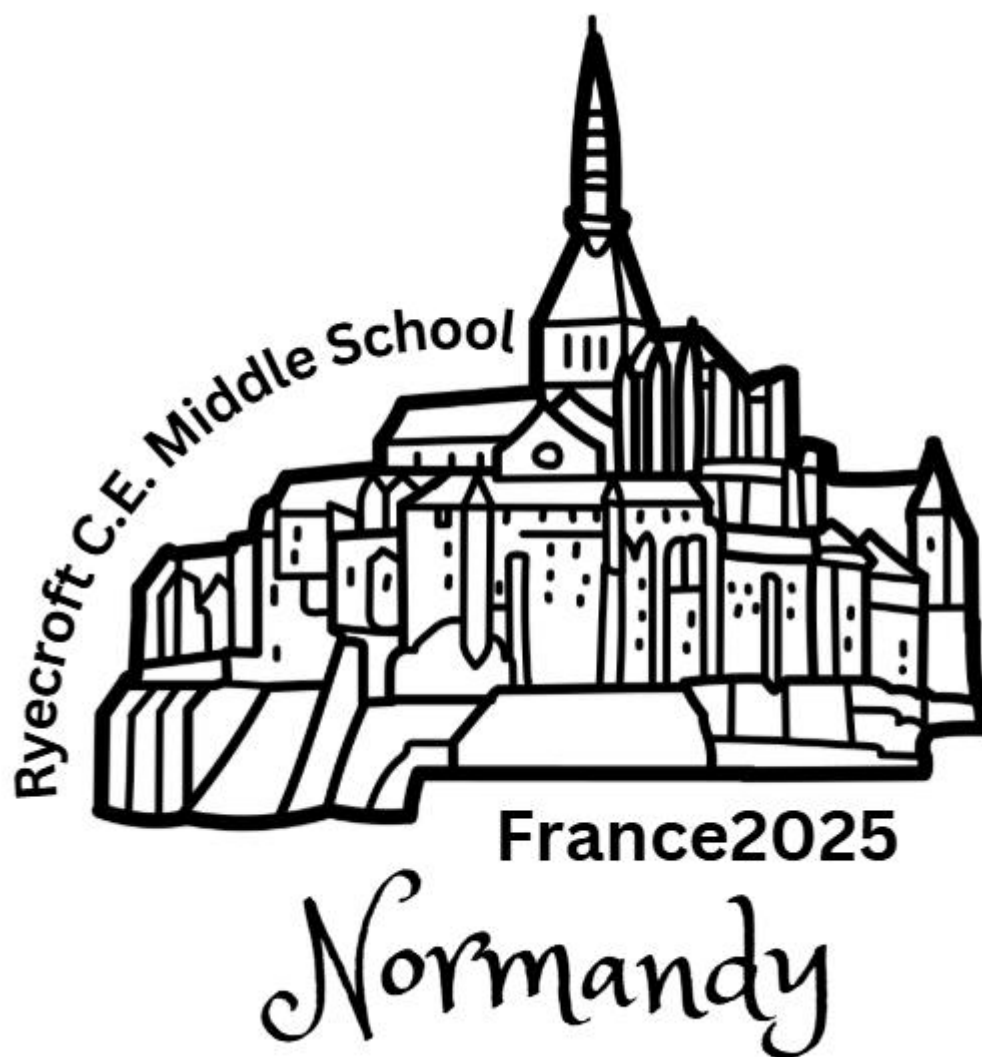


Ryecroft Middle School Normandy 2025 French Trip

Pupil & Parent Handbook



BEFORE THE TRIP

- Make sure that you have arranged your spending money. We recommend £20-30 and 50-60 euros. If you are bringing a bank card, you are responsible for it. You must manage your money so that you have enough to last you for the week.

Medication

If a pupil is bringing medication, then staff members should be notified in any of the following ways:

- Give the medication to Mrs Twynham to look after - It must be contained in its original packaging in a sealable plastic bag labelled with your name and clear instructions.
- Students can look after and administer your own medication if safe to do so. However, staff must be notified if this is the case.
- You will need a carefully-packed, small hand luggage bag for the journey. Your hand luggage should contain any food or drink (**no nuts**, fizzy or energy drinks), any self-administered medication, travel pillow, wet wipes, toothbrush/toothpaste, quiet entertainment (you will need headphones if you want to listen to music). **No chewing gum!**

Luggage

Space for luggage is at a premium. Please ensure that your luggage is not excessive and is of a reasonable size. We recommend no bigger than a 15-20kg(40-60 litre) bag/case. Access to main luggage will not be available on the journey. One small bag and a travel pillow is really the maximum allowed so that it remains comfortable on board the coach.

- We will make short stops en-route to our destination for comfort stops, freshening up and if directed by staff, you must always remain in groups of no less than three and report to your staff group leader when asked to do so.

Monday 19th May 2025

On Monday, please come to school in comfortable clothes for travel including your trip hoodie. **You can arrive at school from 4.15 am.**

- The coach should already be at school when you arrive and we will begin packing the bags into the hold straight away.
- You should place your luggage **BY THE SIDE OF THE COACH** where it will be stowed and locked away for the journey until we arrive at the accommodation. It **will not be** accessible for the duration of the trip so anything you during the journey should be in your hand luggage.
- You will be met by the staff and you will be registered as present. Pupils will be allocated a member of staff as their Group leader. This will be organised before the trip and these travelling groups are for registration purposes whenever stops are made. Each staff member will be responsible for registering 8-10 pupils. Students should make a mental note of the staff member and other people in their group.

WE WILL BE LEAVING SCHOOL AT 4.30 am

THE COACH JOURNEY

- **You are required by law to make sure that you stay in your seats and that your seat belts are properly fastened.**
- Please wear your French trip hoodie for the journey. This will make it easier for us to identify you!
- We will be making stops at motorway service stations. Here you will be expected to return to the bus at the time we tell you to. You will **HAVE** to stay in groups of **three or more** and this rule will be employed at any time when you have chance to be on your own.
- Make sure that you take responsibility for all of your litter and place it in the plastic bags provided in the aisles. Any full bags must be emptied when we stop.
- Please make sure that you do not chew gum on the coach. We want the coach driver to remain our friend and chewing gum is a certain way to ensure that doesn't happen.
- It is a good idea to try and get some sleep on the coach. It is going to be a long day and a full-on week so rest is essential!
- The coach is with us all week. It will be pupils' job to keep it clean and tidy.
- The toilet is only to be used in a genuine emergency as it is not possible to empty until the return home.

AT DOVER

- Approximate ferry crossing time is 10.40am (arrive Calais 13.10)
- We may have some time to wait on the quayside whilst waiting for the ferry but you will be able to visit the facilities. Make sure that you follow the instructions of the teacher in charge of your travelling group. **Always remember to be in a group of 3 or more.**

ON THE FERRY

When boarding the ferry you will be required to move from the coach to the upper decks. Try to remember the colour and number of the deck and stairs.

We will be travelling for approximately 100 minutes on the ferry depending on the conditions.

- You will be registered in your travelling groups and shown the teachers' 'base' for the crossing. You need to remember that location as a member of staff will always be situated there and they should be the first point of call if a problem occurs. **We will all meet and register here before heading back to the coach.**
- Make sure that everyone observes the trip rules about behaviour.
- During the crossing you will be able to move around on the ferry. Make sure you stay in groups of three or more as requested. You will **not** be allowed on deck and you must not go into any arcades or bars.
- Visit the toilets on board before we return to the coach
- You will be able to have breakfast on board the ferry. You will be provided with a voucher for this.
- Be sensible with any purchases in the duty-free shop. Prices are often high and pocket money has to last you a whole week. Just think...Do you really need a 3 foot Toblerone?
- **Remember that it is illegal to buy alcohol or cigarettes or to use the gambling machines.**

THE JOURNEY IN FRANCE

- Once again, it is important that you report to your member of staff in your travelling group at every stop and remain in groups of 3 or more.
- Make sure you keep to any time limits set by the teachers. Punctuality is key.
- We will drive towards our accommodation, with a refreshment stop en route. We will also stop at Honfleur with an opportunity to explore this beautiful seaside town and port.
- We will have an evening meal at a restaurant before travelling onto our hotel.

ARRIVAL AT THE ACCOMODATION

- When we arrive, you will be shown to your rooms.
- **BEFORE YOU UNPACK** - Your room will need to complete an inventory of any damage or breakages in your room. You will be asked to write down any defect in the furnishing or fitments of your room. Anything that damaged that you have not written down will then be classed as your doing. You will be responsible for paying for any damage caused during the week, so check thoroughly! If damage occurs, do not assume the role of DIY expert -tell a teacher.
- You will be made aware of the procedure in event of a fire and given a safety briefing and rules for the week.

BEHAVIOUR

YOUR BEHAVIOUR IS THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

You will not want to feel as though you are at school. We as teachers do not want to feel as if we are at school either. We are all hoping to enjoy our trip. Remember that your teachers are giving up their time to allow you to have this trip. They deserve your full cooperation and gratitude. Do all you can to be helpful.

There are three general rules:

- Do not take part in any behaviour that may put you or other pupils/staff or members of the public at risk.
- Do not do anything that will spoil anyone else's holiday - and that includes people who aren't part of our school trip. Be polite and respectful at all times.
- Try really hard to be a credit to yourselves and to your school. Both you and your school will be judged by the impression you leave wherever you go.

IN THE ACCOMMODATION:

- Be polite to everyone and as considerate and as thoughtful as you can be.
- Bedtime - You will be given a 'time for bed' time and a 'lights out' time, which we ask you to observe without complaint. Some people need more sleep than others so we must be quiet after lights out. Therefore, you will go to bed when we ask you to. The time will be determined by evening entertainment or by how much recuperation is needed for the next day's activities.
- Phones will be collected before going to bed.
- Remember that your room is your home. Keep it tidy. Some of the rooms may become cramped if bags and clothes are not kept correctly.
- There will be room inspections by the teachers to ensure this happens!
- Ryecroft staff are responsible for your safety. There will be a meeting area for socialising so please do not congregate in bedrooms. Only pupils who have a bed in the room should be in it!

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are a big part of modern life but we don't want them to dominate the trip. Pupils will not be able to have phones out during mealtimes and during guided sessions. Their usage will be regulated during the trip so that the social side of the trip is not neglected. Phones will be collected in an evening and returned before we set out for the day.

POCKET MONEY

You will be responsible for your own valuables and money. Keep them safe. Remember that your pocket money must last you all week and that you will need some for the journey home. Ration it carefully. Buying presents:

Remember that the coach is full so do not buy large or fragile gifts.

Law in France does not allow you to attempt to buy cigarettes or alcohol. Do not attempt to buy fireworks. It is illegal to buy knives or other weapons and to attempt to bring them into the UK

TREATING PEOPLE PROPERLY

Several services will be afforded you during the day. The coach driver, the trip director, the tour guides and staff on our visits, people will cook and serve your meals etc

- ✓ Show them courtesy by being on time for everything. You cannot say thank you too many times. People really appreciate it and will warm to you all the more.
- ✓ Try to speak some French! The locals will love it if you do and you will get better and friendlier service wherever you go.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

If there is an emergency, you should first contact the school or out of school hours, Mr Hall (07856829368). This is a school mobile number and should not be shared with anyone else. It is for emergency use during the French trip only.

Emergency Numbers

There may be a need for you to contact your child whilst they are on the trip. If there is a problem or issue you need to inform your child about, **please contact school or out of hours number first**. This ensures we are fully aware of any issues before your child is told.

Similarly, please could you stress to your child that if they have any worries or issues whilst they are on the trip that **they MUST speak to a member of staff about it first and not ring parents without us knowing**. Parents will be contacted by staff if any issues arise in this manner. This procedure allows staff members to be always fully aware of any issues and ensure the supervision and safety of all pupils before dealing with these issues.

Any Questions???

Hopefully, we have answered all of your questions already. However, if you have any further questions prior to the trip then the best way to contact us via email.

Day One

Visit Honfleur

Evening meal

Arrival at accommodation (Hotel B&B, Quai Jean Charcot, 14150 Ouistreham)

Day Two

Breakfast

Visit to market in Villedieu-Les-Poeles

Picnic lunch

Visit to Mont St Michel

Evening meal at a local crêperie

Time on the beach before returning to the hotel

Day Three

Breakfast

Travel to Bayeux - visit the British Cemetery followed by visit to the Bayeux Tapestry

Picnic lunch

Visit to the cathedral

Visit to Colleville to visit the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach

Visit to 360 Cinema for short film about the D Day landings

Time on the beach at Arromanches

Evening meal and return to hotel

Day Four

Breakfast

Visit to Caen Memorial

Lunch

Visit to hypermarket

Visit to local 'escargotière'

Luge d'été

BBQ and games time in the grounds of the Luge

Return to hotel

Day Five

Breakfast and departure for the UK

Visit en-route to a Boulangerie with a bread making workshop

Picnic lunch and arrival in Calais

Return to school approx 23:00