



South Farnham Educational Trust

●●●●● The Continual Pursuit of Excellence



EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

REVIEW: ANNUALLY

LAST REVIEW DATE: SPRING 2024

Introduction

Trips, visits and learning off-site comprise an essential part of the school curriculum at Great Bookham School. Successful trips provide memorable learning experiences and enhance the children's education in ways that are not possible in the classroom. The school is 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 school, responsibility for educational visits rests with the Governing Body and Headteacher 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 and
- inform the employer of any serious risk.

This policy has been produced to offer school staff advice and support in the planning and organising of all off-site 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;
- sporting activities including swimming sessions and
- outward bound and adventurous activities.

Aims and expectations

Most classes in the school will have one educational visit each term, although there may be fewer in EYFS. These trips are planned to support and broaden the children's understanding of the current topic. In addition to this, there will be additional trips arranged throughout the year, such as sports, citizenship, music or educational trips. All activities are available to all children irrespective of needs, financial position, ethnicity, gender or religion.

Planning and Preparation for a trip

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 just 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 as follows:

- In consultation with class teachers and/or phase leaders as applicable, the office will book the entire trip on the agreed date(s).
- Office staff will calculate a cost per pupil, inclusive of transport and insurance. This must be sufficient to cover the entire cost of the trip, including any charges for additional helpers.
- Once confirmed with the venue and transport providers, the dates for the trip must be entered onto the school electronic diary and school website

- In cases where school lunches are affected, kitchen staff must be informed by the school office.
- The class teacher must prepare a risk assessment and enter details on Evolve at least two weeks prior to departure to enable the EVC to check the risk assessment for compliance.
- Year Leaders will inform parents in advance of dates for school trips in termly letters, with further specific details in a separate letter, giving at least two weeks' notice (unless there are exceptional circumstances).
- Where applicable, parent volunteers will be sought. Where there are more volunteers than spaces, parent helpers will be selected using a fair and transparent process.
- If appropriate, payments will be made directly to the school office via the school payment system.

Risk assessments

A full risk assessment must be completed two weeks prior to a trip, which must be approved by the Headteacher, using Evolve. 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 in the office. A template of a Risk assessment can be found at the end of this policy.

Parental consent

Consent will be requested from parents for each individual school trip or sporting activity. All the necessary details will be included in the letter, as well as any payments required.

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 must be 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

If a child with identified 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 in advance of the trip. This will provide all the relevant information and requirements, including clothing and equipment.

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 may have to be cancelled. All payments are made online.

For residential off-site visits where the costs are likely to be higher, payment plans are available to help spread the cost.

Behaviour on school trips

The school's Behaviour Policy applies 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 the school. We expect 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

The school 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 school will adhere to the following to ensure the safety of children on educational visits:

- Early Career Teachers (ECT) to be accompanied by an experienced member of the teaching staff on their first visit;
- 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;
- 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 accompanying 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 and
- regular headcounts to be taken.

Emergency procedures

The trip leader must always complete the Emergency Arrangements section of 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 will in turn 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.
- 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 10 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, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy

