

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES - SAFETY POLICIES

We all want to have a safe and happy trip. These policies are in place to help everyone, and they are underpinned by a full set of risk assessments carried out in pre-trip planning in the UK and Lourdes, based on extensive experience in Lourdes. The risk assessments are available to see on request. Please read these safety policies before we travel. Thank you.

- 1. The BCYS group will be divided into smaller groups to give everyone an easy point of contact.** These groups will be a mix of young adults aged 15 (end of school year 10) - 18, and those aged 19+, with a minimum ratio of 10 young people: two small group leaders. All those aged 19+ will have completed DBS checks, in accordance with Diocesan policy for safe working with young people.
- 2. The nature of the trip means that everyone will be working with vulnerable adults.** At all times young people and leaders will be supported in this work, with experienced leaders and medical support readily available. Our work includes assisting pilgrims in wheelchairs, and the group will be given a full safety briefing on arrival at our accommodation in Lourdes.
- 3. We will provide each group member** with contact numbers for Gabriella Skinner (Events Coordinator) and Claire Bailey (Director of Youth Ministry) who are leading the trip. We will also provide a contact phone number for the hotels in Lourdes.
- 4. COVID-19.** We are constantly reviewing the latest COVID-19 advice from both the British and French government. We are doing this in consultation with the diocesan medical team and the Lourdes shrine authorities. We ask every participant on the trip to adhere to the latest public health guidance which we will summarise for you in the 6 weeks prior to the trip. Due to the close contact with vulnerable adults during this trip, we would advise that all those travelling are vaccinated. If you start showing symptoms of COVID-19 prior to travel please take an LFT. Anyone testing positive with COVID-19 at the point of travel will not be able to join the pilgrimage.
- 5. Medication.** All medication must be self-administered. Health and Safety Executive Guidelines mean that the first aiders on the trip are not permitted to administer medication. The small group leader should be aware of **prescribed medication**, and notified each time it is taken. **If medication is not prescribed** (travel sickness tablets, paracetamol, etc.) then the small group leader must be informed prior to tablets being taken. Medication such as this must belong to the young person – we are not permitted to give medicine to young people. We would contact a doctor to prescribe medicine if necessary, but it is best for young people to bring appropriate (i.e. relatively limited) quantities of such medicine with them if they think they will need it. For those who suffer from travel sickness it is good to be aware that we do have long coach journeys. Young people must not share their medication with anyone else. **In an emergency** all reasonable effort will be made to contact the family in the UK: should this not be possible, it is a requirement of the trip that Gabriella Skinner and Claire Bailey be delegated to give consent to emergency medical treatment as advised by doctors.
- 6. Banned substances** are strictly prohibited on the trip.
- 7. Stimulants** (eg. pro plus) are also strictly prohibited.
- 8. To minimise the risk of dehydration**, small group leaders will encourage the group to carry water bottles and drink water regularly.
- 9. For everyone's safety**, in free time group members should stay in groups of no less than three. **Name badges** should be worn at all times, including free time.
- 10. The trip is booked via a travel agent covered with ATOL and ABTA bonds.**



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