

Educational Visits Policy Federation

Introduction

Trips, visits and learning off-site comprise an essential part of the school curriculum at both schools in the federation of Sibertswold CofE and Eythorne Elvington CP School. Successful trips provide memorable learning experiences and enhance the children's education in ways that are not possible in the classroom. The schools are 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.

Within both school, responsibility for educational visits rests with the Governing Body and the Headteachers, 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 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.

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
- Forest School
- Sporting activities including swimming sessions
- Outward bound and adventurous activities
- Visits abroad

Aims and expectations

Most classes in the school will have at least one educational visit each academic year, although there may be fewer in Reception class. These trips are planned to support and broaden the children's understanding of the current topic. Class teachers may arrange additional visits throughout the year following authorisation from senior leaders, providing the costs for the school year are not excessive. In addition to this, there will be additional trips arranged throughout the year, such as sports, citizenship, music or art trips. All activities are available to all children irrespective of needs, ethnicity, gender or religion.

Planning and Preparation for a trip

The Educational Visits Coordinator

The Headteachers in both schools coordinate the planning and management of these activities. All off-site activities must be approved by the Headteacher 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 that the member of staff organising the trip will need to complete PART A of the Educational Vists Booking Form. This will including all dates and numbers for the said trip plus costings as well as similar details for the travel aspect. Once PART A is

completed, the form should be passed through the Headteacher who will forward it onto the school office to complete PART B. This part of the form is around areas such as permission slips and school packed lunches etc.

Risk assessments

A full risk assessment must be completed two weeks prior to a trip, which must be completed by the member of staff organising the visit and then approved by the school's Headteacher, 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.

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

Parental consent

Permission slips must be completed by parents and this should confirm payment of the educational visit. This can be done by hand or via email back to the office.

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.

- Reception classes - 1:4
- Years 1 – 3 - 1:6
- Years 4 – 6 - 1:15
- Adventurous activities - 1:10
- Residential visits – 1:10
- Visits abroad 1:10

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.

Residential trips

In the case of residential trips, 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 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. Payments can be made via cash or BACS. For some more expensive visits, payments can be spread across a number of months.

Behaviour on school trips

The schools Behaviour Policies apply 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 schools. 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

Both schools 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 schools 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
- Newly Qualified Teachers to be accompanied by an experienced member of the teaching staff on their first visit
- Supervising adults to include a member of staff with knowledge of basic First Aid, if possible
- For EYFS trips, at least one first aider must accompany children
- Supervising adults must know of any special medical details relevant to any pupil
- First aid kits and any individual medicines, e.g., asthma pumps, 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 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 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
- If a child has been left on the tube/train, they are to get off at the next station and wait
- Speak only to adults in uniform, e.g., TfL staff, police etc. 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 approximately 20 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 30 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

Policy Monitoring and Review

A copy of this policy is available to all staff and parents and is published on the school website. This policy is reviewed every two years by the Governors' Health and Safety Committee.