

Foreword by Charles Clarke MP

International experience and educational visits bring many benefits and rewards. Thousands of young people in this country regularly take part in some form of educational exchange programme, either through the auspices of their schools or through private arrangements. It is for this reason that I am very pleased to contribute to a few words in support of the work carried out by Chief Superintendent Gould and his team.

In recent years, we have joined forces with colleagues in other Government Departments to promote the welfare and safety of young people on educational exchange programmes. We have co-operated in the effort to alert all concerned of the crucial need to safeguard young children during their stay in foreign countries. The guidelines outlined in this booklet are meant to draw attention to what may appear to be common-sense precautionary measures, while at the same time maintaining a clear sense of perspective.

My Government will continue to play our role in protecting our young children from abuse. However, this booklet should serve as an invitation for all concerned including parents, teachers, travel operators and school governors to share in the joint responsibility of creating a safe environment for our young children.



The Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Secretary of State
Department for Education and Skills



Foreword by Susan Osman

I am very happy to have been given this opportunity to write a foreword for inclusion in this book, which forms part of the 'Child-Safe Travel-Safe' series.

I have been supportive of this research since its commencement and am now delighted that it has been nationally and internationally validated and published as an aid to schools organising pupil exchanges or international school trips abroad.

As a former school teacher, I know that arranging any out of school activity can be fraught with potential problems, and it goes without saying, to organise an international school exchange carries with it many extra responsibilities. As a mother I can also place myself in the position of a parent giving permission for their child to take part in a trip abroad. I would want the confidence of knowing that every detail had been taken care of, no matter how small, and that everything had been thoroughly thought through to ensure that the safety and well being of each child remained paramount.

Chris Gould and Kaye Jones have undertaken research, which has established that the majority of exchanges take place successfully but, unfortunately, in a minority of cases, some children and young people have experienced problems ranging from neglect to emotional, physical and sexual abuse. This has largely come about as a result of a lack of guidelines demonstrating good practice, no legislation covering this area and it being totally unregulated. Chris and Kaye have now used their expertise gained through their child protection background and specific research in this area to produce this book. Using their advice and common sense approach will give you the necessary tools to confidently arrange an international school trip or pupil exchange.

I would like to wish those of you using this guidebook, as well as those children and young people taking part, a safe and enjoyable experience.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Osman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Susan Osman
Broadcaster and Journalist