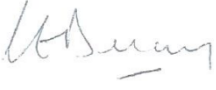




Educational Visits Policy

Associated Policies – First Aid, Health and Safety, Risk Assessment, Safeguarding, Business Continuity, Curriculum and Behaviour Policy

The policy also draws on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents ROSPA guidance, "[Planning and Leading Visits and Adventurous Activities](#)"; the OEAP national guidance "[Guidance for the management of high-quality outdoor learning. Educational visits and adventurous activities](#)"; the Department for Education's *Health and Safety on Educational Visits* guidance; and, where relevant, *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)* 2026. These documents may be consulted for further information and good practice.

Signed:	
Chair of BPET Board:	Claire Delaney
Approved:	1 September 2026
Renewal period	3 Years
Review Date:	September 2028

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Educational Visits Policy

This policy has due regard to the DfE Guidance, [*Health and Safety Advice on Legal Duties and Powers for Local Authorities, Head Teachers, Staff and Governing Bodies*](#) and the [*Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel \(OEAP\) National Guidance: Guidance for the management of high-quality outdoor learning, educational visits and adventurous activities*](#). It also takes account of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026*, where relevant, particularly in relation to safeguarding arrangements for residential visits, overseas visits and homestays.

This policy has due regard to the [*SCE Outdoor Education Policy, Guidance, and Procedures*](#), which should be followed in conjunction with our internal policy. Although the 'Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits (HASPEV)' guidance can still provide useful insights, it is no longer the primary reference but may be used as a supplementary resource where appropriate.

The school is committed to learning outside the classroom as an essential component of our curriculum. It gives our pupils unique opportunities to develop their resourcefulness and initiative and to spend time together in an informed environment. Each trip is different. Some are directly related to the curriculum, some are designed to promote social awareness, or to enhance physical skills, self-reliance and team working. Others will extend their knowledge of the world. The common factor is that they all make an essential contribution to our pupils' development and education in the broadest sense of the word.

1. Basic Principles

Responsibility

- The Headteacher bears ultimate responsibility in ensuring staff meet the arrangements and follow the guidelines in this policy. The Headteacher will hold the role of nominated contact in the event of an emergency, the schools EVC – will be the second nominated contact in the event of the Head being unavailable.
- The school is obliged to appoint an appropriately trained Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC). The EVC is Liz Haynes and is responsible for the review of this policy and ensuring that staff follow its contents.
- Teachers who plan a day or residential visit are designated as the group leader and, as such, have responsibility to make sure the visit is properly organised following this policy and associated guidance and having completed National Colleges Certificate in Organising & Managing School Trips or equivalent training.
- All BPET schools have access to Evolve, a system BPET schools **MUST** use for supporting and recording all educational visits.
- The group leader is responsible for completing a full risk assessment of the trip. This must be approved by the Headteacher/Educational Visits Co-ordinator via Evolve before the trip can go ahead. The risk assessment must be completed for each visit and uploaded to Evolve before final approval can be given, a template is provided in Appendix B.
- The *Behaviour Policy* applies to all pupils on off-site visits. The group leader and accompanying staff are responsible for good behaviour on all visits.
- The group leader (designated by the Headteacher) will be responsible for co-ordinating and delegating tasks to all staff participating in the visit and sharing with them the details of the risk assessment.
- Staff accompanying children on visits will have appropriately designated responsibilities and a clear itinerary of events.
- The group leader will complete a visit evaluation form after the visit, reporting back to the Headteacher any problems/issues and particular successes. This evaluation must include an assessment of the effectiveness of the Risk Assessment, in order to inform future visits.

Health and safety

- Safety is the prime consideration when planning or carrying out a school trip; all appropriate health & safety and child protection procedures must be followed.
- All risks will be assessed and reported prior to the event and any possible measures towards safety and welfare undertaken.
- Staffing will adhere to recommended ratios. The group leader along with the headteacher will consider whether the nature of the activities requires the normal ratios to be exceeded.

- The staffing of every off-site visit must include an adult who has an appropriate first aid qualification. In the case of an off-site visit involving pupils in the EYFS, at least one accompanying adult will hold a current full paediatric first aid qualification.
- Appropriate first aid provision will be available at all stages of the trip.
- Teachers, assistants and volunteers accompanying school trips will be suitably record checked and appropriately trained in procedures.
- All transport arrangements and venues will be checked for suitability and safety beforehand.
- Risk assessments will be completed and approved for all aspects of the trip. At an age appropriate level, pupils should be involved in the assessment and management of the risks for the trips in which they are involved.
- Where technology or tracking devices are proposed as part of a visit, their use must be included within the visit risk assessment, including consideration of purpose, limitations, data protection implications and communication with parents/carers.
- Visit checklists are available via Appendix A and OEAP.

Educational Value

- For curricular visits, a clear aim and objective must be identified by the group leader and clearly communicated to the other accompanying adults and, as appropriate, the pupils.
- Visits are not taken in isolation. Pupils are well prepared for the visit and, subsequently, put the experience to good effect as a stimulus for work in class.

Parents and information

- At the start of each academic year, or on a child's registration at the school, parents are asked to sign a consent form for their child to participate in off-site activities such as visits to local sports amenities, churches and for sports fixtures against other schools. Such events do not then require further parental consent, but are otherwise regulated by this policy. However, parents are entitled to information about where their children are during the school day. Therefore, information about an off-site visit should be available to parents, for example in the school calendar, on the website, in a newsletter or in a specific information letter about the trip.
- The exceptions to the procedure for parental consent, above, are when;
 - The trip is planned to extend beyond the normal start or end of the school day
 - The trip involves an overnight stay, overseas travel or any additional level of risk management
 - An additional charge is made to parents in relation to the cost of the trip
- Parents will be notified of the details of such school visits in advance and permission for any school trip must be received from parents/guardians prior to the visit date. For trips which require a higher level of risk management, parents must be told where the children will be and of any extra safety measures required.
- Parents will be told specifically if a day visit is planned to involve a return to school after the end of the normal school day. If a trip is planned to return before the end of the school day but is subject to delays, the group leader will contact the Headteacher or school office, who will pass on information to parents.
- Parents will be required to notify the trip leader of their child's special or medical needs, dietary requirements and of any other considerations affecting the welfare and safety the child and of staff and other pupils.
- Parents are also asked to sign a consent form for emergency medical treatment.
- For residential visits and trips overseas, the school will hold an information meeting for parents and pupils at the early stages of planning. An information meeting may be held for other visits as appropriate.
- Pupils' emergency contact details, medical information and any other relevant information will be collected prior to the visit. This information will be taken on the visit.
- Costs for visits will be calculated in advance, in line with the school's budget
- Parents will be notified of the cost of the trip well in advance where this is not absorbed by the school. All trips must be paid for prior to departure. The school will not make profit on any curricular-based visits.

2. Procedures for Organising an Educational Visit

General Information

Early planning is essential for any visit. Plans for residential visits and overseas trips are formulated well in advance. All residential visits, off-site visits and activities must be approved by the Headteacher, who is kept fully informed throughout the planning stages. Trips overseas must be authorised by Bellevue Place Education Trust, who must be kept informed of progress in planning to facilitate continued approval. Activities of an outdoor pursuit or adventure nature must be within the ability of the children participating and the accompanying staff and approved via Evolve. It is advisable to refer to the [DFE Guidance on Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits](#) to support in ensuring all aspects of any trip or visit is carefully planned and undertaken.

Preliminary Planning

An outline plan is presented to the Headteacher for approval in principle prior to more detailed plans being made. Once outline permission has been granted and any particular conditions set, one or more meetings of the proposed staff involved will be held to formalise the administration and organisation of the visit. The Risk assessment is discussed and specific duties, and the names of the pupils for whom each person is responsible, are identified if necessary.

Discussions will take place with the Headteacher about any other school events or trips which may be occurring at a similar time in order to establish a balance.

Once the trip is approved, parents will normally be informed and provided with as much information as is appropriate. Greater detail will be expected for trips overseas or involving overnight stays. Preparing for such trips will include an information meeting for parents.

The provision of information to parents will normally include the following, as appropriate:

- Information about accommodation
- Itinerary
- Emergency Contacts/Medical Forms
- Staffing/Grouping Details
- Personal Items/luggage and passport/visa requirements
- Insurance Details
- Finance Arrangements
- Spending Money
- Information about the coach company and any other transport arrangements

Insurance

The Headteacher will liaise with the Operations Manager to check that insurance cover for all children and adults involved in visits is appropriate. Extra insurance cover may be needed for residential visits, trips abroad and any activities of a hazardous nature. If insurance cover is not provided by the commercial centre or tour company, it is recommended that parents purchase personal travel insurance for their child, please speak to the trip leader/Operations Manager/ Headteacher about this. All parties are provided with precise details of the insurance policy, so that there is no doubt about the cover and, in particular, what eventualities fall outside such cover. In the event the EVC/Headteacher and Operations Manager are unsure if a trip is covered by normal school insurance provision, they should contact the Finance Team at BPET to establish if this is the case. (NB Insurance provided to the BPET currently excludes Overseas Travel – which will include winter sports; and Cultural Assets cover – which will include a free evaluation service as part of the RPA).

Overseas Visits

Overseas visits require additional planning and BPET Board approval due to the increased complexity and potential risks involved. In addition to the usual educational visit planning requirements, the group leader must consider:

- passport and visa requirements
- travel insurance and medical cover
- GHIC/EHIC requirements where applicable
- country-specific health advice and vaccination requirements

- medication arrangements and access to medical support
- communication arrangements, including emergency contacts
- contingency arrangements for delays, disruption, illness or emergencies
- local laws, customs and safeguarding considerations

Parents/carers must receive appropriate information about these arrangements before consent is obtained.

Preliminary Visit

Pupil to staff ratios for school trips are not prescribed in law. Those planning trips, on the basis of risk assessment, should decide if the ratios should exceed the recommended ones in the table below, taking into account the activity to be undertaken and the age and maturity of the pupils. Responsibility lies with the Head to judge whether appropriate factors have been taken into account and ratios calculated accordingly. The group leader will liaise with the Headteacher, EVC and Operations Manager to ensure that the adult : pupil ratios for the visit are appropriate.

There must always be a minimum of two adults .

These will take account of:

- Appropriate legislation, including statutory ratios for EYFS
- The ages, gender and ability of the children involved
- The number of pupils involved
- Pupils' special or medical needs
- Pupils' previous experiences of being away from school/home and of the activities involved
- The degree of responsibility and discipline shown by the group
- The type of visit and whether the nature of the activity and/or the pupils involved require the ratio to be exceeded.
- The level of risk
- The location and travel arrangements
- The session time and day
- The experience, training and quality of the staff and other adults available (e.g. if swimming is involved one of the adults in attendance should be a qualified lifesaver, the centre being visited may provide this).
- Requirements of the organisation or location to be visited
- The availability of a qualified First Aider
- The past experience of organising visits of the same or similar nature

If the pupils have special educational needs, there should be a higher staff/adult to pupil ratio as an extremely high level of care and wider safety margins are necessary.

Minimum planning ratios used by the school

These ratios are starting points for planning and may need to be increased following risk assessment.

Day School Trip	Staff to Pupil Ratio - minimum adult: pupil ratio
Nursery: Day Trips (under 4)	1:1 (+1) (refer to EYFS framework for associated qualifications requirements)
Reception: Day Trips	1:4 (+1) (refer to EYFS framework for associated qualifications requirements)
Years 1 - 3: Day Trips	1:6 (+1)
Years 4 - 6: Day Trips	1:10 – 15 (+1) (1: 10 (+1) in London or high population cities)
Overseas School Trip	Staff to Pupil Ratio - minimum adult: pupil ratio
Years 1 - 3: Overseas Visits	1:6 (+1)
Years 4 - 6: Overseas Visits	1:10 (+1)

There must always be at least two adults accompanying the children at all times.

The school will ensure that all adults accompanying educational visits are appropriately checked and suitable for the role they undertake. Where adults are undertaking regulated activity, the appropriate DBS checks, including barred list checks where required, will be completed.

For visits which involve children working with staff at another venue or organisation, the group leader must obtain written confirmation from the organisation that it has undertaken all appropriate checks on its staff and that they are appropriately qualified and suitable to work with children. The centre may make a statement to this effect in its publicity materials.

When planning an activity involving caving, climbing, trekking, skiing or water sports, the group leader must check that the provider holds a licence as required by the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004 (for England, Scotland and Wales).

On trips involving both boys and girls, the staff must include both men and women. The Headteacher has the discretion to waive this requirement in the case of the youngest pupils, depending on the nature of the trip. Staffing must be appropriate, in terms of ratios and qualifications, to cope with any child on the trip with special or individual medical needs. Residentials must always have single gender rooms.

The group leader should liaise with the EVC/Headteacher to discuss cover arrangements back at school as necessary for all adults involved in the visit; classes to be covered in the absence of staff, work set, duties needing cover etc.

Volunteers and other adults accompanying visits

Volunteers may support educational visits where their involvement has been agreed by the group leader and Headteacher. All volunteers must be appropriately briefed before the visit, including expectations regarding safeguarding, confidentiality, behaviour management, supervision responsibilities and emergency procedures.

Volunteers must understand that teachers and designated visit leaders retain overall responsibility for pupils during the visit. Volunteers must follow the instructions of the group leader and accompanying staff at all times.

Volunteers must not have unsupervised access to pupils unless the appropriate safeguarding checks have been completed and the role requires this. The level of DBS checking required will be determined in line with safeguarding requirements and the nature of the activity.

Volunteers must comply with the school's safeguarding procedures, staff code of conduct and expectations regarding professional boundaries.

Financial Arrangements

Records of all payments by individual pupils are kept by the IAdministrators. At the Headteacher's discretion, residential visit payments may be made in stages. All payments should be made by the school's preferred payment system. Payment by the school in advance for trip costs will be made by the finance team. For payments and other sundry expenses during the visit, including, if appropriate, issuing of pocket money, the group leader should make appropriate arrangements with the Operations Manager. Similarly, the group leader should liaise with the Operations Manager when foreign currency is required. The group leader must ensure maximum security for money, passports and other valuable documents before and throughout the visit.

Requests for refunds for activities will be considered on an individual basis and may be rejected if the school is unable to recoup the costs incurred.

In all cases of withdrawal, either voluntarily or otherwise, applications should be made in writing to the Headteacher. If approved, refunds will be processed via the original method of payment.

The school reserves the right not to refund costs where a pupil is withdrawn from an activity by the school on the basis of a pupil's breach of the BPET Behaviour Policy.

Calculating Costs

Factors to be taken into account in calculating the cost of the trip include:

- travel, transport and parking
- entrance fees for staff and pupils
- hire of equipment (for activities)
- insurance
- preliminary visits
- extra staffing and supply cover at school
- meals
- materials
- rewards, incentives, prizes for pupils' work, conduct etc.
- spending money
- contingency fund
- administration costs

In calculating the cost of an optional extra an amount **will** be included in relation to:

- any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- the cost of buildings and accommodation
- non-teaching staff
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, which includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra
- the cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge for an optional extra **will not** exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It **will not** include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Cancellations

Parent contributions should be received a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the trip. Where less than 90% of the contributions are made, schools should consider cancelling the trip. Before doing this the Operations Manager should ensure the cancellation policy is understood for the trip as a cut-off date for cancellation may need to align with the provider's cancellation policy. Parents and teachers must be made aware of the possibility of cancellations and the process for refunding. Where a trip is cancelled the school will liaise to agree a refund or rebook the trip. If the trip is refunded the refund will be passed back to parents. Where the host organisation is not able to provide a refund, parents will not receive a refund.

Further Liaison with Parents

Except for routine off-site activities with a low level of risk, such as walking to the church for a carol service rehearsal, or a weekly trip to local sports facilities, it is imperative that parents are given full and complete written details regarding the organisation and administration of a visit. This will normally include:

- activities and venues
- specialist equipment and/or clothing necessary for activities
- packed meal requirements
- teachers/leaders, their experience and expertise when required
- total costs and methods for payment
- insurance cover, including medical cover and exemptions
- passport requirements, if any

A parental medical consent form must be obtained for each participating pupil, agreeing to emergency treatment and medication to be given if needed and for staff to act in loco parentis.

Pupil Behaviour and Supervision

Pupils should be well prepared for the visit. They must understand behaviour expectations and rules to be followed ahead of leaving. The group leader has responsibility for the good conduct of pupils on the trip. All accompanying adults have a duty of care. Teachers should be briefed that they are in loco parentis at all times on the visit and thus are legally responsible for the well-being and safety of the children and also for their behaviour, which should be impeccable at all times.

Children should never be on their own, but always remain in a group, and must be supervised by at least two adults at all times; one may be provided by the centre being visited. Groups and their leaders should be decided in advance.

If children are walking it is important to ensure that there is clear agreement for the safety arrangements when crossing roads. At least Two adults must be available. A teacher should be in charge of crossing the children over the road and children should be told to wait at any appropriate point until all the children have crossed safely.

On residential visits, close supervision of the pupils in the hostel, centre or hotel during the night must be maintained. Adults' rooms must be located in close proximity to the children's rooms. Staff should be allocated "on call" responsibilities on a rota basis and those adults should refrain from the consumption of alcohol in order to be able to perform their duties properly in the case of an emergency.

Homestays and host families

The school may make arrangements for children to stay with host families, either in the UK or abroad, for example, as part of an exchange visit or sports tour. Such activities can benefit learning across a range of subjects. In particular, foreign visits can enrich the languages curriculum and provide exciting opportunities for pupils to develop their confidence and expertise in the use of other languages. In such circumstances, the school must be mindful of its duty to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The school must consider how best to minimise the risk of harm to children involved in such a homestay arrangement. KCSIE 2026 continues to emphasise that, where a school organises homestay accommodation for children, the hosting adults are carrying out regulated activity. As the regulated activity provider, the school must obtain an Enhanced DBS check, including children's barred list information, for the host adults. This applies both to the school's own pupils for whom it arranges homestays and also to visiting pupils on an exchange, for example, hosted by the school's own parents. If the homestay is organised by the child's parents, this would be a private arrangement and the school is not the regulated activity provider, so does not need to conduct DBS checks. The school is free to make its own assessment as to whether other persons over 16 living in the household where the child is being hosted should be checked.

It is not possible for the school to obtain criminality information from the DBS about adults who provide homestays abroad. In these circumstances, the school must liaise with the partner school abroad to establish a shared understanding of, and agreement to the arrangements in place for the visit. The staff responsible must use professional judgement to satisfy themselves that arrangements are sufficient to safeguard effectively every child involved. The school is free to decide whether it is necessary to contact the relevant foreign embassy or High Commission of the country in question to discuss what checks may be possible in respect of those providing homestay outside of the UK.

See Part Three of KCSIE 2026 for further information on school-organised homestays associated with educational visits and exchange visits.

Risk Assessments

The school's arrangements for risk assessments on off-site visits are as follows:

- For the peace of mind of all staff involved, and that of the school management, trips and visits will only be approved after an assessment of the risks involved has been carried out.
- Risk Assessment MUST be completed and added to Evolve before any off-site visit can take place.

Risk assessment is the normal day to day activity which we undertake without conscious effort, such as crossing roads, driving etc. The risk assessment forms enable the group leader to apply the same thought processes to the trip being planned. What is required is an understanding of the potential risks involved and the actions required to minimise those risks. Completing the forms will better enable the school to safeguard the children, thus giving the group leader peace of mind. If you, as group leader, feel unsure about anything, please ask. Training is provided to staff who organise visits, both at induction and subsequently, often initially in a “mentoring” capacity, to enable them to prepare effective risk assessments for the trips they organise.

The group leader will prepare written risk assessments for individual visits and activities. Risk assessments must consider the individual needs of all pupils participating, including disability, medical needs, SEND, behaviour, safeguarding considerations and any reasonable adjustments required to enable participation. The given proforma, and the bank of risk assessments for repeated activities (travelling by public transport, crossing the road, escorting children along a footpath at a roadside etc.) are available from the school office should help group leaders to consider the ‘risk factor and plan contingency measures to prevent or deal with such eventualities. (Where necessary, staff training will be provided). Staff should also refer to the school’s risk assessment policy.

Final authorisation for each visit will be made by the Educational Visits Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Headteacher and only then if s/he is satisfied that an adequate risk assessment has been carried out.

In order that the safety of pupils and staff can be as thorough as possible, the following time scales must be adhered to (ensure the Checklist at the end of this policy is completed to support the appropriate planning and health and safety of the trip)

At least 4 weeks prior to the trip; Risk Assessments, including those from the place to visited, added to Evolve for the Educational Visits Coordinator with a completed Off Site Visits Form, list of pupils involved, details of any particular requirements for pupils with special or medical needs, parental consent forms and all letters sent to parents. This will form part of the information file detailed under “information and final arrangements” below.

In the event of consent forms not being returned by the specified time, the pupil will not be allowed to travel.

At least 7 full days before the trip; The risk assessments and forms noted above, having been checked and signed by the Educational Visits Coordinator should be copied for the staff on the trip and the school office.

In the case of residential visits and trips taking place outside term time, these should also be copied to the nominated contact at school (if this is not the Headteacher). Staff on the trip (excluding the Leader who should be in possession of them all) need only the consent forms of the children in their care for the trip.

It is the responsibility of the group leader to check that all the consent forms and medical details for each child have been successfully collected by the deadline. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to give final consent to the trip going ahead after reading the Risk Assessment.

If there are any worries or uncertainties, the group leader should always ask the Headteacher, Educational Visits Coordinator or Operations Manager for help.

Information and final arrangements

Final details of the visit, including the final version of the risk assessment, must be submitted to the Educational Visits Coordinator for approval at least two weeks before the visit. This information will be retained for future reference. The group leader holds the same information for the duration of the visit and checks immediately prior to departure for any late changes, for example due to pupil illness or absence. Such changes are noted and an amended copy submitted to the Headteacher. As a minimum, the information should include details of:

- itinerary
- contact points
- pupils’ and staff emergency contacts
- contact information for staff while on the trip

- copies of Parental Medical Consent Forms
- specific information about any children with individual special or medical needs, including their medical plans as appropriate
- copies of any insurance documents, contracts, etc.
- emergency procedures, including the school's business continuity policy
- risk assessments

Special Educational Needs & Disability

The SENDCo/Headteacher and Educational Visits Coordinator will ensure that all reasonably practicable efforts have been made during the course of risk assessment to include disabled pupils in educational visits. This will usually entail discussion with the pupil, parents, group leader and other supervisors, the manager of the venue to be visited, the tour operator etc. It may be necessary to have additional safety measures for children with special educational needs and all staff supervising should be aware of these measures.

The school will ensure that educational visits are planned and delivered in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Pupils with disabilities or additional needs will not be excluded from educational visits solely because of their disability or additional needs. The school will consider reasonable adjustments to enable participation wherever reasonably practicable.

Planning should involve consultation with the pupil, parents/carers, SENDCo, relevant staff and, where appropriate, the venue, activity provider or transport provider. Risk assessments should consider individual needs and identify any additional control measures required to support safe and meaningful participation.

Ongoing Risk Assessments and Reassessments

The group leader, or other adults with responsibility, should reassess risks while the visit is taking place. Ongoing risk assessments normally consist of judgements and decisions made as the need arises. They should be informed by the site specific risk assessments and take account of local expertise on: e.g. tides, potential for flooding etc. They are not usually recorded until after the visit and should be reviewed to inform future planning. Examples of the need for ongoing risk assessment:

- Changing weather, tiredness or illness within the group, behaviour, issues with other groups at same venue etc. Control measures may include deciding to change to the pre-assessed plan B or swapping activities on the itinerary so that the activity can be carried out on a different day
- Emergencies. Control measures would include establishing the nature and extent of the emergency as quickly as possible; ensuring that all the group are safe and looked after; establishing whether anyone has been hurt and getting immediate medical attention for them; ensuring that all group members who need to know are aware of the incident and that all group members are following the emergency procedures; ensuring that if a teacher accompanies casualties to hospital, the rest of the group are adequately supervised at all times and kept together; and informing the emergency contact in the school
- Group leaders are always in charge. They should use their own knowledge of pupils and use their own professional judgement. This may include challenging an activity leader where the group leader's knowledge of the group is superior, or intervening to prompt a change of plan, including stopping an activity if it has become too hazardous

3. Water Based Activities and Farm Visits

All water based activities **MUST** be agreed with the EVC. Local Authority or other relevant guidance on the use of swimming or wading pools should be followed.

Great care should be taken on any visits to farms. Refer to PHEs guidance on [Avoiding infection on farm visits](#)

4. On Departure and During the Visit

Communication

The group leader must take a working mobile phone and must ensure that the school has all the necessary contact information for each stage of the trip.

Mobile phones, photography and recording

Staff and volunteers must follow the school's safeguarding, acceptable use and photography policies when using mobile phones, cameras or other recording devices during educational visits.

Photographs and recordings of pupils must only be taken and shared in accordance with school procedures and parental consent arrangements. Staff and volunteers must not use personal devices to photograph or record pupils unless this is permitted by school policy.

The use of personal mobile phones by staff and volunteers should not distract from their supervisory responsibilities.

Use of tracking devices

The use of personal tracking devices, such as Apple AirTags, Tile trackers, GPS devices or other location-sharing technology, on educational visits must be considered carefully. Tracking devices should not be used as a substitute for appropriate supervision, effective risk assessment, group management procedures or established communication arrangements.

The school will consider requests for, or proposals to use, tracking devices on a case-by-case basis, taking account of safeguarding, privacy, proportionality and data protection considerations. Any approved use must have a clear purpose, be included within the visit risk assessment and be communicated clearly to pupils, parents/carers and staff.

Where tracking devices are used, the school will ensure that information collected is appropriately managed and that those involved understand what information is available, who can access it and for what purpose.

Use of Personal Tracking Devices and Location-Sharing Technologies

The use of personal tracking devices - including but not limited to Apple AirTags, Tile trackers, GPS devices, or other location-sharing mobile apps - is strictly regulated on all educational visits.

- **No Substitute for Safeguarding:** Tracking technology must never be used as a substitute for appropriate staff supervision, thorough risk assessment, or established visit communication arrangements. Primary responsibility for pupil safety remains at all times with the Visit Leader and designated staff.
- **Headteacher Approval:** The deployment of any tracking device during a visit will be considered strictly on a case-by-case basis, taking account of safeguarding, privacy, proportionality and data protection considerations and **must not be used without the prior written consent of the Headteacher**. Any approved use must have a clear purpose, be included within the visit risk assessment and be communicated clearly to pupils, parents/carers and staff.
- **Data Protection and GDPR Compliance:** Any location data gathered, processed, or shared through these technologies constitutes personal data under GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Where the use of a device is exceptionally approved, the tracking technology must fully comply with GDPR and UK data protection legislation; location data must only be accessed by authorized personnel for legitimate safeguarding purposes and managed in line with the Trust's data protection policy.

Unsanctioned Parent Tracking & Technical Requirements

- **Prohibition of Unsanctioned Tracking:** Parents and carers must not place tracking devices in pupils' belongings or activate real-time location sharing without prior Headteacher approval. Unsanctioned tracking frequently generates inaccurate location data, causes unnecessary alarm, and undermines established visit communication channels.

- **Exceptions for Vulnerable Pupils:** Approvals are considered primarily where a tracker forms part of an agreed risk assessment or Individual Healthcare/SEND Plan. In these rare instances, the management of the device, technical setup (to prevent automated anti-stalking alerts on group devices), and data access permissions must be formally documented prior to departure.
- **Group Safeguarding:** Live location data must remain strictly confidential between approved parties to ensure the physical security of the visiting party is not compromised.

In advance of the trip, pupils should be given clear safety instructions based upon the nature of the activities and the associated risks.

First Aid

All accompanying adults must be familiar with the BPET First Aid Policy, a copy of which should be included in the group leader's information file.

On departure the group leader must collect the First Aid kit(s) for school visits. This must be returned to the Operations Manager after the visit together with details of any items used.

The group leader must also ensure that any special medical equipment or medication to meet individual pupil needs, such as inhalers, Epi-pens, etc, are taken on the trip. Where specialist knowledge or training is required for the administration of medication, the staffing of the trip must ensure that this expertise is available.

The regulations for the reporting of accidents (RIDDOR) apply to educational visits and can be found in the school's first aid and medication policy. Other accidents which may occur, but which fall short of the threshold for RIDDOR reporting, must be reported and recorded in accordance with the school's normal procedures.

When the trip involves the use of a venue which provides first aid facilities, the group leader must ensure that all adults are aware of the arrangements and the location of first aid points.

In the event of a minor incident

- organise first aid treatment so that a member of staff stays with the pupil
- call for help if necessary
- see that the remainder of the group is safe
- telephone the nominated school contact number

Transport

It is the school's policy that only coaches with seat belts are booked. Vehicles used should comply with the current requirements on seat belts. All seats should be forward facing and seat restraints should comply with legal requirements. Occasionally a trip may be organised to a country where legislation does not require coaches to be fitted with seatbelts and such a coach may not be available. In such circumstances the group leader must endeavour to book a coach fitted with seat belts and must do everything possible to ensure the safety of staff and pupils. Parents must be made aware of such circumstances.

Supervision on Transport

- At least two members of staff should supervise the pupils getting on and off the coach – one on the coach and one by the steps.
- A roll call must be taken at regular intervals, including each occasion when pupils embark and disembark.
- Pupils should not sit on the first two seats facing the front window or next to the emergency exit.
- Staff should sit at intervals spaced through the coach to ensure proper supervision
- All pupils must be settled before setting off and must wear their seat belts throughout the journey, unless told to remove them in an emergency.
- The group leader should delegate an adult to check for lost property and litter when the group leaves the coach.

At least one experienced visit leader should be on each coach or minibus and have a mobile phone with them.

Other Transport:

- If school staff use their own cars to transport children they must have appropriate car insurance. Staff concerned must liaise with the Operations Manager to establish whether such transportation is covered by the school's or their own insurance. If the latter, documentary proof must be provided to the Operations Manager. Specific written permission must be obtained from parents. Other than in exceptional circumstances, a teacher should never use his or her own car to transport a single pupil. Any staff use of their own cars must be consistent with the safeguarding policy and, in particular, the staff code of conduct.
- If parents are transporting children, their cars should be fully insured; relevant legislation relating to pupils sitting in the front and the use of booster seats must be followed. Seatbelts must be worn. Specific written permission must be obtained from parents and documentary proof of insurance must be provided to the Operations Manager.
- Parents should be fully informed of the time and place to collect the children.
- A staff mobile phone should be taken to the event in case of emergency.
- It is the responsibility of the group leader to look after pupils not collected after a visit. The pupils must not be left unsupervised and appropriate efforts should be made to contact parents if no information has been received about their late arrival. Reference should be made to the school's policy for the failure of a parent to collect a child.
- For transport by other means (train, ferry, aeroplane etc.) detailed risk assessments must be included in the overall risk assessment for the trip.
- Further information and a link to the DfE guidance on requirements for driving minibuses can be found in the health and safety policy

Emergencies

Despite the best planning and organisation, emergencies that require immediate response by the leaders sometimes occur. Whilst still controlling and supervising the rest of the group, leaders should contact the appropriate emergency/rescue service immediately. The Headteacher and Educational Visits Coordinator should be contacted as soon as possible.

Emergency Procedures

If an accident or other emergency occurs, the group leader or supervisor should do the following:

1. Assess the situation.
2. Safeguard the uninjured members of the group.
3. If there are injuries, establish immediately the names of the injured people and the extent of their injuries.
4. Attend to the casualty/ies, liaising with the group's trained first aider.
5. Inform the emergency services, and everyone who needs to know, about the accident.
6. Follow the school's first aid and medication policy as appropriate including, when possible, the procedures for recording the accident and contacting parents.
7. Notify the police if necessary.
8. Share the problem; advise all other group staff that the accident/emergency procedure is in operation. Make sure every member of the group is accounted for.
9. Ensure that the injured are accompanied to hospital, preferably by an adult whom they know.
10. Ensure that the rest of the group understands what has happened, is adequately supervised and kept together.
11. Inform Headteacher and Educational Visits Coordinator and pass on all the details, including names of casualties, their injuries, action taken and names of others involved. If abroad, contact the British Embassy/Consulate, if advisable.
12. Notify insurers, especially if medical assistance is required.
13. Notify the tour operator.
14. Ascertain telephone number for future calls.
15. As soon as possible, write down accurately relevant facts and witness details.
16. Preserve any vital evidence.
17. Keep a written account of subsequent events, times and contacts after the incident.

18. Complete accident forms.
19. No-one in the group should speak to the media. All media enquiries should be politely referred to the Headteacher.
20. No-one in the group should discuss legal liabilities with other parties.
21. As soon as possible, liaise with the school's appointed lead first aider to fulfil the school's legal requirements in relation to reporting of accidents (RIDDOR).
22. Refer also to the Business Continuity Policy, which should be included in the documentation taken on the trip.

Overnight sleeping arrangements

Sleeping arrangements are agreed to ensure the safety and comfort of pupils. Schools endeavour to have biological male staff supervise the sleeping arrangements of pupils who are biological boys, and have biological female staff to supervise the sleeping arrangements of biological female pupils. Where a pupil identifies as a gender which does not match their biology, the school must aim to ensure the comfort of the individual and other pupils. E.g. It may be appropriate to provide the pupil with private sleeping arrangements.

Sleeping arrangements on residential visits will be planned carefully to ensure pupils' safety, privacy and dignity. The school will consider the needs of all pupils, including age, maturity, medical needs, SEND and any individual circumstances, and will make reasonable adjustments where appropriate. Staff supervision arrangements will be risk assessed in advance.

4. After the Visit

After the visit the group leader must complete a visit evaluation form, which is submitted to the Headteacher and Educational Visits Coordinator. The views of other adults accompanying the visit should be taken into account. This should identify any area for improvement, including the guidance on organising trips, and should also highlight the successes of the trip.

The risk assessment for the visit should be reviewed to enable any necessary improvements to be made for future visits. Where relevant, the experience of the trip should be used to improve the school's bank of generic risk assessments.

It is expected that the majority of trips are organised to stimulate and motivate pupils in aspects of the curriculum. Follow-up classwork should therefore be undertaken.

It may also be appropriate to organise an assembly or a meeting for parents after the trip enabling the pupils to share their experiences and their follow-up work and for photography and video footage to be displayed.

END

Appendix A - Check List for Educational Visit

Name of Teacher		Class/Year Group	
Venue of Visit		Date of Visit	

Prior to the Visit (At least four weeks before the visit)

Gather details of costing and facilities and link with the purpose of the visit	
Discuss the prospect of the visit with the Headteacher/SLT member and arrange date	

Pre-visit (No more than three months before the visit)

Consider suitability of the venue	
Check toilet facilities (ask to see them)	
Check lunch facilities (ask to see them)	
Consider wet weather alternatives	
Consider most appropriate groupings for the visit	
Consider Health & Safety issues	
Consider whether a guide is necessary (How will all of the children access the information?)	
Write the Risk Assessment for the visit and get it signed by the EVC	
Once agreed, parents should be informed (no later than 6 weeks before the visit if payment is requested in order to allow them enough time to facilitate payment)	

At least three weeks before the Visit

Arrange for letter to parents, signed by the Headteacher	
Letter should include permission form, leaving and returning times, purpose of visit, what the children should wear, lunch arrangements, transport and cost	

Ensure pre-visit has taken place and risk assessment drawn up

Arrange for parents to accompany the children (Always ask more parents than needed to cover for let-downs)	
Order packed lunches from the kitchen for children with Free School Meals	

Three days before the Visit

Check that all helpers are still available	
Group the children and write detailed instructions for the helpers	
Do not group children with their own parents (except in nursery and Reception if appropriate or where this decision has been reached in agreement with a senior leader)	
Check first aid kit and sick bags	
Check for children requiring on-going or emergency medication (e.g. asthma sufferers) and ensure you have the medication with you and know how and when to use it	
Check with transport providers and the venue that the details are clear and in place	
Check arrangements for payment (Do you need a school cheque to pay a museum?)	

Ensure that all permission forms are signed and returned (without these children cannot go on the visit) – Chase any forms that have not been returned	
Check Risk Assessment	

On day of visit

Ensure that you have first aid kit and mobile phone (A school mobile phone is available)	
Ensure that you have any emergency or on-going medication (e.g. asthma pumps)	
Ensure all children are wearing a hi-viz waistcoat	
Ensure that all children have a packed lunch if appropriate	
Ensure all children have a coat	
Give children details of their helper and allocate them a partner (this can be done the day before and a reminder given prior to the trip beginning)	
On the coach children must not sit on front seats, they must all wear seat belts, there should be no eating or drinking, remove coats to help prevent travel sickness.	
Take every opportunity to count the children	
If there is going to be a delay in returning, please contact the school (ensure an indication of the return time is provided if there is a delay so the school can contact parents at the earliest possible point)	
Any accidents / incidents must be reported to the Headteacher on return to school	

Signed:		Date:	
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Please take a copy along with all related risk assessments to the Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) on completion for checking and signing - **no later** than 1 week prior to the trip (preferably 3 weeks in advance).

Educational Visits Co-ordinator

<u>Any steps, additions or adjustments to be addressed:</u>		<u>Tick when completed:</u>	
Signed: (EVC)		Date:	

Appendix B - School Trip Risk Assessment Form

Organisation:		Trip Leader:	
Trip Venue: (Plus description of activities)		Date(s) of Trip:	
Assessor: (Signature)		Date Assessment Completed:	
Checked By: (Signature)		Date Assessment Checked:	

Significant Hazards List what could cause harm	Who Might be Harmed e.g. staff, children, certain groups	Likelihood of Harm Remote, Very Unlikely, Unlikely, Possible, Very Likely	Control Measures How will the risk be minimised?	Residual Risk After controls are implemented, (Remote to Very Likely scale)
(eg. Crossing the road)	(children/adult)	(Likely)	(eg) 2 adults control traffic flow standing in middle of road at either side of children in front of oncoming cars - Hand of adult raised to indicate to drivers to stop and wait - Children given clear and precise instruction regarding where to stop on other side of road (ensuring there is adequate space for all children to assemble)	(Very unlikely)

Risk Assessments must be shared with all adults involved in activity including parents and should be discussed with children prior to the visit.

Signed: _____ (Educational Visits Co-ordinator) Date: _____

END