

Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School



'Love and Justice for All'

'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' Micah 6:8.

through the teachings of Jesus all can flourish spiritually, emotionally and academically throughout life, living out love and justice for all.

Educational Visits and School Trips Policy

Staff member responsible	Mrs. T. Rainford/Mrs. A. Bracewell
Governor/Other responsible	Mr. A. Parker
Date of Policy	March 2024
Reviewed	3-5yrs

Statement of intent

We understand that visits and trips can be effective ways of motivating pupils, and they can often offer unique educational experiences. Our school aims to ensure that pupils are engaged in their learning and are given opportunities to explore this in a more practical setting.

Our educational visits are aimed to support and enrich our curriculum in school so all children can flourish and develop their skills and understanding of the wider world.

We take the health and wellbeing of our staff and pupils very seriously. This policy has been designed in line with DfE and HSE guidance and details our responsibilities for pupils and staff members while out on educational visits and school trips.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'
- DfE (2013) 'Driving school minibuses'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Business Continuity Plan
- Health and Safety Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Minibus Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- DBS Policy

Definitions

'In loco parentis' means that the group leader of any school trip or educational visit has a duty of care over the pupils in place of a parent.

'School trip' means any educational visit, foreign exchange trip, away-day or residential holiday organised by the school which takes pupils and staff members off-site.

'Residential' means any school trip which includes an overnight stay.

Activities of an **'adventurous nature'** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Trekking
- Caving
- Skiing
- Water sports
- Climbing

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that this policy complies with the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring educational trips and visits positively impact on pupils' lives, teaching them life skills and providing new experiences.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- Appointing an educational visits coordinator, liaising with CWAC local authority as necessary.
- Liaising with the educational visits coordinator and communicating information regarding any planned trips to parents.
- Liaising with the Governing Board regarding the organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities, including settling any disputes.
- Being part of the approval process for extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring the educational visits coordinator is competent to oversee the coordination of off-site education and arranging for training to be undertaken, as necessary.
- Completing relevant paperwork, including risk assessments, for extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring suitable safety measures are in place prior to each trip or activity.
- Overseeing the work of the educational visits coordinator, ensuring a whole-school approach is adopted when planning and coordinating extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring there are contingency plans in place in the event of a member of staff being absent on the day of the trip or activity.

The educational visits coordinator is responsible for:

- Overseeing all issues and controls regarding extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Liaising between all appropriate parties, including the local outdoor education adviser, during the planning and organising of extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy.
- Partaking in relevant additional training to ensure they remain up-to-date with relevant educational trip information and health and safety guidance.

- Overseeing the planning of the educational trips, by ensuring all essential documentation, including risk assessments, is up to date and appropriate for completion by the designated trip leader.
- Appointing an appropriate and competent member of staff to be the designated trip leader for each trip.
- Ensuring the competency of the designated trip leader, in consultation with the head teacher, by organising training for staff and volunteers.
- Ensuring that the requirements of this policy are carried out across all schools.

The designated trip leader selected to be in charge on an individual trip is 'in loco parentis' and has a duty of care to all pupils on the trip. They are also responsible for:

- Identifying the educational purpose of the extra-curricular trip or activity and presenting its benefits to the head teacher.
- Undertaking any relevant training or courses which are arranged by the educational visit's coordinator.
- Completing all essential documentation for the trip and ensuring it has been approved by the educational visit's coordinator.
- Conducting a risk assessment prior to school trips and educational visits to ensure pupil and staff safety.
- Creating an itinerary prior to an educational visit or school trip and distributing it to pupils, parents and staff to ensure the day is well organised and safe.
- Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip in advance and distributing permission slips to parents.
- Implementing safeguarding measures throughout the planning, organisation and delivery of the extra-curricular trip or activity.
- Ensuring all adults on the trip are aware of their responsibilities and that the necessary checks have been carried out on volunteers in line with the DBS Policy.

Staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring they are competent and comfortable with their delegated responsibilities, undertaking training where necessary.
- Ensuring the safety of the pupils is maximised throughout any educational visit or activity.

Volunteers on the trip are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Supervising and ensuring the safety of pupils by following the procedures outlined by the designated trip leader.

Planning school trips

Prior to planning a school trip, the following guidance will be read by the organisers:

- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'

A thorough risk assessment will be conducted by the designated trip leader during the planning of the trip, to ensure pupil and staff safety.

When partaking in adventure trips, activities will always be identified at the planning stage and never added during the trip. When planning water sport activities, the need for instructors and lifeguards will be taken into account, particularly when using facilities which may not have a trained lifeguard present.

The school will do everything in its power to ensure that all pupils are given an opportunity to participate in school trips, for example, organising two trips with a smaller group size or finding a venue which can cater for all pupils. Where there is a maximum capacity of pupils for a trip, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This will be clearly communicated to parents.

Risk assessment process

Our risk assessment process is designed to manage risks when planning trips, while ensuring that learning opportunities are experienced to the fullest extent. Visit leaders will carry out the risk assessment process and will have the skills, status and competence needed for the role, understand the risks involved. CWAC risk assessment forms will be completed and submitted to the EVOLVE system for approval prior to educational visits taking place. This submission will be reviewed and approved by the EVC and the Head Teacher before being sent to the LA.

The process is as follows:

- Identify the hazards
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- Record findings and implement them
- Review assessment and update if necessary

Local Visits

Local visits will be risk assessed prior to taking place and a 'Local visit form' on the EVOLVE system will be submitted in place of a full educational visits form. Pre-visits and all relevant permissions and risk assessments will still take place. Local visits include regular and one-off visits within the immediate locality e.g. local walks, church services, swimming.

Vetting providers

When considering external providers for activities, the educational visits coordinator will check whether they hold the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge' to indicate they meet nationally recognised standards.

If a provider does not hold the badge, the educational visits coordinator will check the following to ensure they are a suitable organisation to work with:

- Their insurance arrangements
- Their adherence to legal requirements
- Their control measures
- Their use of vehicles
- Staff competency levels
- Safeguarding policies
- The suitability of their accommodation
- Any sub-contracting arrangements in place
- The presence of necessary licences

Equal opportunities

The school promotes values of equality and does not discriminate against any individual or group of pupils when organising a trip. The extra-curricular trips and activities offered to pupils will provide new experiences and develop life skills. Extra-curricular trips and activities are organised, managed and conducted in accordance with the school's Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Where possible, pupils will be given the opportunity to contribute to the planning and organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities.

For school trips that require additional payment, the fee will be reasonable and help will be provided where possible for pupils who cannot afford the initial fee. Educational visits will be subsidised where appropriate and Pupil Premium funding will be used to support those children.

Transport

The health and safety officer are responsible for arranging the annual maintenance of the minibuses, including MOTs and road tax. The use of minibuses will be organised in accordance with the Minibus Policy.

The driver will have a current driving licence, be aged 25 years or over and hold a full licence in at least a category D PCV in order to drive on a domestic school trip. Only approved transport companies will be used for travel for educational visits.

If passengers are paying a charge, the minibus permit must be clearly displayed in the vehicle. Internal damage to the minibus is the responsibility of the individual or organisation using the minibus. The school will decide who is responsible for covering the cost of any repairs. The minibus will carry strictly one person per seat and seatbelts must be worn at all times. Fines incurred will be paid by whoever was driving the minibus at the time the offence was committed.

Parental consent

Parental consent is required for educational visits and parents will provide consent via 'School Spider' prior to the visit taking place. Any special or additional arrangements will be taken into account and included on the risk assessment prior to the visit.

Staffing ratios

There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Our minimum staff to pupil ratios is as follows:

EYFS: 1:5

Key Stage One: 1:8

Key Stage Two: 1:10

Insurance and licensing

When planning activities of an adventurous nature in the UK, the educational visits coordinator will check that the provider of the activity holds a current licence. Insurance will be organised for every trip, no matter how short, to ensure adequate protection and medical cover is in place. Parents will be informed of the limits of any insurance cover.

Accidents and incidents

In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip in the UK, the school's accident reporting process will begin, as detailed in the Health and Safety Policy.

The head teacher will keep written records of any incidents, accidents and near misses.

While on educational visits pupils and staff are informed of an evacuation plan and agreed points to meet if they are separated. To ensure pupils are easily identifiable, they must wear school uniform while on trips and wear school wristbands with school contact displayed.

Missing person procedure

The school places pupil and staff safety as its top priority when participating in school trips, either domestically or abroad.

Before embarking on the trip, extensive risk assessments are undertaken in accordance with this policy. The educational visits coordinator will communicate with the venues of the school trips to ensure the correct group sizes are planned for each setting.

When travelling with a pupil with SEND, the educational visits coordinator will ensure an adult is with them at all times and that the visit is adequately modified to suit the pupil's needs in accordance with this policy.

Regular head counts of all pupils and staff will take place throughout the day to ensure all persons are present at all times and children and adults will be made aware of rendezvous points in case they are separated from the group.

In the event someone goes missing whilst on a school trip:

- The designated trip leader will ensure the safety of the remaining pupils and staff by taking a register to identify who is missing.
- The designated trip leader will immediately identify at least one adult to start looking for the person.
- Where possible, the venue will be notified of the missing person to help ensure the person is found quickly.

- If the person cannot be contacted or located within 15 minutes, the local police or relevant authorities will be contacted.
- If the police are called, the trip leader will contact the Headteacher, or other available person, back at the school and inform them of what has happened.

If the police, or another authority, is called to an incident where someone is missing, they will oversee locating the person and will advise on factors including, but not limited to, when to contact next of kin.

If the missing person cannot be found, the group will return to school.

If a member of the party has gone missing and is subsequently found, the trip leader will:

- Review the group sizes and staffing ratios to ensure no one becomes separated from their group.
- Review whether more registers should be conducted throughout the day.
- Assess which venues they attend to ensure they are suitable for the group.
- Make recommendations to the educational visits coordinator to ensure similar incidents can be avoided in the future.

Pupils with SEND

Where possible, activities and visits will be adapted to enable pupils with SEND to take part. The SENCO or visit leader will liaise with pupil's parents, where appropriate, to consider what reasonable adjustments may be necessary.

Where this is not possible, an alternative activity of equal educational value will be arranged for all pupils. Pupils with SEND will be accompanied by a responsible adult during the extra-curricular trip or visit.

Finance

The school will act in accordance with the DfE's guidance document 'Charging for school activities' (2018) and, therefore, will only charge for trips which are classed as an 'optional extra'. This is education provided outside of school time which is not:

- Part of the national curriculum.
- Part of a syllabus for an examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
- Part of religious education.

Money for school trips will always be paid directly to the school. Under no circumstances should school trip money be processed through personal accounts.

All letters to parents regarding school trips will include a clause explaining what will happen in the event that the trip is cancelled or a pupil cancels their place on the trip.

In the event that the trip is cancelled due to unforeseeable circumstances, it is at the Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Headteacher will consult the Governing Board on the matter, considering the cost to the school, including alternative provision costs.

In the event that a pupil cancels their place on a trip, it is at the head teacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents.

The school will take a common-sense approach to refunds and cancellations, ensuring that all pupils are treated equally. Any charge made in respect of pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the trip divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Evaluating trips and visits

Following an educational trip and/or visit, the visit lead will use the CWAC EVOLVE system to evaluate the visit and whether the outcomes were met. Based on this assessment, recommendations will be made to improve future trips and visits.