member could be unable to attend school when contractually required to do so.
- **Staff should therefore check the requirements in advance to ensure that there is sufficient time to complete any period of quarantine or self-isolation before the return to work date. Any staff required to quarantine during term time, after returning from a holiday abroad, will have to take unpaid leave.**

If you have travel plan and have made a booking please inform me as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Owen
Headteacher