

## What is the security like at the Philippine local schools?

In the Philippines, the security authorities have always been keen on beefing up security efforts during the onset of the school year, every June. They establish numerous barangay and military outposts and police desks in school zones and surrounding areas to make sure that crime stays under control. In addition, the organization will ensure that Civic Engagement Participants (CEPs) under the age of 18 will be accompanied on school visits. They will not go on visits unaccompanied.

This said, Metro Manila is a metropolis and the schools we teach in are right in the middle of it. Always stay alert and it is important that participants remain calm and polite when interacting with the security officers to avoid misunderstandings and to get a more desired response.

## Where to turn to for Assistance in the event that participants experience an unsafe situation?

The National Emergency Number is 117. It is accessible ONLY through voice call (no text messaging).

### Additional Police Contact Numbers

*Manila-523-3378 (District Tactical Operations Center)*

*Makati City-843-7971 (Tactical Operations Center)*

*Pasay City-831-1544 (TOC)*

*Quezon City-925-8417 (DTCO)*

### Additional Fire Contact Numbers

*Manila-527-3627 and 527-3653 NOTE: For fire within the National Capital Region - HOTLINE 410-6319 (Central Operations Center). Emergency/Fire alarm will be relayed to respective fire district by radio.*

*Makati City-818-5150 and 816-2553*

*Pasay City-843-6523 and 844-2120*

*Quezon City-924-1922 and 928-8363*

They can also call any member of the Teach for the Philippines Team.

## Areas to be avoided and Best Security Practices

Foreign travelers are advised by many embassies to avoid Mindanao region. Travelers who choose to travel to Mindanao or the Sulu Archipelago despite the advisories should remain vigilant and avoid congregating in public areas.

Common sense and good situational awareness will keep most people out of harm's way. Participants need to maintain awareness of their surroundings and exercise good judgment coupled with basic personal security habits while in any country, and while in the Philippines specifically. Examples of common sense: Never show or count large amounts of cash in public; do not wear a lot of jewelry; in the Philippines do not wear revealing clothing (for girls: short shorts, cleavage baring shirts); do not walk around with earphones and music; do not walk alone at night, and always stay alert while taking transportation night or day. Credit card and ATM fraud can occur, so it is best to use credit cards at major retail facilities in Makati City and change your money only at official banks or official money exchange offices. When out, always check bills or statements for suspicious charges.