



Association *for*
Language Learning

President
Liz Black

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www.all-languages.org.uk

Following concerns expressed by:

- Headteachers
- Heads of language departments
- Teachers
- And students themselves

Meetings were held and information has been gathered

The Sutton Trust Press release on 26th April 2023 by Rebecca Montacute yields key data:

The proportion of senior leaders reporting that they have cut trips and outings has more than doubled since last year, at **50% compared to 21%** in last year's survey. Schools in the **most disadvantaged areas** were more likely to be impacted by cuts to trips, with 68% of leaders in the most deprived schools reporting cuts, compared to 44% in the least deprived, which gives a troubling picture about the failure of the levelling up agenda as concerns about accessibility were expressed.

Areas cut:	2022	2023
Teaching assistants	42%	63%
Trips and outings	21%	50%
IT equipment	27%	42%
Sports and other extracurricular activities	15%	26%
Support staff	33%	40%

Summary of evidence from case studies

International visits have clear educational outcomes for the learning of languages and not only raise motivation and achievement, they help with the development of key skills vital for adult life

Students see wider perspectives

Participating ensures that global thinking, tolerance and empathy develop.

But....case study information gathered suggests enormous barriers to the organisation are affecting different types of schools across the country.

The issues we are raising affect all international visits, not just those organised by teachers of languages.

Many teachers work together - planning Geography field trips, History and French visits to the Battlefields, Art and Spanish to Barcelona - Art/History and German to Berlin.

Senior leaders at some schools have taken a decision to cut trips abroad from the provision at their academy/school. This decision can affect a whole trust or academy chain.

The reasons given are:

- Too many issues regarding safeguarding
- Too much paperwork which is costly on staff administration time as it is too time consuming. Therefore costs rise enormously

Concerns were expressed about the new ETIAS system that parents and staff will have to navigate.

So, there is currently a risk

Trends in trusts and multi academy chains are moving away from organising international visits due to the large amount of work involved and rising costs.

“Teachers report great difficulties supporting students with applications for trips and exchanges”. *Natalie Boniface Head of Languages Faculty and International Schools Coordinator Hoe Valley School, Woking.*

Families have lost money as they couldn't obtain Schengen visas in time.

The costs for families have increased as have the difficulties with obtaining the correct paperwork, particularly for students' resident in Britain who do not have a British passport.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham

Nicola Chandler Head of Languages

Under Appendix D of Keeping Children Safe In Education; schools are now required to ensure all adult members in the household have had an Enhanced DBS check.

‘Under previous guidance we had to ensure a DBS check has been obtained or “other safeguarding measures” are in place, this more general term allowed us the freedom to utilise DBS checks that had been undertaken by other organisations, which helped us to reduce the burden of processing our own DBS check for every adult member of the household. We have been spending around 30-37 hours per trip, meeting with parents, copying and verifying documents, communicating and guiding them through the process, setting up accounts and performing all the necessary quality checks before the DBS applications can be submitted.

This administration time has increased to 40-47 hours per trip.

Parents have had difficulty obtaining appointments at offices.

They lose wages as they have to take a day off work to sort out the paperwork.

Recommendations

Review the costs for all students but particularly for disadvantaged students.

- Pupil Premium students given free passports - this aligns with the Foreign Office Policy of one document per person and will be valid for the new electronic border controls
- Further discount for children's passports (under 16years) Currently £53.50, an expensive requirement for travel
- Reinstate the 'List of Travellers Scheme' run by the British Council. It allowed children and young people on school trips to travel without a visa to enter other EU member states

Recommendations

Review the paperwork, particularly DBS checks.

- As border controls are being reviewed could discrepancies in entry requirements to European countries be considered?
- Foreign Office Country Desks request travel entry requirements for school visits from their counterparts in Europe and supply clear links to this information

Suggestions

- Civil servants to work on a joined-up approach
- Could a 'schools visits champion' be appointed?

Thank you for listening

We are all convinced that visits have the potential to be educational, indeed often life changing

We are keen to be part of the solution and can help with briefing schools



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