



ST.CATHERINE'S C of E SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL VISITS Policy and Guidance

Overview

At St Catherine's C of E School we acknowledge the great value of Educational Visits in broadening and enhancing both the learning and social experience of the children. Ideally, they should go on a variety of school visits whilst they are pupils at our school. The visits will support the work in the classroom.

Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC), will ensure that the planning and supervision of all visits and adventurous activities meet the DfES Requirements and LA guidelines. The Head of School has attended the LA EVC training course.

The EVC for the establishment is: Louise Hussey

The Head will keep the Governing Body aware of its Educational Visits via the normal Head to Governors reporting process.

The role of the EVC is detailed in the publication 'Cornwall Outdoor Education Policy'.

Competence to Lead

Any member of staff leading a visit will need to have their 'competence to lead' assessed before approval for the visit is given. For the majority of visits this will be assessed by the EVC. Guidance will be obtained from the Local Authority Outdoor Education Advisor.

Before the Visit:

1a) Discuss the proposal with the EVC/Head teacher and complete the Educational Visit Checklist
If approved:-

2) Complete Risk Assessment to be approved by the EVC (The risk assessment should include any potential hazards including any children to take into consideration).

3) Book Visit

4) Book Transport

5) At least a week before let the kitchen know exactly how many packed lunches you require for children, eligible for free school meals, and school adults.

6) At least a fortnight before send a letter to parents with a permission slip specific to your outing.

7) Arrange for parents and helpers to accompany you on the outing (see ratio section)

Please note that residential, adventurous activity and trips 50 miles from base need to be authorised by LA. All trips to use Cornwall Outdoors online form. Username and password to obtained from Head/EVC.

Assessment of Risk

'Risk assessment' is a careful examination of what could cause harm to Pupils/Participants, staff or others, together with an identification of the control measures necessary in order to reduce risks to a level which, in the professional judgement of the assessor, is deemed to be acceptable (ie. low).

In considering risk, there are 3 levels of which visit leaders should be mindful:

1) Generic Risks – normal risks attached to any activity out of school.

2) Event Specific Risk – any significant hazard or risk relating to the specific activity and outside the scope of item 1 above.

3) Ongoing/Dynamic Risk – the monitoring of risks throughout the actual visit as circumstances change. This is why Leader competence is a critical factor.

Risk assessments at St Catherine's are completed using the online system: EECLIVE

Approval for Visits

All matters regarding each visit off site – feasibility, planning, safety, organisation etc – will require the prior approval of the EVC and Head.

Approval of 'normal' day visits are at the discretion of the Headteacher/SLT/EVC. However, visits that are either:

- residential or
- involving an adventurous activity will require the additional approval of the LA . The governing body will also need to be informed about these visits prior to a commitment being made.
- If an external provider or tour operator is being used the procedures to be followed in this case are outlined in The Cornwall Outdoor Education Policy.

Plan 'B'

Despite the most detailed and meticulous pre-visit planning, things can go wrong on the day, e.g. parent helper is unavailable, member of staff is ill, transport fails to arrive, museum have lost booking, etc. To avoid having to make important decisions under pressure, it is important that some advanced thinking is done to cater for any foreseeable eventuality.

Staffing Ratios

A professional judgement must be made by the Visit Leader, Headteacher/ Deputy as to the appropriate ratio for each visit.

This will be determined by:

- type, duration and level of activity
- needs of individuals within the group (SEN)
- experience and competence of staff and accompanying adults
- nature of the venue
- weather conditions at the time of year
- nature of transport involved

On every occasion when these ratios change the Headteacher must be informed and must sanction the revised ratio. Please note: parents should not bring younger children.

Supervision

Pupils/Participants must be supervised throughout all visits. However, there are circumstances when they might be unaccompanied by an adult (remote supervision). The decision to allow remote supervision should be based on risk assessment and must take into account factors such as:

- prior experience of pupils/participants
- age of pupils/participants
- responsibility of pupils/participants
- competence/experience of staff
- environment/venue

Role of Supervising Parents

Supervising parents must be fully briefed on the programme, venue, activities, supervision arrangements and their responsibilities. They must also be given a written list of the pupils/participants in their immediate care, and be shown the completed Risk Assessment.

First Aid

The level of first aid provision should be based on risk assessment. On all visits, there should be a member of staff who has a good working knowledge of first aid. The One Day Emergency First Aid Work for the appointed person is the minimum requirement for residential visits and specific Paediatric or Activity First Aid qualifications may be needed for Early Years or Adventurous Activities. First aid kits are available from the Admin Office; if the visit involves the party splitting up by any distance, a kit should be taken for each group.

Transport

Travel arrangements should be included in the risk assessment. If public transport is to be used, all pupils/participants and supervisors must be fully briefed as to procedures on platforms, at bus stops, on busy streets etc. If travel is by coach or minibus, all pupils/participants must wear a seat belt. If a minibus is being borrowed or hired, the driver must have passed the appropriate test for the driving of this vehicle.

Water 'Margin' Activities

Where pupils/participants might participate in learning activities near or in water, such as a walk along a riverbank or seashore, collecting samples in ponds or streams, or paddling or walking in gentle, shallow water, then the guidance contained in DfE 'Group Safety at Water Margins' is relevant. All staff, including parents, should be provided with a copy of this guidance prior to the visit.

Cost

For most outings we require voluntary contributions (see Charging and Remissions Policy).

Seeking Parental Consent

Parents should be made fully aware of any likely risks of the visit and their management, so they may consent or refuse on a fully informed basis (known as 'Acknowledgement of Risk').

The letter to parents should therefore give full detail of the visit, the reason for the visit (educational aims), supervision arrangements and the transport arrangements. Ensure that detail of other incidental activities is included, together with Plan B if appropriate. The letter should also state the cost of the visit per child.

Letters regarding trips visits

Must contain the following paragraph:

Please note that parents are under no obligation to pay for a trip/visit as it is a voluntary contribution. However if insufficient contributions are raised, and school cannot fund it from another source, the trip/visit will be cancelled.

We will continue to give all pupils an equal chance to go on the trip and no child will be excluded from the trip if a parent is unable to pay.

Do not mention 'cost' instead ask for a contribution

We would to ask you to contribute £..... towards the cost of this trip.

Reply slips should contain the wording:

"I give permission for my child _____ to take part in I have read and understand the information about the visit. "

In the case of sports fixtures, the reply slip should read:-

"My child _____ is able to play in the match (at) on

I have read and understand the information in the letter, and give permission for my child to take part." Include details about collection after the match.

Emergency Procedures

All staff involved in a visit should be aware of what action to take in the event of an emergency. Ensure the rest of the group are safe, decide if you need specialist help and either; contact the school, emergency services and/or parents (liaise with onsite First Aiders). For visits that take place outside of school hours the school mobile phone must be with the leader at all times.

After the Visit

It is important that after each visit a proper debrief takes place. This should take place within a week of the visit date, and should involve the Visit Leader, accompanying staff and, if appropriate, the supervising parents and/or participants. The purpose of a debrief is to identify what went well and what could have been done better, in order to inform future planning.

Advice and guidance

The Outdoor Education Advisor who can be contacted for any matter concerning off site visits and a Health & Safety Team for all matters concerning safety.

| Activity | Age Range | Staff to Young People Ratios | Notes |
|---|--|---|---|
| Local Visits (Galleries, Museums and Normal Countryside) | Nursery Reception Years 1-3 Years 4-6 | 1:2-4 1:4-6 1: 6-10 1: 10 – 15 | |
| Residential Visits (In UK) | Years 4-6 | 1: 8-10 1: 10-15 | |
| Swimming in Public Pools (with qualified Lifeguard) | Years 1-3 Years 4-6 | 1:5-8 1:10-12 | |
| Swimming (all other) | All Years | 1:5-10 with 2 Staff Minimum | This is classified an adventurous activity and requires specific local authority approval |

On the day:

- Collect packed lunches from the kitchen.
- Check the first aid outing bag to make sure it is adequately equipped. Make sure that individual pupils that have their own medicines, have adequate supplies etc (pumps etc).
- Share the risk assessment with all adults going on the trip.
- Discuss with children behaviour expectations.
- Take all permission slips with you on the trip.
- Leave information in the School Office/ with member of SLT to show which children and adults are going, where you are going, when you expect to be back and a contact mobile number.
- Organise the children into groups. Each adult should take responsibility for a small group of children but 2 adults and their groups should stay together.
- Inform everybody of possible hazards (risk assessment), e.g. deep water, major roads, etc. Make sure everyone knows the pick-up point and leaving time.
- Make sure all the children go to the toilet before leaving.
- Take money/card and mobile phone for use in emergency.
- All children and adults can wear high visibility vests.

Never label children with their name. If a group of children need identification, then the name of the school and telephone number may be used.

On the bus/coach:

- Children and adults must wear seat belts.
- Adults must be well spread out - one should sit near the back to keep an overall view.
- Adults should sit on the outer seat.
- Children should not change seats, kneel up, eat, or be allowed to open windows.
- When getting off the bus, an adult should get off first. The children should go to that adult as they get off. The last person off should be an adult, checking that nothing has been left behind. Count them off the bus.

The class teacher should lead and another staff member should be at the rear. Any other adults should stay with the children in the middle.

Always walk on the pavement as far away from the road as possible. Adults walk closest to the road. Children must **NEVER** step into the road until given permission by an adult.

The mobile phone(s) should be switched on during trip and the Home Contact advised of any delays etc. as soon as possible and updated regularly so they can update waiting parents etc.

EVC Coordinator