

ST MARY'S CE (A) FIRST SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY DOCUMENT

Philosophy

The school wishes to enrich the learning for all pupils by integrating visits and visitors into the wider curriculum. At St Mary's, we acknowledge the many benefits of learning outside the classroom and we are committed to supporting educational visits and activities that enrich the learning opportunities for all. We recognise that all pupils have skills and talents which need to be nurtured and developed and the school strives to remove barriers to learning and involve all pupils fully in activities within all curriculum areas and beyond, so that all children reach their potential.

The school works within the requirements set out in Staffordshire County Council's Educational Visits Policy and the formally adopted Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel 'Employer Guidance' (available at <http://oeapeg.info/>) All school staff will be made aware of the requirements of this policy and any changes that are made when the policy is reviewed.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring visits are approved as necessary, that all visits approved can be accommodated within the timetable and that the ethos of each visit is one with which the school wishes to be associated.

The Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC) is a staff member who has received relevant training and induction, and is delegated with the following tasks:

- To grant verbal permission that a leader may plan a visit after deciding that the timetabling and ethos of the visit are acceptable.
- To check and approve that the planning and risk management for visits follows employer policy and guidance, and to liaise with the LA as required.
- To ensure that there is sample monitoring of visits in keeping with the recommendations of employer policy and guidance.

The designated EVC for St Mary's First School is Jo Moul, who received training in the role on 4th November 2021. The Headteacher will ensure that the EVC, Visit Leaders, assisting staff and voluntary helpers are appropriately trained as required and specifically competent to carry out the responsibilities allocated to them for all visits. Visit Leaders will have over-all charge of the visits they lead, which will be effectively supervised with an appropriate level of staffing. Relevant visit information is shared with parents and consent is sought where necessary. Details related to a visit and its participants (including staff) will be accessible to a designated 24/7 emergency contact in case of emergencies.

Procedures

Staff wishing to plan and undertake a visit should first seek permission from the Headteacher or EVC to plan a visit. The Chair of Governors will be notified about a residential visit.

Once granted they should then add the visit details through the EVOLVE system which will then be automatically passed to the EVC for checking and approval that the planning and risk management for the visit follows employer policy and guidance.

The Headteacher will be asked to declare that the Visit Leader/staff are competent to supervise the visit. Approval from the Local Authority (LA) will be required for all overseas visits, residential visits and those which include adventurous activities, be it provider or establishment lead.

The EVOLVE system will automatically pass such identified visits to the LA for approval. Visits requiring LA approval should be submitted six working weeks before a visit is set to take place, and before anyone is financially committed. Approval notification will be sent out as soon as possible up to two working weeks after receipt of the visit form.

When providers are used, it is a requirement for them to hold Public Liability insurance cover with a minimum limit of indemnity of £5M.

Regularly repeated visits may receive block annual approval subject to parents being made aware of every visit, especially any involving a return time outside the normal school day.

The Headteacher, EVC and Visit Leaders should take account of the legal framework relating to charging, voluntary contributions and remissions as set out in sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 and detailed in the Charges for Off-Site Activity guidance document.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment of an activity should be informed by the benefits to be gained from participating. St Mary's First School recommends a 'risk-benefit assessment' approach, whereby the starting point for any risk assessment should be a consideration of the targeted benefits and learning outcomes. This appreciation of the benefits to be gained through participating provides objectivity to a decision that any residual risk (i.e. the risk remaining after control measures have been put in place) is 'acceptable'.

HSE endorse this approach through their 'Principles of Sensible Risk Management' and advocate that it is important that young people are exposed to well-managed risks so that they learn how to manage risk for themselves.

There is no legal requirement to produce a risk assessment in a particular format; but there is a legal requirement for the process to be recorded and for suitable and sufficient control measures to be identified for any significant risks i.e. those that may cause serious harm to an individual or harm several people.

It is recommended that St Mary's staff adopt and adapt the risk assessment materials available through EVOLVE, to ease the burden of bureaucracy that might otherwise discourage leaders from making full use of educational visit learning opportunities.

Emergency Procedures

The risk management for each visit will identify the relevant emergency procedures during the visit. For visits extending beyond the school day this includes designating a home contact from the school who may be needed as a link between the party, the parents, the school and the County Council in the event of an emergency.

In the event of a delay (of more than 1 hour), or of an incident resulting in harm to any attending participant, staff member or volunteer, then the school must be contacted as soon as possible to inform the Headteacher or designated deputy so that they can decide:

- If the incident is of a less serious nature, then the next of kin or parents of those affected will be informed about what has happened (e.g. that the party will be returning late or that an incident has befallen a party member) and the action that has been taken so far. In appropriate circumstances the Visit Leader will be designated to undertake this task.
- If the incident is very serious to contact Staffordshire County Council using the emergency contact phone number and details given below: The emergency contact phone number for Staffordshire County Council outside office hours is 00-44-1785-278499 or 00-44-8451-213322. This is the number for Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service Fire Control and it will be answered by a Control Operator. Upon connection, please provide the Operator with your name, a contact number and a brief outline of what has happened. Then ask the Control Operator to page the CCU Duty Officer and to pass this information in full onto him/her. Please note that calls to the numbers above are to be used only in extreme circumstances, such as serious injuries and/or fatalities. This provision is not for resolving matters such as lost passports, lost luggage and forgotten items such as medication. Under no circumstances should these numbers be given to young people or to their parents or guardians.

Accident Reporting

All accidents will be handled in line with school procedures and Staffordshire County Council's Accident Policy. Accident investigation and employee hazard report forms are available from the Health and Safety intranet site alongside other relevant policies and useful information. A copy of any County Accident Forms (HSF40) submitted to the Strategic Health and Safety Service should be attached to the visit form on EVOLVE.

Policy written: February 2022

Agreed by Governors: March 2022

Reviewed: April 2024

Review: April 2026

Emergency Procedure to Support All Educational Visit Group Leaders

The Group Leader is responsible for all aspects of the visit from organising toilet supervision to liaising with providers. In the event of an emergency the Group Leader must ensure that all staff know what action to take if there is a problem,

If an accident happens the priorities are to:

- Assess the situation
- Safeguard the uninjured members of the group
- Attend to the casualty
- Inform the emergency services
- Inform the Headteacher/ School/ Parents/ Chair of Governors/ SCC
- Record and review details of the incident

Assess the situation

Safeguard the situation

Deal with any immediate danger to self and other group members

Account for all members of the group (register children and adults)

Arrange First Aid

Airways

Breathing

Circulation (bleeding)

Get Help

Call the emergency services as necessary (999)

Inform Relevant People

School 01889228730

Parents: Use the contacts list in the visit folder

In cases of extreme emergencies:

SCC Emergency Team: 08456 042886

SCC out of hours: 01785 278499

Establish a contact point and member of staff to liaise with emergency services

Arrange for a member of staff to travel with any casualties to hospital

Make arrangements for non-casualties to return to school/ base (residential visits)

Record details of the incident and actions taken