



Educational Visits Policy

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1. Aims and scope

Educational visits are activities arranged by our school, which require pupils to leave the school premises, having been authorised to do so by the headteacher or other designated member of staff.

Educational visits are a valuable way to:

- Supplement and enhance the curriculum
- Expand pupils' education and personal growth
- Provide enriching social and cultural experiences
- Teach life skills and promote independent learning
- Provide a foundation for lifelong learning

This policy sets out our approach to planning and operating educational visits, to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff, and to make sure that our visits are available to all pupils. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff, pupils, and volunteers when it comes to visits.

This policy applies to activities taking place within and outside of normal school hours, including weekends and holiday periods. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Visits to places of interest in the local area
- Day visits to places such as museums and other cultural and educational institutions
- Sporting activities
- Adventurous and recreational activities
- Residential trips organised by the school

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#), and the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#)

Sections of this policy are also based on the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1. Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for approving staff requests for all educational visits, and making sure staff, including the educational visits co-ordinator, have received any necessary training.

3.2. The educational visits co-ordinator (EVC)

The business manager or deputy headteacher is the appointed EVC at our school. Their role is to:

- Oversee and guide other staff to arrange and organise educational visits
- Assess the ability of other staff to lead visits and a designate suitable trip lead for each visit
- Assess outside activity providers
- Advise the headteacher and local governing body when they are approving trips
- Access the necessary training, advice, and guidance

- Evaluate all visits once complete, from planning to the visit itself, and use this to improve future arrangements

3.3. Trip lead

Every educational visit will have one member of staff designated as the trip lead. The trip lead will:

- Plan the proposed visit, taking into account the health and safety risks to pupils, staff and volunteers
- Assign staff and volunteer roles, as needed
- Make sure the school has accurate and up-to-date information about the trip destination, to be used in risk assessments
- Make sure the needs of everyone taking part are considered, including co-ordinating any additional support needed
- Make sure parents and carers are given accurate information about educational visits, including any costs or necessary equipment not supplied by the school or a third party
- Communicate key details about the visit and all locations to staff, pupils and parents/carers, including roles and responsibilities and expected behaviour
- Make sure staff are capable and able to fulfil their roles at all times while responsible for pupils and others
- Carry out any required risk assessments and work with the EVC

3.4. Staff

Staff have a responsibility to make sure all pupils and staff who take part in visits are kept safe and understand the proper way to prepare for trips, as well as how to act while taking part. Staff will:

- Seek and obtain approval for all educational visits from the headteacher
- Work with the trip lead as required
- Communicate with parents and carers where required and make sure trips are inclusive of pupils' needs
- Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them
- Help manage pupil behaviour and discipline as required on the visit
- Share any concerns or worries with the trip lead and others, as appropriate

3.5. Parents and carers

By agreeing that pupils can take part in educational visits, parents/carers agree that they will:

- Provide all information required, such as emergency contact details and health/medicine information if applicable
- Sign and return consent forms and any other documentation required in a timely manner
- Share any concerns or information about the pupil that may affect or impact their ability to safely take part in the trip

3.6. Volunteers

Volunteers attending school trips, including parent volunteers, agree to:

- Follow the directions of staff and act accordingly
- Behave appropriately and model good behaviour for pupils
- Report any concerns to the trip lead or other staff present as soon as possible

- Make sure pupils under their supervision are acting safely and appropriately, and raise any issues with staff as soon as possible

3.7. Pupils

Our school behaviour policy also applies to all educational visits. This includes the expectation that pupils will:

- Follow instructions given to them while on the trip
- Dress and behave as expected for the length of the trip
- Take responsibility for their own safety and safety of others, reporting any concerns to a staff member or trip supervisor

Please refer to the [Behaviour Policy](#) for more information.

4. Planning and preparation

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by the headteacher, and based on factors including:

- Cost (including any potential cost to parents/carers)
- Timing in the school year and any potential clashes
- Educational purpose and value
- Disruption to the normal running of the school
- Health and safety considerations
- Staff-to-pupil ratio

As part of the planning stage, information will be gathered by staff proposing the visit, including:

- Location and travel distance
- Travel plans or options
- Full cost of breakdown, including multiple options where available
- Resources, including staff, volunteer, and physical supplies
- Accommodation options, where needed
- Insurance detailed, where needed
- Risk assessment plans and first aid provision
- What safety measures can be put in place in order to mitigate any risks

Appendix 1 can be used to support the initial decision-making process. Priory Rise School uses an online system for notification and approval called [Plumsun](#). Once the visit has been approved by the headteacher it is a requirement that the trip lead uses the [Plumsun](#) system. For further advice and help using the system the trip leader should contact the EVC.

Once the visit has been approved by the headteacher, the trip lead will communicate with parents/carers and provide trip information.

Written parental consent will be required for trips that take place out of normal school hours.

Each visit will be evaluated after its conclusion, from the planning through to the visit itself, to continually improve the planning and experience of future visits.

4.1. Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of background or abilities, should be able to take part in every aspect of our school life.

If a pupil with a disability, statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education health and care (EHC) plan, or any other specific needs (e.g., medical conditions including allergies) is participating in the visit, they will have the same support that is available to them during the school day.

Where possible, depending on staff capacity and remaining compliant with health and safety standards, we will adjust the trip programme, working with parents/carers to provide additional support, making reasonable adjustments to itineraries, providing additional staff, and other adjustments.

Additional risk assessments may be carried out to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils.

5. Risk assessment

We will carry out a full risk assessment at least two weeks before the start of all trips.

In all instances, this will be completed using the [Plumsun](#) system. In the absence of the online system the trip lead should use the school's risk assessment template at appendix 2. Risk assessments provided by the destination itself might also be used to support this process.

The risk assessment will include any specific medical issues and allergies (for staff and pupils), the role of additional support on the visit, specified activities to be carried out, as well as risk associated with transport to and from the destination.

Where relevant, staff may make a preliminary visit to the trip destination as part of the planning and risk assessment process, but this is not mandatory.

A copy of every risk assessment should be approved, and a copy taken on the visit.

5.1. Staff ratios and first aid

Risk assessment for each visit will ascertain the safe level of supervision required. On all educational visits, we will make sure:

- At least one male and one female supervising adult is present
- At least one supervising adult will be able to administer first aid on all trips
- For EYFS, at least one qualified paediatric first aider is present on all trips
- Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the school's health and safety policy and first aid policy
- All supervising adults will be made aware of any medical issues or allergies at the start of the trip
- Adults without the appropriate level of DBS check will not be left alone with pupils at any time
- The trip lead will take regular headcounts and/or rollcalls

5.2. Transport

Transportation for trips will be organised by the school, in line with our safety procedures. We will make sure pupils, staff and volunteers are transported safely and efficiently, with the required first aid provision.

Unless previously agreed with parents, transport for visits will leave from, and return to, the school site.

5.3. Use of external organisations

As part of the risk assessment process, we will check that any external organisations providing an activity have appropriate safety standards and liability insurance.

We will check additional details as outlined in the DfE's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#) to make sure it's an appropriate organisation to use.

We will have a written agreement in place with each external organisation outlining what everyone is responsible for during the activity.

6. Volunteers

Where appropriate, parents and carers may be asked to volunteer to attend and supervise pupils alongside staff member on trips. Where more parents/carers volunteer than required on the visit, those invited to attend will be selected as fairly and transparently as possible, whilst taking into consideration:

- The needs of the pupils on the trip
- The setting and circumstances on the trip
- Volunteers' skills, attitude, and past behaviour, including previous volunteer experience

Parents/carers selected to volunteer will be informed two weeks ahead of the visit and asked to confirm their attendance via email to the trip lead. They will also be asked to confirm they agree with the expected behaviour. See **appendix 3** for our volunteer code of conduct for educational visits.

Volunteers will receive a full induction from staff members on the day of the visit, prior to departure, including on their responsibilities, expected behaviour, the process for raising concerns, emergency procedures and contact details, and the expected timetable of the trip.

Where practical and as required by the nature of visits (i.e. when volunteers may be left with children without staff members present), volunteers may be asked or required to undergo safeguarding checks, including DBS checks.

At no point will volunteers on whom no safeguarding checks have been carried out be left alone with pupils or given sole responsibility for the care of a pupil.

7. Communication and consent

We will contact the parents and carers of pupils invited to take part in an educational visit at least one month before the proposed date of the trip. Communication will be via letter/email, and information provided will include the date, travel times, destination, purpose of the visit, and the size of the group attending.

We will also communicate:

- Times and details of travel, including drop-off and pick-up times and location
- Pupil-to-staff ratios and staff qualifications, where relevant
- Clothing and equipment required, and whether this is provided by the school
- Expected behaviour and consequences of pupils' failure to meet these standards

Where required, parents/carers will be asked to provide written consent for educational visits by signing and dating a form to be returned to the school.

Because most visits during the school day will be part of the curriculum, we will not always need written consent. However, we will always inform parents/carers as above about any off-site visits, and give an opportunity for them to withdraw their child.

We will always get written consent before taking nursery-age children off-site.

Parents/carers will also be asked to provide current and relevant medical information and dietary requirements, as well as emergency contact numbers where they can be reached.

8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting

Generally, emergency planning will be defined as planning for:

- Serious and unexpected risk
- Serious and life-threatening injury
- Individuals going missing
- A serious breach of safeguarding expectations

The trip leader will be familiar with these plans for each visit.

In the case of an emergency, the trip leader or other supervising adult will contact the school office. The school office will then contact parents/carers as required and inform them of changes to plans or cancellations of trips and/or alternative travel plans. This will form part of a wider communication plan that covers how routine communications should be handled in such situations.

One member of staff will always accompany a pupil seeking medical treatment.

In a case of a pupil being unaccounted for, the trip leader will search the area while another member of staff remains in charge of other pupils. In the unlikely event that a pupil cannot be found within 30 minutes, the trip leader will contact the school office who will notify the parents/carers. The trip leader will then contact the police and provide them with the relevant information so they can take over the search, staying with them to comfort the pupil when found. The remaining staff and adults will return to the school with the rest of the pupils. 0845 8622684

All incidents and accidents will be reported in line with our health and safety policy, including required reporting to Ofsted and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

To activate support from Priory Rise School, the following telephone numbers should be used:

Name	Position	Contact no. 1	Contact no. 2
J Strong	EVC	01908 502572	07429 018440
R Seagar	Headteacher	01908 502572	07842 392191
Plumsun	Outdoor education advisor	0845 8622684	
MKCC	Local authority	01908 311773	

Smaller incidents, accidents or near misses that do not require external reporting will still be covered by an internal report, to include steps that can be taken in the future to avoid similar incidents.

There will also be a clear process for evaluating all visits and trips once they have been concluded from the planning through to the visit itself. This will help with evaluating whether planning worked and to learn from any incidents that took place.

9. Charging and insurance

We will follow our school's charging and remissions policy at all times.

Parents/carers will not be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place during school hours.

Where necessary, we may ask for a voluntary contribution to the cost of educational visits, but this will be entirely optional (except for residential visits) and will not affect pupils' ability to take part fully in the trip.

We will make sure adequate insurance is in place for all trips, including, but not limited to: cancellation insurance for contracts with external providers, travel insurance, accident and medical cover, and loss of luggage and other personal items.

10. Residential visits

The headteacher will approve all residential trips and notify the local governing body.

The planning and preparation laid out in this policy will apply to residential visits as well as 1-day visits. In addition, the trip lead will make sure:

- Staff have received any necessary training
- All necessary permissions and medical forms are obtained at least one month before the start of the trip
- All adults, including volunteers, have had adequate safeguarding checks. Where appropriate e.g., if the volunteer will be in direct unsupervised contact with pupils – this will include relevant DBS checks

Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission at least two months before the first day of the visit. Information shared with parents will include:

- The dates and time of departure and return to school
- The full address and contact details of the destination
- Planned activities and options
- Meal provision
- Costs and optional charges, including deposits and the date by which this must be received, in line with our charging and remissions policy (this will include information about exemptions)
- Clothing and equipment provided, and what pupils must bring themselves
- Public health requirements, including any required vaccinations
- Accommodation options and arrangements
- The names of staff attending

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the headteacher/EVC. At every review, the policy will be shared with the local governing body.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Charging and remissions policy
- Behaviour policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- First aid policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special educational needs policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan
- Early years foundation stage policy
- Minibus policy

Appendix 1: proposed visit planning information

To be completed by the staff member proposing the educational visit and submitted to the headteacher/EVC.

Name of staff member proposing the visit:

Date of request:

Response required by (date):

Proposed trip information

	TRIP INFORMATION	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Destination		
Trip date		
Travel distance		
Length of stay		
Purpose of visit / educational benefits		
Number and age of pupils		
Transportation options		
Cost breakdown, including multiple options where available		
Resources required, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Staffing> Volunteers> Physical supplies> Transportation		
Accommodation options, where needed		
Insurance needed, where applicable		
Risk assessment plans and first aid provision		
Any additional information		
Plumsun process started		

Appendix 2: risk assessment template

Date of assessment:

Date(s) of trip:

Trip leader:

Assessor:

Trip destination:

Checked by:

HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED AND HOW?	WHAT ARE YOU ALREADY DOING?	DO YOU NEED TO DO ANYTHING ELSE TO CONTROL THIS RISK?	ACTION: WHO?	ACTION: WHEN?	DONE
Slips and falls caused by wet floor	Pupils and staff	Appropriate footwear to be worn, first aid kit to be carried at all times	Follow additional instructions from destination staff as appropriate	Trip leader	Duration of trip	

Appendix 3: volunteer behaviour code of conduct

This code of conduct sets out the expected behaviour for volunteers attending school trips. Volunteers should read and sign this form, showing that they understand and agree to follow this code while acting on behalf of the school. If you feel you cannot agree with this code, please speak to the trip lead at the earliest opportunity and withdraw from the trip.

A copy of this form will be kept in the school office, and you may ask for a photocopy to keep for yourself.

This volunteer code of conduct will be used alongside the school's [parental code of conduct](#).

Volunteers agree to:

- Remain professional and respectful with staff and pupils at all times
- Listen to and act on instructions from staff
- Dress appropriately for the trip
- Arrive at the agreed time and remain until the trip is concluded and they are told they may leave by staff
- Pay attention to potential dangers and raise concerns with staff
- Act responsibly and demonstrate good behaviour to pupils
- Report any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a pupil to staff as soon as possible

Volunteers agree **not** to:

- Exchange contact details with pupils unless told to by a member of staff
- Engage in physical contact with pupils unless appropriate or required
- Share inappropriate personal information (i.e. personal beliefs, religious views, relationship status)
- Use demeaning, offensive, abusive, or insensitive language
- Smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) for the duration of the visit
- Allow themselves to be left alone with a pupil unless previously agreed with staff
- Take photographs or record pupils without the permission of pupils and staff

As a volunteer, I have read and agree to this code of conduct, and will follow the rules set out above.

Name:

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 4: template letter for parents/carers and consent form

This form is based on the Department for Education's [consent form for school trips and other off-site activities](#).

Parents and carers should sign and date the form and return it to their child's teacher.

Trip destination:

Trip date(s):

I, _____, confirm that I am happy for my child, _____, to take part in the school trip detailed above.

I understand that it is my responsibility to make sure my child is dressed appropriately for the trip and has everything they need with them.

Contact information

I can be contacted using the following details:

Work telephone:

Home telephone:

E-mail address:

Alternatively, please contact _____. Their relationship with the pupil is _____

Work telephone:

Home telephone:

E-mail address:

The name and contact details of our family doctor are:

Medical information

Please provide information below of any medical conditions your child has, including any medication they take and/or will need to bring with them.

I agree to my child receiving medication and medical treatment as required and instructed by medical authorities.