



Stamford Green

Primary School and Nursery



4 November 2025

Dear Year 5 Families,

Y6 PGL Residential Visit in 2027

Further to our letter of 20 October regarding reducing the length of the PGL trip in 2027, we have produced a document to address themes from the anonymous Google Form that was sent to school.

We want to assure you that this was not a decision that was taken lightly. We would love to be able to continue to offer the five day residential in Year 6. However, as explained in the letter, this is no longer financially viable for the school and some families too. We are committed to our Opportunities and Thrive Experiences, which offer a broad range of activities for the children across their school journey with us. However, the Year 6 residential places a significant financial burden on the school, which we can no longer afford.

The second issue is the cost for individual families and it is worth noting that in the feedback received, some families were supportive of the more affordable two night model.

Please find attached answers to frequently asked questions, which address the main themes from the feedback received.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise Druce and Mrs Joanna Lee
Headteacher School Business Leader

Y6 PGL 2027 – FAQs

Why can the school afford it this year but not next year?

As explained in our letter, the school's funding has been falling and this has been the case for several years now. Whilst the school did have some reserves, these are now reaching minimum levels. We currently have some support staff on fixed term contracts and we are unable to guarantee at the moment that these posts will be able to continue into the next financial year. This is why some tough decisions about where the school spends funds are having to be made. The cost of a supply teacher to cover a class for 5 days is currently £1012.50. If 6 staff attending the trip are teachers of other classes, the total cost to the school for the week is £6075. This is 25% of our total budget for supply teachers for the year.

Why can't the trip be reduced to 4 days / 3 nights?

This was explored with PGL but their model is to offer either Monday – Wednesday, Wednesday – Friday or Monday – Friday. There is no option for a three night trip.

Could parents be DBS checked and help on the trip to reduce staff costs?

One of the key drivers for school residentials is to help the children to develop independence away from home and their families and this has been noted by many families in the feedback. If parents/carers attended the trip, some children would lose this important aspect of the residential. In addition, staffing a residential trip is about so much more than a DBS check. Our staff are trained to support the children and to implement the school's policies throughout the trip to ensure consistency in behaviour management and to safeguard the children.

Could families pay in installments over a longer period?

Families are already invited to spread the payments over a year, typically from April of the year before the residential until March of the year of the residential at an average of £50 per month. Spreading this schedule further would have limited impact on affordability and would significantly increase workload for school staff in managing the payments. For any families who are finding the payments difficult to make, bespoke payment plans are put in place.

Could alternative locations be considered?

Many families have raised the issue of the Y6 residential needing to be different to the Y4 residential. We had this in mind when we developed our key non-negotiable when looking at alternative venues. These non-negotiables were:

- For the children to sleep in dormitories rather than tents.
- For there to be water activities.

In addition to this, we limited our search radius to within a 3 hour drive since, as many families have noted, transport costs and time are important factors to consider.

With these search criteria in mind, PGL was the only option that we found. Other centres were available in other parts of the country, however, these were rejected as being too far away and the costs were similar to PGL.

Has the school negotiated with PGL over the cost of the trip?

PGL are extremely popular and are always over subscribed for our residential dates. There would not be any room for negotiation on cost.

Could the trip be more local or could parents/carers drive to save on travel costs?

For the 2026 PGL residential, the cost of the coach is estimated at £1800, or £20 per child. This is a very small proportion of the overall cost of the trip. As a comparison, the cost of the coach for High Ashurst is £1160, so the distance travelled is not the major cost driver.

Are other dates cheaper?

Yes, residential visits in the autumn term are cheaper. However, this is a very important time for the children and a week out of school at this time of year would be detrimental to their learning. We are committed to providing a residential for Year 6 children in the summer term as part of the celebration of the end of their primary school journey.

Could families contribute extra to help those who cannot afford the trip?

School residentials have to be charged in line with the school's Charging and Remissions Policy, which complies with the legal requirements specifying what we are and are not allowed to charge for. The cost of supply teachers to cover staff attending the trip is specifically excluded from the chargeable items, as is charging extra to make up any shortfall. Whilst families are of course free to make additional voluntary contributions, we would not be able to guarantee that these would be sufficient to cover the cost of the residential visit in 2027, when we need to confirm dates and pay the initial deposit in early 2026.

Could we fundraise to cover the shortfall?

The trip needs to be confirmed and the deposit paid early in 2026. Therefore, any fundraising would need to be complete by then for the school to have confidence that enough could be raised. With lots of PTA fundraising activities already scheduled for the autumn term, the school does not have the capacity for any further major fundraising efforts.

Could the PTA or Trust Fund contribute to the cost of the trip?

The PTA and Trust Fund have very specific charitable objectives to support whole school initiatives. This would not include funding residential visits for the children.

Why were families not consulted about the decision?

Unfortunately, this was primarily a school budgetary decision.