



Educational Visits Policy

Introduction

School visits, which provide valuable opportunities for learning through first hand experience, are an integral part of the curriculum at William Stockton but the safety of children is always our first priority.

The safety of all children and adults participating in any planned educational visit or journey is of paramount importance.

It is the duty of all staff leading all educational visits to risk assess any planned visit thoroughly and to consult with the Education Visit Co-ordinator (EVC).

If in any doubt about the safety of any member of the party the visit should not go ahead.

All risk assessments must be given to the EVC and retained for future reference.

A Risk Assessment document is a legal requirement and subject to audit.

Planning a Visit

The following questions must be addressed:

- What are the educational benefits likely to arise from the visit?
- What does the place to be visited have to offer?
- Is there sufficient time for planning?
- Is the travelling distance suitable?
- Is enough known about the location?

Types of Visits

There are 3 types which each have different requirements which must be met by visit organiser:

Those activities which are considered an integral part of the school routine.

Permission for these is obtained when the child starts school.

Educational Day Visits: The school proforma including a risk assessment must be completed for each of these.

Residential Visits: These visits require careful planning, the process of risk assessment should be undertaken by the Visit Organiser according to the "Regulations and Guidelines for Educational Visits and Journeys" using the school proformas.

The Organiser of the Visit will:

- Liaise with the EVC throughout the process;
- Ensure the Checklist for Planning an Educational Visit is followed;
- Fill in a detailed Risk Assessment;
- Discuss the risk assessment with the EVC who will make a decision as to whether the visit can go ahead;
- Send a letter to parents outlining the event and requesting parental consent;
- Choose adult supervision with care;
- The capabilities, experience, talents and qualifications of all accompanying adults should be given appropriate consideration;
- A First Aider must accompany every visit;
- Ensure that the children's emergency numbers and medical records are up to date;

- Brief all adults, before the visits r/e their roles and responsibilities and what to do in case of a critical incident;
- On return complete any additional accident / incident forms as appropriate.

Levels of Supervision

Teachers and other adult supervisors need to undertake greater care than that expected of the most careful parent. Levels of supervision are decided upon for each visit, taking into consideration the relevant variables (e.g. age, experience, children, nature of activity, location, physical hazards).

As a guide:

- Nursery children should be supervised at a level of 1:2
- Reception children should have adult to pupil ratio of 1:4
- KS1 adult : pupil ratio –1:6
- Lower KS2 adult : pupil ratio - 1:8
- Upper KS2 adult : pupil ratio 1:10

Visit organisers should take individual children's circumstances into account and adjust the supervision as necessary to ensure the safety of children at all times. A member of staff must accompany children on all visits.

Sports Fixtures

The arrangements of all sports fixtures must be planned and organised accordingly. If teachers', parents' or other vehicles are used for transporting the pupils the school is responsible for ensuring tax, MOT, Class 1 insurance, etc are all in place. Appropriate child restraints must be used in line with Government legislation.

Residential Visits:

Overnight stays of any kind involve additional levels of care and the minimum ratio of teachers/adult supervisors is 1:10, which may include qualified centre staff where appropriate. At least one teacher and one adult supervisor are assigned to each group, with both sexes represented in the case of mixed parties if at all possible. A summary sheet of information about children and adults participating in a residential visit is completed along with emergency contact information and a copy given to the home/school based contact. Visit organisers need to be fully aware of procedures in case of serious incidents and ensure that emergency contact numbers are taken with the paper work and consent forms on the visit.

The visit organiser will ensure that parents have the school number for emergency contact should the need arise during or after the visit.

Farm Visits

Farms can be dangerous places so taking children to a farm should be carefully planned. The risks to be assessed should include those arising from misuse of farm machinery and the hazards associated with E Coli 0157 and other infections. Those who are pregnant are at particular risk.

Check that the farm maintains good washing facilities, clean grounds and public areas.

Never let children:

- Place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths after feeding the animals

- Eat until they have washed their hands
- Sample any animal foodstuffs
- Drink from taps
- Ride on tractors or other machines
- Play in the farm area

Inclusion

The visit organiser will make every effort to ensure that all children are included on visits, including those with special educational needs, disabilities or other special conditions or circumstances. This may require additional adult support, increased staff to pupil ratio, adult training for specific medical conditions etc.

The visit organiser will take all reasonable steps to ensure inclusion for all.

Equipment

The following items should be taken on all visits:

- First Aid Equipment
- Inhalers and paperwork relating to each child in the group with asthma.
- Prescribed medication
- Sick bucket
- Mobile phones
- Contact list for emergencies

Transport

Local coach companies are used to transport children, the best tender is accepted.

In the event of an accident:

- Attempt to park in a safe place
- Keep the passengers in the vehicle unless they are at risk by doing so.
- On a motorway children should be taken away from the road.
- Note the precise location.
- Assess the situation and report the details to school as soon as possible.
- An adult must stay with the children at all times.

Delays

If delayed contact the school at the earliest possible opportunity and proceed at a safe speed.

Injuries

- Assess the injured without injury to yourself.
- Only attempt First Aid if qualified.
- Reassure and protect the casualty from further harm.
- Send for help: dial 999 and give the following information:
the location, details of casualties – age / condition, phone number.

Critical Incident Plan

- Trip organiser to inform the Headteacher
- Headteacher to inform EVC
- School to inform Chair of Governors
- School to inform parents of child/ren involved in the accident
- Trip organiser to know that no parents are to be contacted from the accident scene

- Headteacher/EVC to keep in contact with trip organiser

This policy is to be reviewed annually.