

TABLETOP EXERCISE - COACH CRASH

Summary

This tabletop exercise is based on an emergency during an educational visit abroad. The scenario focuses on issues of communications, media pressure and responding to the concerns of parents / carers.

Accompanying footage (in the form of news bulletins) can be used for delivery of these injects. This footage is available online from:

www.schoolemergencies.info

This exercise is designed to last approximately one hour.

Approximate timings	Activity
5 minutes	Introduction to exercise
5 minutes	Inject 1 (optional footage online)
15 minutes	Group discussion
5 minutes	Inject 2 (optional footage online)
15 minutes	Group discussion
15 minutes	Debrief

Inject 1

Scenario time

Tuesday, 8.30am.

News bulletin

"We are just being updated on some breaking news. It has just come in that there has been an incident involving a British coach carrying a school party in France. It is not known at present if there are any fatalities but several children and adults appear to have been air-lifted to hospital. We are currently unable to confirm which school the party were travelling from. We will bring you more information on this story shortly."

Information

A group of 20 pupils and three staff are currently on an educational visit to France. They have been spending a few days in Normandy before travelling by coach to Paris. The leader of the trip is an experienced teacher who is used to leading educational visits. Accompanying her are two other teachers.

The headteacher (who has remained at home) has received a call from the educational visit leader to say the coach the party were in was involved in a crash. The educational visit leader is unharmed but a number of pupils and staff are injured, some seriously. Further details are unknown at this stage.

- + **What procedures does your school have in place for emergencies on educational visits?**
- + **Upon being informed of the incident, what actions should the school take?**
- + **Which organisations would the school need to contact for support?**
- + **Would parents / carers of affected pupils need to be contacted at this time? If so, how would they be notified and what should they be told?**
- + **Are any other actions required?**

Inject 2

Scenario time

Tuesday, 9.15am.

News bulletin

"It has been confirmed that the coach crash in France earlier today involved pupils and staff from a school who were travelling to Paris as part of their European history course. It is believed that the coach was travelling south-bound on the autoroute when it swerved, the driver lost control and the coach overturned as it careered into adjacent fields. Two pupils are said to be in a critical state with one member of staff said to be serious but stable. A further 10 pupils are being treated for injuries sustained during the crash. As yet the cause of the crash is unknown, the driver of the coach and another vehicle are being questioned by French Police."

Information

The school has been inundated with requests from parents / carers as to the welfare of their children. Many have turned up to the school to speak to the headteacher in person.

Pupils at school are also distressed; rumours have circulated that at least four people died in the crash. The media have arrived at the school and wish to interview a member of staff about the incident.

- + **What support can be provided to pupils and staff on the educational visit?**
- + **What support can be provided to relatives and friends of those affected?**
- + **What arrangements need to be established to respond to media requests?**
- + **Are any other actions required?**