

Shenzhen Exchange – Frequently Asked Questions



1. How long is the flight?

The flight from the UK to Shenzhen is typically 10–12 hours, depending on the route and any stopovers. We will ensure the journey is well-managed, with regular check-ins and support throughout.

2. Who will be accompanying the students?

Students will be accompanied by experienced school staff, including myself as the link between the schools. This ensures continuity, familiarity, and strong pastoral support throughout the trip.

3. Where will the students be staying?

Students will stay in 3-star hotels within the city. These are clean, safe, and comfortable, similar to a good UK budget hotel, and suitable for school groups.

4. Will students share rooms?

Yes, students will share rooms in small groups. Rooming arrangements will be carefully organised, and staff will be nearby at all times.

5. What will the students eat?

The food is mainly Cantonese cuisine, which is mild and includes familiar foods like rice, noodles, chicken, and vegetables. There will always be a range of options, including more familiar foods where needed.

6. What about dietary requirements and allergies?

All dietary needs will be carefully collected and communicated in advance, and we will ensure these are fully catered for throughout the trip.

7. How safe is China?

China is generally considered a very safe country, with low levels of street crime, particularly in major cities.

8. How safe is Shenzhen specifically?

Shenzhen is a modern, well-developed city with excellent infrastructure. It is widely regarded as safe, clean, and well-organised, especially in central areas.

9. Do people speak English?

Our sister school is multilingual, with students speaking English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. We will also have a local guide with us at all times to support communication.

10. Will the students be supervised at all times?

Yes. Students will be fully supervised by staff and our local guide throughout the trip, including during travel, activities, and free time.

11. What should students pack?

A detailed packing list will be provided, but this will include:

Comfortable clothing and shoes
Weather-appropriate items
Toiletries and personal essentials

12. Are there cultural differences students should be aware of?

Yes, and we will prepare students beforehand. For example, there may be differences in toilets, food, and daily routines, and we will ensure students feel confident and informed.

13. Will students be able to contact home?

China has different internet regulations to the UK, so some familiar apps such as WhatsApp and Google services are not accessible.

We will provide clear guidance closer to the time on suitable apps that can be used in China. In addition, regular updates will be shared with parents, and staff will always be contactable if needed.

14. Will phones and internet work in China?

There are some differences in internet access in China. We will provide clear guidance for parents and students on connectivity and communication before the trip.

15. What will students actually do during the trip?

Students will take part in a range of activities, including:

Time in our partner school
Cultural visits

City experiences

Educational workshops



16. Will students interact with local students?

Yes — this is a key part of the experience. Students will spend time with their peers at our sister school, building friendships and cultural understanding.



17. What if my child becomes unwell?

Staff will carry medical information and first aid supplies. In the event of illness, we will access local medical facilities and contact parents immediately.



18. How much spending money will students need?

Shenzhen is a highly modern city where digital payment is the main method of spending.

Students will not need large amounts of cash, and there is no immediate need to exchange significant currency. We will provide clear guidance closer to the time on how students can make purchases safely and easily.



19. Do students need a visa or passport?

Yes, students will require a valid passport, and we will guide families through any visa requirements well in advance.



20. What is the main purpose of this trip?

This is more than a visit — it is an opportunity for students to:

Develop global awareness

Experience different cultures

Build confidence and independence



21. What is the climate like in Shenzhen in October?

Shenzhen has a **warm, subtropical climate**, and in October the weather is typically **pleasant and comfortable**.

- Daytime temperatures are usually around **24–28°C**
- Evenings are slightly cooler but still mild
- There may be **some humidity** and occasional light rain

Students will need **light, breathable clothing**, along with a **light jacket or layer for evenings**. Comfortable footwear is also recommended.



Overall, October is considered **one of the best times of year to visit**, as it is warm without the intense summer heat.

22. Is the visa included in the cost?

The visa is not included in the trip cost. A tourist visa is typically in the region of £150–£200, and we will provide clear guidance on the process.

23. Are any vaccinations required?

We will share official travel health guidance closer to the time. At present, there are no unusual requirements, but parents will be advised if anything is recommended.

24. Is any Chinese language knowledge required?

No prior knowledge is required. Students will be supported throughout, and this is an opportunity to experience and pick up some basic language naturally.

25. How will SEND needs be supported?

We will carefully consider individual needs and work with families to ensure appropriate support and suitability for the trip.

26. What are the confirmed travel dates?

The planned departure is around 19th October 2027. Final dates will be confirmed in advance.

27. What happens in the case of an emergency?

There will be clear emergency procedures in place, with staff supervision at all times, access to medical care, and direct communication with parents if needed.

28. How many students will be going?

We anticipate approximately 30 students in total, with places shared across participating schools.

29. How are places allocated?

Places will be distributed fairly across the schools in the Trust, and we will share clear criteria for selection with parents.

30. Can my child be with their friends?

We will do our best to support positive groupings; however, we cannot guarantee friendship group placements, as this will depend on the number of students applying and selected from each school.

There will be opportunities for students to meet in advance and take part in icebreaker activities, helping them feel comfortable before travelling.

31. What happens if my child becomes unwell?

Staff will support students and access local medical care if required, and parents will be contacted promptly.

32. Can students take mobile phones?

Yes, but their use will be carefully managed in line with school expectations. Guidance will be provided before the trip.

33. Can dietary requirements be accommodated?

Yes. All dietary needs will be collected in advance and catered for throughout the trip.

34. Will there be opportunities for private family visits?

This is a school-led trip with a structured itinerary, and private arrangements are not part of the programme.

However, there may be opportunities for families to meet during shared cultural experiences.

35. Can parents attend as chaperones?

This is a school-led visit, and staffing will be provided by school staff. Parent participation is not currently planned.

 36. Is this a one-off trip or will it run again?

This is part of a developing partnership and may become a regular opportunity, depending on future planning.

 37. Will Year 6 students be prioritised?

We will confirm selection criteria in advance, including how places are allocated across year groups.

 38. When will we find out if our child has been selected?

We will share a clear timeline for applications and confirmations once the process opens.

 39. What is the payment plan?

A staged payment schedule will be shared, including key deadlines and instalments.

 40. Is there a minimum number of students required for the trip to go ahead?

Yes, the trip will require a minimum of 20 students in order to proceed.

 41. Which students are eligible to apply?

This is a Trust-wide opportunity, and eligibility will be confirmed as part of the application process.

 42. How will the trip support students in unfamiliar or sensitive situations?

Students will be fully supported by staff, and we will prepare them in advance for cultural differences and respectful interactions, ensuring a safe and inclusive experience.

Further Questions

If you have any further questions, please refer to this document or contact us at global@pyramidschoolstrust.org