



St Mary's Church of England Primary School
an academy in the Good Shepherd Trust
Petworth Road, Chiddingfold, Surrey, GU8 4UF



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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Key Stage 2 Residential Trips

St Mary's School has a history of offering older children the chance to go on residential visits. They give children an opportunity to work outside the normal classroom environment which in turn helps develop children's independence, resilience and confidence.

Whilst recognising the clear benefits, we know that some parents have clear views about the age at which it is appropriate for their child to experience their first time away from home. We are also always conscious of the financial implication to parents and aim to keep costs as low as possible whilst taking into account health and safety restrictions and practical matters associated with transporting young children.

In recent years, there have been instances when trips have been cancelled because some parents thought they were too expensive. Conversely, this led to disappointment for others who were keen for the trip to go ahead.

I am, therefore, writing to all parents and carers of children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6 inclusive) to try to gain some insight into your preferences with regards to the school's future residential trips and visits.

Those of you with families that have been associated with the school for a long time may recall a history of children visiting Swanage and Sayers Croft. Over the years, changes have been made to the trips that have taken place; some of these changes have reflected class sizes and the imperative to keep costs down for parents and others have reflected the topics covered and interests and the enthusiasms of children and their teachers.

The School Leadership Team would like to review the whole issue of residential visits in order to create a policy that reflects the majority preference so that parents will have a better understanding of what to expect.

Respect,
Endeavour,
Achievement,
Creativity,
Happiness

If you would like your views to be taken into account, please complete the questionnaire attached and return to the school by Monday 16th November.

Even if your children are in Year 3 and not expecting to go on a trip this year, we would like to hear your views as your comments will help us to determine the best combination of residential visits for children in Key Stage 2.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

J. Radcliffe

Janis Radcliffe