



Educational Visits Policy

Approved by the governing body on: 16th October 2024

To be reviewed on: October 2025

Signed on behalf of the governing body: Pete Sayers

Idle CE (A.) Primary School Policy and Guidelines for Educational Visits

This policy has been written in conjunction with 'The Governors Guide to the Law' and Local Authority guidelines (taken from the Outdoor Education Advisor's Panel National Guidance) on school visits and outdoor activities.

Introduction

Our aim is to offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities and experiences of adult life. All educational visits enrich the work we do in school. The safety of the staff and children involved in them is paramount and this policy ensures that visits are well planned and any risks identified.

The policy will be reviewed regularly and amended where necessary in order to reflect any changes in legislation.

PLANNING & PROCEDURES:

1. The Visit

The headteacher, other adults and governors have a shared responsibility for ensuring that when children are taken out of school on an educational visit there is suitable attention paid to their safety through appropriate leadership and safe staff ratios.

Visits will be booked, following the agreed process as outlined on the Educational Visits Booking Form and checklist, by the lead teacher with authorisation via the Educational Visit Co-Ordinators. PE competitions and tournaments will be booked by the PE Lead, liaising with the Educational Visit Co- Ordinators.

Insurance for all trips –including residentials and international visits – is provided by the Local Authority. Sometimes – e.g. when a trip is arranged with a travel company – there may be travel company insurance in addition to this.

2. Planning

Lead teachers for each visit should precede all visits offsite by undertaking exploratory visits to evaluate the suitability and to assess the areas of risk. No contract or visit should be entered into until the lead teacher and Educational Visits Co-ordinators are satisfied that there is good safety provision.

3. Risk Assessment

All educational activities off school site must follow the completion of a formal risk assessment by the lead teacher. Risk assessments are to be completed on the appropriate system prior to the event and checked for quality by the Education Visits Co-ordinators in good time (see visit checklist). They should be communicated to all involved prior to the trip taking place – the responsibility for this lies with the Lead Teacher.

Risks must be contained to acceptable levels if activities are to proceed. If risks are assessed to be too high, the activity should not proceed. We aim to do this by careful consideration of the following factors:

- The type of activity and the level at which it is being undertaken, including its duration.
 - The location and environment in which the activity is to take place.
 - The competence, experience and qualification of the school supervisory staff.
 - The group members' age (including development age) and gender.
 - The ability of the young people (including their behavioural, medical, emotional and educational needs).
 - The ratio of experienced, qualified centre staff to students.
 - The quality and suitability of available equipment.
 - Seasonal conditions, weather and timing.
- Risk assessments should cover all significant issues that are not covered within generic policies consider STAGED: Staffing, Transport, Activity, Group, Environment, Distance from base.

If risk assessments are not completed in a thorough and timely manner by the lead teacher the headteacher has the right to cancel the trip for safety reasons.

4. Responsibilities:

- i **i) The Governors** have a statutory responsibility for the conduct of the school and its curriculum and for the safety of a planned educational visit. Authority for residential visits require the approval of the Governing Body.
- i **ii) The Local Authority** also has a duty of care for children on school visits as outlined in the LA guidelines.
- ii **iii) The Head Teacher** has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is adhered to and for all off-site activities. Whether accompanying children or not, the headteacher is ultimately responsible for ensuring trips are well-organised with appropriate supervision and planning. All risk assessments must be signed off by the headteacher.
- iii **iv) The Educational Visits Co-ordinator** has responsibility for ensuring the quality of risk assessments completed by the lead staff member for each visit. These must be completed in a timely manner (1 month for a residential, 2 weeks for a trip, 1 week for a sports competition and a local walk).
- iv **v) All Staff** have the responsibility to co-operate with the headteacher and the governors, to ensure the safety and success of a school visit. All outdoor activities must have prior approval of the headteacher. Whilst responsible for pupils (including overnight in the case of Residential) staff must adhere to the expectations of supervision of children as outlined in the staff code of conduct. All injuries or accidents should be reported to the headteacher and recorded in the school accident book. The LA should be informed of severe injuries i.e. hospital visits exceeding 24 hours. Staff must obtain risk assessments from the venue when visiting an external centre/site and should be attached to the school risk assessment. When the visit is a walk an appropriate walking route map must be attached to risk assessment.
- i **vi) Parents** must receive written details of routine visits and journeys. Their written consent is required for all activities that take place outside the school day and for any which take place outside the local area or involve public or private transport. When a child starts school, written permission is sought from the parent/carer for their child to take part in any school trip or other activity that takes children off the school premises during school hours in the local area. Parents will be informed of each trip but separate permissions will not be sought for local area trips. The responsibility for informing parents of visits lies with the Lead Teacher, as outlined in the Educational Visit Checklist. The responsibility for ensuring all pupils have parental consent to take part in a visit lies with the school office. Any issues regarding communication or parental consent should be taken to the Educational Visit Coordinators in a timely fashion prior to the trip taking place.

Supervision of Pupils

It is essential that each member of the school or centre staff on the visit knows exactly which pupils they are responsible for and the extent of that responsibility. Each pupil should also know which member of staff is responsible for them and their group. Class lists/ group lists should be added to Evolve.

The lead teacher retains responsibility for the safety of pupils at all times, but on occasions may delegate this to a qualified member of the centre staff for a short time during a hazardous journey of increased risk or specified activity.

Arrangements for supervision must take into account the nature of a group and the individuals in it. It is therefore important that, when planning a repeat visit or a series of activities, the previous plan (no matter how well it worked in the past) is reviewed to ensure it meets current group needs. These must be documented on the risk assessment by the lead teacher.

First aid provision

Residential visits must include a minimum of one member of staff with a recognised First Aid qualification. All other educational visits should be attended by a member of staff who has received an appropriate level of first aid training. Individual pupil's medication, together with a complete first aid kit, must be taken on all educational visits with staff appropriately trained to administer epipens and asthma inhalers. On trips including pre-fives there must be a member of staff trained in paediatric first aid.

5. Staffing the Visit:

The responsibility for ensuring effective staff:pupil ratios for educational visits is coordinated by the Educational Visits Coordinator, however overarching responsibility lies with the Headteacher. Bradford LA recommendations (taken from the Outdoor Education Advisor's National Panel) on school visits and outdoor activities) can be used as a guide. However, levels of supervision should be decided for each visit through the risk assessment process according to all the circumstances involved – SEN, activities involved, behavioural needs - and it is therefore not possible to set down definitive staff/student ratios for a particular age group or activity.

Voluntary helpers may be carefully selected and must act towards the children as a careful parent would in similar circumstances. However, the lead teacher retains primary responsibility for supervising the party at all times.

Starting points for recommended staffing ratios are as follows:

- For day visits without a high risk, a ratio of 1 adult to 10 children is required (Y5-6). Activities with increased levels of risk will require lower ratios.
- For children in Y3-4, a ratio of 1 adult to 8 children is recommended.
For children in Y1-2, a ratio of 1 adult to 6 children is recommended.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (updated 3rd April 2017) no longer sets out different requirements for minimum ratios during outings from those required on site. As with other age groups, ratios during outings should be determined by risk assessment, which should be reviewed before each outing. The appropriate ratio on an outing is always likely to be lower than the legal minimum that applies otherwise.
- Where a child has a 1:1 teaching assistant in school, this provision must be carefully considered for the visit.

6. Transport:

Whenever an educational visit is due to take place that requires transport hired by the school, Local Authority approved reputable companies should be used. It is important to ensure that this hired transport should be equipped with the essential requirements i.e. seat belts, fire extinguisher, insurance and suitably qualified drivers who are well briefed. The transport should be well maintained.

On occasion pupils may be transported via public transport, where buses and trains are not fitted with seat belts. Learning how to behave appropriately in using public transport is a valuable life skill which pupils should be taught. This will be risk assessed to consider the age and maturity of the pupils concerned.

- On occasion it may be necessary for children with Health Care plans to be transported separately from the group (e.g to reduce the distance walked for children with mobility conditions). Any alternative arrangements for an individual should be included on the risk assessment. When taken in a car, two members of staff should accompany an individual child unless the child has explicit written or verbal permission from their parent/carer with a named individual driver.