

Church Hill C of E Junior School

Let Your Light Shine



Together Everyone Achieves More

Educational Visits Policy

Signed by: 

Date: 28/4/22

Approved by Governor

Date: 28/4/22

Signed on behalf of the Governing body: 
(Chair of Governors)

Next Review Date: April 2024

Introduction

Trips, visits and learning off-site comprise an essential part of the school curriculum at Church Hill C of E Junior School. Successful trips provide memorable learning experiences and enhance the children's education in ways that are not possible in the classroom. Many activities completed off-site allow children the opportunity to let their light shine in ways that cannot be seen in the classroom environment. The school is committed to providing school visits as a positive tool to develop pupils' independent, investigative learning, and to build their experience of the local and wider world. Through the activities on offer, children develop resilience, resourcefulness and confidence that contribute significantly to the development of character.

Within school, responsibility for educational visits rests with the Governing Body, Headteacher and the Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC), however all school employees have a responsibility to:

- take reasonable care of their own and others' health and safety
- co-operate with their employer
- carry out activities in accordance with training and instruction
- inform the employer of any serious risk

This policy has been produced to offer school staff advice and support in the planning and organising of all offsite activities in order to ensure the health and safety of pupils.

The national online guidance resource [OEAP National Guidance](http://oeapng.info/) (**Guidance for the Management of Off-site visits and LOtC (Learning Outside the Classroom) activities**) is an invaluable reference document, which should be read alongside this policy. It is available from:

<http://oeapng.info/>

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, an 'educational visit' means any educational, cultural or sporting activity that requires the pupils to leave the school premises having been authorised to do so by the Headteacher. This includes the following:

- Visits to places of interest in the local area
- Day visits to museums, galleries and places of educational interest
- Sporting activities including swimming sessions
- Adventurous activities and residentials

Aims and expectations

Most classes in the school will have two educational visits each year. These trips are planned to support and broaden the children's understanding of the curriculum. Class teachers may arrange additional visits throughout the year following authorisation from senior leaders, providing the costs for the school year are not excessive. All activities are available to all children irrespective of needs, ethnicity, gender or religion.

In addition to this, there may be additional trips arranged throughout the year, such as sporting events and competitions which may be offered to a smaller group depending on the entrance criteria.

Planning and Preparation for a trip

The Educational Visits Coordinator

The school has appointed an Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) whose role is to coordinate the planning and management of these activities and who has attended training specific to this role. All off-site activities must be approved by the EVC at least two weeks prior to the proposed date of the trip, unless the trip has been planned in response to an educational opportunity that has arisen, for example a last minute invitation to a significant event or rearranged sporting fixture. Where possible, dates for educational visits will be set at the beginning of the calendar year to enable office staff to book tickets and transport as applicable.

Procedure

The best practice to be adhered to in the arranging of school trips is as follows:

- Class teachers and Educational Visits Co-ordinator will complete an Educational Visits booking form to submit to the office staff.
- The office will source 3 quotes for coaches and will book these.
- Teachers, the Educational Visits Co-ordinator and office staff will calculate a cost per pupil, inclusive of transport and insurance. This must be sufficient to cover the entire cost of the trip, including any charges for additional helpers.
- Once confirmed with the venue and transport providers, the dates for the trip must be entered onto the school electronic diary
- In cases where school lunches are affected, kitchen staff must be informed by the teaching staff and Educational Visit Co-ordinator.
- The EVC and teacher will complete a risk assessment which will be uploaded to Evolve.
- Class teachers will inform parents in advance of dates for school trips in by letters, giving at least one month's notice (unless there are exceptional circumstances).
- Where applicable, parental volunteers will be asked for. Where there are more volunteers than spaces, parent helpers will be selected using a fair and transparent process.
- Payments will be made directly to the school office via parent pay.
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Risk assessments

A full risk assessment must be completed two weeks prior to a trip, which must be approved by the school's EVC, using the school's risk assessment template. To support the process, existing risk assessments can be used, evaluated and updated, including generic risk assessments provided by the centre to be visited, risk assessments completed by colleagues who carried out the same trip and/or the generic risk assessments available on the school server. From June 2022 onwards, risk assessments will be uploaded to Evolve.

The risk assessment must include details of any specific medical issues, additional support for individual children and details of adult helpers. All adults supporting the trip must read and sign the risk assessment. A copy should be taken on the trip, and another copy left with the school office.

Parental consent

In accordance with the Home School Agreement, most parents give blanket permission for their child to attend local walks and visits that do not require transport. However, parents will always be informed about the trip or activity by emailed letter. All the necessary details will be included in the letter, as well as any payments required.

Permission will be specifically requested from parents for:

- Residential trips
- Adventure trips (including swimming)
- Trips that require transport
- Trips that take place outside of school hours

Ratios

All trips are individually risk assessed to ascertain the safe level of adult supervision required. Below are the recommended minimum adult to pupil ratios that our school is committed to implement. These are adhered to unless there are exceptional circumstances and/or permission has been given by the Headteacher following an assessment of risk taking into consideration the nature of the trip.

- Years 3 - 1:8
- Years 4 – 6 - 1:10

Risk assessments specific to activities must be sought from external providers for adventurous activities. If a child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health Care Plan is participating in the trip, this pupil must have the same support that is ordinarily available to them during the school day.

Every effort should be made to ensure that outdoor learning activities and visits are available and accessible to all, irrespective of special educational or medical needs, ethnic origin, gender or religion. If a visit needs to cater for young people with special needs, every *reasonable* effort should be made to find a venue that is both suitable and accessible and that enables the whole group to participate fully and be actively involved.

Residential trips

In the case of residential trips, a site visit must be made if choosing a new venue. A parents' meeting will be held well in advance of the trip. This will provide all the relevant information, including the details of payment plans, which are always available on request. Special equipment/clothing will be listed as required; for example, for adventurous visits, additional or waterproof clothing may be necessary. Emergency telephone contacts must be obtained for all pupils participating in residential activities, along with relevant medical/dietary information, on the parental consent form. The school will ensure that adults of each gender accompany the children on residential visits.

Payments for trips

When planning educational visits, class teachers will always consider the cost implications for parents. Excessively expensive trips will be avoided wherever possible. All payment by parents for school trips is made in the form of a voluntary contribution. However, in the event that the school is unable to cover the costs of a planned visit, the trip might have to be cancelled. All payments are made online via the parent pay.

For residential off-site visits where the costs are likely to be higher, payment plans are available, to spread the cost.

In certain cases, the school may be able to subsidise the cost of school trips. Please see the school's charging and remissions policy for further information.

Insurance

The school holds employer and public liability insurance, including personal accident insurance.

Behaviour on school trips

The school's Behaviour Policy applies equally to children when they are being educated off-site. Indeed, being outside of the school, expectations are even higher as children are acting as ambassadors for our school. We expect our pupils to behave courteously to all members of the public that they meet. It is essential for their own safety that they listen carefully to their accompanying adults and act on any instructions given to them. It is also essential that all children actively participate in all aspects of the trip as trips are an integral part of the child's education. Children will always be reminded of the behaviour expectations before going off-site on their visit.

Trip Safety

The school takes the safety of its pupils on off-site visits extremely seriously. All supervising adults must be made aware of the duty of care which is placed upon them. The school's Safeguarding Policy will be implemented during all off site activities. The school will adhere to the following to ensure the safety of children on educational visits:

- An adult of each gender to accompany mixed groups of pupils if possible
- Early Career Teachers to be accompanied by an experienced member of the teaching staff on their first visit
- Supervising adults to include a member of staff holding a First Aid qualification
- Supervising adults must know of any special medical details relevant to any pupil
- First aid kits and any individual medicines, e.g., asthma pumps, epi-pens, must be taken on the trip
- Children to be briefed about the importance of staying with their partner/group/adult helper
- Any adult who has not been DBS checked should not be left alone with children during any activity
- Adults must never travel alone with a child in their own vehicle
- Any adult helpers must be fully briefed prior to leaving, in writing, with risk assessments, names of children in their group, expectations and responsibilities, and mobile numbers of members of staff
- When walking along a pavement, children must be in a line in pairs (or single file if necessary) with teaching staff at the front and rear, and other adults alongside
- Regular headcounts to be taken

Emergency procedures

The trip leader must always complete the Emergency Arrangements section of the Risk Assessment Form prior to any educational visit. In cases where a child or children need urgent medical attention, one staff

member will accompany that child (or children) for treatment, while other staff members and adults remain with the rest of the group. School will be notified at all times, and they in turn will notify parents.

In the unlikely event that a child becomes separated from their group, they must follow the steps below, about which they will have been briefed prior to departure:

- Wait so that the trip leader can re-trace their steps to locate the child
- Speak only to adults in uniform, e.g., police but under no circumstances go with them

The trip leader and one other member of staff will search the immediate vicinity. Another member of staff will assume overall responsibility for the group during the absence of the trip leader to maintain the safety and well-being of the other children.

If the child is not found after 10 minutes, the trip leader will phone the school office to notify them and ascertain whether they have any information. The school will notify the parents.

The trip leader will contact the police after 15 minutes of the child going missing. Once the police arrive, all relevant information about the child will be given, so that the police can take over the search. The trip leader will remain with the police to comfort the child when found and maintain regular contact with the school. The remaining staff and adult helpers will return to the school with the rest of the children.

When the situation has been resolved, the headteacher and SLT will conduct a full investigation to ascertain how the incident occurred and revise the risk assessment procedures where appropriate.

Other Relevant Policies and Documents

This policy complements and supports a range of other policies:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Contacts:

Diane Brown: Headteacher,
Manisha Sudera: Deputy Headteacher
Terri Stirk: Educational Visits Coordinator

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Governors' Health and Safety Committee.

