



Educational

Visits

Policy

Educational Visits Policy

This guidance and procedures were discussed with the staff and Governors in Autumn 2011 and Spring 2012 following revised guidelines from Staffordshire County Council. It was reviewed again in April 2015.

This policy will be reviewed again in 2018 or following additional guidance, whichever is the earlier.

1. Introduction

May Bank Infants School acknowledges the many benefits of learning outside the classroom and is committed to supporting educational visits and activities that enrich the learning opportunities of children and young people.

The school works within the requirements set out in Staffordshire County Council's Educational Visits Policy and the formally adopted Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel 'National 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.

2. Roles and 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 Headteacher is also the Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC) and has received relevant training and induction and is responsible for 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 May Bank Infants School is Mrs. P. Colley who attended training for the role.

The Headteacher will ensure that the 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.

3. Procedures

Staff wishing to plan and undertake a visit (prospective Visit Leaders) should first seek permission from the Headteacher to plan a visit. Once granted they should then add the visit details through the EVOLVE system which will then be automatically passed to the Headteacher for checking and approval that the planning and risk management for the visit follows employer policy and guidance. The Headteacher will further be asked to declare that the Visit Leader and 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.

4. Risk Management

The risk management of an activity should be informed by the benefits to be gained from participating. May Bank Infants 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 May Bank Infants School staff adopt and adapt the risk management materials available through EVOLVE to ease the burden of bureaucracy that might otherwise discourage leaders from making full use of educational visit learning opportunities.

5. 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: -

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

6. Accident Reporting

All accidents will be handled in line with 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.

See Appendix 1: Annual Consent Forms



01782 297340



CONSENT FORM FOR SCHOOL TRIPS AND OTHER OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES

Please sign and date the form below if you are happy for your child,

Name of Child _____

- a) To take part in school trips and other activities that take place off school premises; and
- b) To be given first aid or urgent medical treatment during any school trip or activity.

Please note the following important information before signing this form:

- Separate written parental consent will not be requested from you for the majority of off-site activities offered by the school - for example, year-group visits to local amenities - as such activities are part of the school's curriculum and usually take place during the normal school day.
- The school will send you information about each trip or activity before it takes place.
- You can, if you wish, tell the school that you do not want your child to take part in any particular school trip or activity.

Please sign and date this form if you agree to the above.

Signed (Person with Parental Responsibility).....

Date.....



Examples of off-site activities offered by the school - for example, year-group visits to local amenities -such activities are part of the school's curriculum and take place during the normal school day.

Walks in the local area e.g. The Marsh,
The allotments
The local playground
Local shops
Local churches
Local Library
War Memorial
Brampton Museum
New Vic Theatre
Highfield Grange
Visits to other schools (e.g. St. Margaret's; Wolstanton High)

Visits further afield may include:

Year R

Keele Christmas Tree Farm
Blackbrook Zoo
Lower Drayton Farm

Year 1

Stanley Head
Coombes Valley Park

Year 2

Shugborough
Sudbury Museum of Childhood
Bowling (Hanley)
Victoria Hall