



Policy for Educational Visits

Last Approved by Governing Body : September 2025

Date of next review : September 2026

Mission and Vision Statement

Our mission is that:

Each of us is special; each of us is unique.

We aim to provide pupils with high quality teaching and learning, so that they can become effective life-long learners, striving for excellence.

We aim to demonstrate clear Christian characteristics and values, whilst at the same time, encouraging recognition of and respect for other faiths.

We value greatly school, home and parish connections.

Our vision is to:

Empower creative independent thinkers, who are resilient to challenges, in readiness for our diverse and ever-changing world.

The aim of our Educational Visits Policy is to create clear expectations by all members of our school community, this in turn facilitates our mission statement in everyday practice.

Well planned and executed educational visits provide our pupils with valuable experiences which enhance their learning at school and enrich the curriculum. Providing a variety of 'real-life' opportunities for our children enables them to achieve a fuller understanding of the world around them through direct experience. Educational visits are an essential element of good primary practice.

Purposes

Educational Visits can provide stimulus and support the work being covered as part of the school curriculum. It may be that a visit provides an effective stimulus at the start of a unit of work; alternatively, teachers may decide to use an educational visit at any time during a project to enhance and support teaching and learning. Wherever or whatever the venue, teachers should ensure that the educational benefits to the children are maximised through a purposeful visit with planned outcomes.

Guidelines

The organisation of an educational visit is crucial to its success. With rigorous organisation and control, a visit should provide a rich, learning experience for the pupils.

The following guidelines support the planning and implementation of educational visits organised at St. John's CE Primary School.

Head Teacher

The Head Teacher or Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) at St. John's will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each visit has an appointed, suitable group leader (class teacher).
- All necessary actions have been completed before the visit begins. This applies even when the Head is not going on the visit (see Appendix 1).
- The risk assessment is completed no less than two weeks prior to the visit and that it is safe to make the visit.
- Training needs have been met.
- The group leader has experience in supervising and managing behaviour of the age groups going on the visit and will organise the group effectively.
- The group leader has relevant skills, qualifications and experience if acting as an instructor, and knows the location of the activity.
- All supervisors on the visit are appropriate people to supervise children and have appropriate clearance.
- The governing body has approved the visit if necessary (category c residential trips).
- Parents have signed consent forms and returned them to the visit organiser. A copy of the letter sent to parents/carers will be available electronically on Evolve.
- Arrangements have been made for the medical needs and special educational needs of all the children.
- The mode of travel is appropriate.
- Travel times out and back are known and shared with the SLT and office staff.
- There is adequate and relevant insurance cover.
- The group leader has the address and phone number of the visit's venue and a contact name.
- The group leader has the names of all the adults and pupils in the travelling group, and the contact details of parents and the staff's and volunteers' next of kin.
- The group leader has created an electronic file on Evolve which contains all relevant paperwork associated with the visit e.g. risk assessment, venue's own risk assessment, copy of consent letter.

Group Leader

One teacher, the group leader, is responsible overall for the supervision and conduct of the visit, and should have been appointed by the Head Teacher or EVC. The Group Leader should:

- appoint a deputy;
- be able to manage behaviour and lead pupils of the relevant age range;
- be suitably qualified if instructing an activity and be conversant in the good practice for that activity if not;
- undertake and complete the planning and preparation of the visit including the briefing of group members and parents/volunteers;
- undertake and complete a comprehensive risk assessment;
- have regard to the health and safety of the group at all times;
- know all the pupils proposed for the visit to assess their suitability;
- observe the guidance set out for teachers and other adults below;
- ensure that pupils understand their responsibilities (see responsibilities of pupils below).

Other teachers and adults involved in a visit

Teachers on school-led visits act as employees of the LA or of the Governing Body. They will therefore be acting in the course of their normal employment during their normal hours. They will be acting under an agreement with their Local Authority, Head Teacher and Governors if some of their time on the visit falls outside normal hours.

Teachers and other adults on the visit must:

- do their best to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the group;
- care for each individual pupil as any reasonable parent would;
- follow the instructions of the leader and help with control and discipline. Non-teachers should generally not have sole charge of pupils except where risks to health and safety are minimal;
- consider stopping the visit or the activity if they think the risk to the health or safety of the pupils in their charge is unacceptable;

Responsibilities of pupils

The group leader should make it clear to pupils that they must:

- not take unnecessary risks;
- follow the instructions of the leader and other adults;
- dress and behave sensibly and responsibly;

- look out for anything that might hurt or threaten anyone in the group and tell the group leader about it;
- not undertake any task that they fear or that they think will be dangerous.

Pupils with social and emotional difficulties may require an individual risk assessment. Any pupils whose behaviour may be considered to be a danger to themselves or to the group may be prevented from going on the visit. The curricular aims of the visit for these pupils should be fulfilled in other ways.

Parents

The group leader should ensure that parents are provided with information about the purpose and details of the visit and are invited to any briefing sessions for longer visits.

The group leader should also tell parents how they can help prepare their child for the visit by, for example, reinforcing the visit's code of conduct.

Special arrangements may be necessary for parents for whom English is a second language or have any other identified communication/organisation needs.

Parents must:

- provide the group leader with emergency contact number(s);
- sign the consent form;
- give the group leader relevant information about their child's health which might be relevant to the visit;

A child will not be taken unless permission is given.

Planning off-site visits

Whether the visit is to a local park, museum, swimming pool, or includes a residential stay, it is essential that careful planning takes place. This involves considering the dangers and difficulties which may arise and making plans to avoid them.

The Head Teacher or EVC is responsible for planning all off-site visits. In practice, the detailed planning is delegated to the organiser of the visit or the group leader, but the Head Teacher or EVC must be satisfied that the person planning the visit is qualified to do so and has the necessary experience.

The organiser / group leader must agree all plans and risk assessments with the EVC and Head Teacher no less than TWO WEEKS before the visit.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment should always be carried out before setting off on a visit, using St. John's Risk Assessment Evaluation Form (See Appendix 2). The risk assessment will decide the adult:child ratio for each visit. (See Guidance under Supervision). The risk assessment should include the following considerations:

- What are the risks?
- Who is affected by them?
- What safety measures need to be in place to reduce risks to an acceptable level?
- Can the group leader guarantee that these safety measures will be provided?
- What steps will be taken in an emergency?
- What is the acceptable ratio of adults to children for this visit? (See section on Supervision.)

The group leader and other supervisors should continually reassess the risks throughout the visit and take appropriate amendments and action if pupils are in risk of danger.

The group leader should take the following factors into consideration when assessing the risks:

- the type of activity and the level at which it is being undertaken;
- the location;
- the competence, experience and qualifications of supervisory staff;
- the group members' age, competence, fitness and temperament;
- pupils with special educational or medical needs;
- the quality and suitability of available equipment;
- seasonal conditions, weather and timing.

Exploratory visit

Wherever possible the group leader should undertake an exploratory visit to:

- ensure that the venue is suitable to meet the aims and objectives of the school visit;
- assess potential areas and levels of risk;
- ensure that the venue can cater for the needs of the staff and pupils in the group;
- ensure that the group leader is familiar with the area before taking a party of young people.

If it is not feasible to carry out an exploratory visit, a minimum measure should be to contact the venue, seeking assurances and risk assessments about the venue's appropriateness for the visiting group. In addition, it may be worth seeking views from other schools who have recently visited the venue. In some cases, such as when taking walking parties to remote areas, it may be appropriate to obtain local information from the Tourist Boards.

First Aid

First Aid provision should be considered when assessing the risks of the visit. For adventurous activities, visits which involve overnight stays, or visits abroad it is essential to have at least one trained first-aider in the group. The group leader should have a working knowledge of first aid and all adults in the group should know how to contact emergency services. For EYFS trips there will be a qualified first aider attending the trip.

The emergency number for the LA is 0161 770 1803

The minimum first-aid provision is:

- a suitably stocked first-aid box;
- a person appointed to be in charge of first-aid arrangements.

First-aid should be available and accessible at all times. If a first-aider is attending to one member of the group, there should be adequate first-aid cover for the other pupils. The Head Teacher should take this into account when assessing what level of first-aid facilities will be needed. The contents of a first-aid kit will depend on what activities are planned.

Supervision

It is important to have a sufficient ratio of adult supervisors to pupils for any off-site visit. The factors to take into consideration include:

- sex, age and ability of group;
- arrangements for special educational needs of pupils;
- specific medical needs of pupils;
- nature of activities;
- experience of adults in off site supervision;
- duration and nature of the journey;
- type of any accommodation;
- competence of staff, both general and on specific activities.

There should always be enough supervisors to cope effectively with an emergency. When visits are to remote areas or involve hazardous activities, the risks may be greater and supervision levels should be set accordingly.

Each visit will be assessed individually through the school's risk assessment procedure for educational visits and ratios will be decided in order to ensure that there is an appropriate level of supervision for the trip, children and activities being complete.

Where there is more than one adult supervisor, a group leader, who has authority over the whole party, should be appointed.

Where a high adult:pupil ratio is required, it is not always feasible to use school staff alone. Parents with appropriate clearance may be used to supplement the supervision ratio. They should be carefully selected and ideally they should be well known to the school and the pupil group.

All adult supervisors, including school staff and parent helpers must understand their roles and responsibilities at all times. In particular, all supervisors should be aware of any pupils who may require closer supervision, such as those with special educational needs or those with behavioural difficulties. Teachers retain responsibility for the group at all times.

For the protection of both adults and pupils, all adult supervisors should ensure that they are not alone in a one to one situation with a pupil. All teachers should share the risk assessments with all helpers and request they sign the risk assessment to show they have read and understood this.

If the school is leading an adventure activity, such as canoeing, the LA or Governing Body must ensure that the group leader and other supervisors are suitably qualified to lead and instruct the activity before they agree that the visit can take place. Qualifications can be checked with the National Governing Body of each sporting activity.

Whatever the length and nature of the visit, regular head counting of pupils should take place. The group leader should establish rendezvous points and tell pupils what to do if they become separated from the party.

Preparing Pupils

Providing information and guidance to pupils is an important part of preparing for a school visit. Pupils should have a clear understanding about what is expected of them and what the visit will entail. Pupils must understand what standard of behaviour is expected of them and why rules must be followed. The lack of control and discipline can be a major contributory factor when accidents occur. Pupils should also be

told about any potential dangers and how they should act to ensure their own and other's safety.

Pupils should be involved in planning, implementing and evaluating their own curricular work and have opportunities to take different roles within an activity. This could include considering any health and safety issues.

Participation

Pupils should be assessed to ensure that they are capable of undertaking the proposed activities. During the visit they should not be coerced into activities they fear.

Pupils whose behaviour is such that the group leader is concerned for their, or others' safety, should be withdrawn from the activity. On residential visits the group leader should consider whether such pupils will return home early.

Information to pupils

It is for the group leader to decide how to provide information, but they should be satisfied that the pupils understand key safety information.

Pupils should understand:

- the aims and objectives of the visit / activity;
- background information about the place to be visited;
- how to avoid specific dangers and why they should follow rules;
- why safety precautions are in place;
- why special safety precautions are in place for anyone with disabilities;
- what standard of behaviour is expected from pupils;
- who is responsible for the group;
- what to do if approached by a stranger;
- what to do if separated from the group
- emergency procedures
- rendezvous procedures.

Transport and pupils

Pupils using transport on a visit should be made aware of basic safety rules including:

- arrive on time and wait for the transport away from the road, track, etc.
- do not rush towards the transport when it arrives;
- wear a seatbelt and stay seated while travelling on transport;
- make sure bags do not block aisles on the transport;
- never attempt to get on or off the moving transport;

- never throw things out of the transport vehicle's windows;
- never get off a vehicle held up by traffic lights or in traffic;
- never run around while transport is moving or pass someone on steps or stairs;
- never kneel or stand on seats or otherwise impede the driver's vision
- never distract or disturb the driver;
- stay clear of automatic doors / manual doors after boarding or leaving the transport;
- after leaving the vehicle, always wait for it to move off before crossing the road;
- if you have to cross roads to get to the transport always use the Green Cross Code;
- if you feel unwell while travelling, tell a teacher or the person who is otherwise responsible for the group;
- do not eat sweets or snacks on the coach or transport.

Pupils with special educational and medical needs

The Head Teacher will not exclude pupils with special educational or medical needs from school visits. Every effort should be made to accommodate them whilst maintaining the safety of everyone on the visit. Special attention should be given to appropriate supervision ratios and additional safety measures may need to be addressed at the planning stage.

Communicating with Parents / Guardians

Parents need to be aware that the teachers on the visit will be acting in their place – 'in loco parentis' – and will be exercising the same care that a prudent parent would. The following information on matters that might affect pupil's health and safety is useful to parents, and will be included in letters to parents / guardians prior to a visit:

- dates of the visit;
- times of departure and return;
- mode(s) of travel including the name of any travel company;
- details of accommodation with security and supervisory arrangements on site;
- names of leader, or other staff and of other accompanying adults;
- visit's objectives;
- details of the activities planned and of how the assessed risks will be managed;
- insurance taken out for the group as a whole in respect of luggage, accident, cancellation and medical cover. Any cover to be arranged by the parents, if appropriate, will be requested;
- clothing and equipment to be taken;

- money to be taken;
- the information to be given by parents and what they will be asked to consent to.

Parental consent

St. John's CE Primary School will seek consent for:

- visits involving young children;
- visits using transport;
- adventure activities;
- visits abroad;
- other residential visits.

If parents withhold consent, the pupil should not be taken on the visit, but the curricular aims of the visit should be delivered to the pupil in some other way, wherever possible. If the parents give a conditional consent, the Head Teacher will need to consider whether the child may be taken on the visit or not. The School's parental consent form should be completed for each pupil in the group.

Residential visits

Hostels and Hotels

The school will bear in mind the following:

- the group leader should ideally have adjoining rooms with staff quarters next to the young people's – we will endeavour to obtain a floor plan of the rooms reserved for the group's use in advance;
- the immediate accommodation area should be exclusively for the use of the group;
- access by staff to student rooms must be available at all times;
- separate male and female sleeping areas for pupils and adults;
- ensure that the whole party are aware of the lay-out of the accommodation, its fire precautions / exits, its regulations and routing, and that everyone can identify key personnel;
- security arrangements – where the reception is not staffed 24 hours a day, security arrangements should be in force to stop unauthorised visitors;
- ensure that locks / shutters etc. work on all the rooms used by the group;
- adequate lighting – it is advisable to bring a torch;
- provision for sick, disabled pupils or those with special educational needs;
- safety in rooms (electrical connections, secure balconies);
- recreational accommodation / facilities for the group.

Risk Assessments for Category C educational visits will always be completed by the Head Teacher or Educational Visits Co-ordinator and submitted for authorisation from the Local Authority. This will be done via the Evolve website. Category C educational visits must not take place without LA authorisation and additional visit insurance in place.

Coastal visits

Group leaders and other teachers should be aware that many of the incidents affecting school children have occurred by or in the sea. There are dangers on the coast quite apart from those incurred in swimming. At St. John's, the group leader should bear the following points in mind in the risk assessment of a coastal activity:

- tides and sandbanks are potential hazards so timings and exit routes should be checked;
- ensure group members are aware of warning signs and flags;
- establish a base on the beach to which members of the group may return if separated;
- look out for hazards such as glass, barbed wire and sewage outflows etc;
- some of a group's time on a beach may be recreational. Group leaders should consider which areas of the terrain and sea are out of bounds;
- cliff tops can be highly dangerous for school groups even during daylight. The group should keep to the path at all times. Group leaders should consider whether it is safe for pupils to ride mountain bikes on coastal paths.

Swimming

Swimming and paddling in the sea or other natural waters are potentially dangerous activities for a school group.

Swimming in the sea on a coastal visit, will **not** be allowed for St. John's children. Paddling will only be allowed as part of a supervised activity, preferably in recognised bathing areas which have official surveillance. Pupils should always be in sight of their teachers. One teacher should always stay out of the water for better surveillance.

Where paddling is to be allowed on a visit, a ratio of 1 adult:4 children is a minimum.

Farm visits

St. John's, recognises that farms can be dangerous even for the people who work on them. Taking children to a farm will be very carefully planned, and the risks to be assessed should include those

arising from the misuse of farm machinery and the hazards associated with E coli 0157 food poisoning and other infections.

The proposed farm will be checked to ensure that it is well managed; that it has a good reputation for safety standards and animal welfare and that it maintains good hand washing facilities and clean grounds and public areas. An exploratory visit should be carried out.

The basic rules for a farm visit will be:

We will never let pupils:

- place their faces against the animals or their hands in their mouths after feeding them;
- eat until they have washed their hands;
- sample any animal foodstuffs;
- drink from farm taps (other than in designated public facilities);
- play in the farm area.

Equal Opportunities

Provision is made for all children regardless of ability, disability, additional needs, medical conditions, gender, faith or ethnicity and reasonable adjustments are made in a range of ways. All children have a right to be treated equally and the school will take measures against those who do not abide by this ethos.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Policy and practice is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Monitoring may take the form of planning questionnaires, discussions with children, staff or parents. Feedback will be given to all staff along with recommendations to inform future policy and planning.

The school leadership team have a responsibility to ensure the policy is embedded into the school provision and report to governors on the effectiveness of the policy.

Appendix 1 Educational Visit Checklist

For the Group Leader

Educational Visit Checklist

<u>Checklist</u>	<u>Checked by Grp Leader</u>	<u>Checked by HT</u>
<u>Have the children visited there before?</u>		
<u>Are the aims of your visit clear and relevant?</u>		
<u>Have you adhered to the one trip per term agreement?</u>		
<u>Have children been briefed about their responsibilities and expectations?</u>		
<u>Have other supervisory staff & parent helpers been briefed with the EV policy, risk assessment and given relevant information?</u>		
<u>Have you filled in a risk assessment and submitted to the HT or EVC? (at least two weeks before the visit)</u>		
<u>Have you arranged transport to the venue?</u>		
<u>Have the kitchen staff been informed about the date and numbers of packed lunch needed?</u>		
<u>Have all parental consent forms been returned?</u>		
<u>Have the recommended ratios been adhered to, taking into consideration the dynamics and needs of the group?</u>		
<u>Have you appointed a Deputy group leader? Who?</u>		
<u>Is there a suitably qualified first aid person? Who is it?</u>		
<u>Have you checked the First Aid kit is suitably stocked?</u>		
<u>Have you got a class list of parent's emergency contact numbers from the office?</u>		
<u>Have you ask and identified 2 or 3 parents you could contact to pass on a late message?</u>		
<u>Have you got a staff list of contact numbers from the office?</u>		
<u>Ensure you have the LA emergency number in your phone or written down in your trip folder (0161 770 1803)</u>		

Signed (group leader): _____
 Date _____

Signed (Headteacher/EVC/Assistant
Headteacher
Date:

Appendix 2

Sample Risk Assessments
can be found on the St. John's First Class Conference