# Aims and scope

Educational visits are activities arranged by, or on behalf of, our school, which require students 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 a supplement and enhance the curriculum, expand students’ education and provide enriching social and cultural experiences, teach life skills and promote independent learning, provide a foundation for lifelong learning and form an integral part of our approach to furthering our student’s education and personal growth.

This policy sets out our approach to planning and operating educational visits, to ensure the health and safety of our young people and staff, and to make sure that our visits are available to all learners. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff, students 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

Trips abroad organised by the school

Where a visit takes place in an environment that could be deemed politically or culturally

influencing, students will be supported through lessons during PSHE to ensure a clear and balanced view is received, with no extreme or partisan views evidenced. If Hopefields Directors feel it is important or educational that students receive an opposing view outside of the British Values agenda, we will maintain an unbiased approach and debate session with learners to explore those thoughts and opinions carefully and in a structured way.

# 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education’s guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits), and the following legislation and statutory guidance:

[Equality Act 2010](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools)

[SEND Code of Practice](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25)

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# 3. Roles and responsibilities

# Headteacher

The headteacher is overall responsible for:

Approving staff requests for educational visits, including having final authority to approve any educational visit of less than 24 hours

Making sure staff, including the educational visits co-ordinator, have received any necessary training

**The educational visits co-ordinator (EVC)**

Alison Laws 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 governing board when they’re 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

**Trip lead**

Every educational visit will have 1 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 students, 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, students 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 young people and others

**Staff**

Staff have a responsibility to make sure all students 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

Carry out any required risk assessments and work with the trip lead

Communicate with parents and carers and make sure trips are inclusive of all learner needs

Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them

Help manage pupil behaviour and discipline as required while on the visit

Share any concerns or worries with the trip lead and others, as appropriate

**Parents and carers**

By agreeing that students 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 students that may affect or impact their ability to safely take part in the trip

**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 young people

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

**Students**

Our school behaviour policy also applies to all educational visits. This includes the expectation that learners 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 the safety of others, reporting any concerns to a staff member or trip supervisor

Pupils will always be reminded of our behaviour expectations before going off-site for a visit, and will be expected to uphold the school’s behaviour policy at all times.

# Planning and preparation

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by Alison Laws EVC 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-student 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 breakdown, including multiple options where available

Resources, including staffing, 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 reduce any risks

See **appendix 1** for our trip information form for the planning and approval of a visit.

In cases where a trip involves activities for more than 24 hours, an overnight stay and/or travel overseas, the headteacher will seek approval of the SLT.

Once the risk assessment has been approved by the headteacher, and the governing board where relevant, staff will communicate with parents/carers and provide trip information.

Written parental consent will be required for trips that take place outside of normal school hours, and for any trips requiring a higher-than-normal level of risk assessment.

We will evaluate each visit after its conclusion, from the planning through to the visit itself, to continually improve the planning and experience of our future visits.

**Inclusion**

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

If a student 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.

We will adjust the trip programme where necessary, working with parents/carers to provide additional support, making reasonable adjustments to itineraries, providing additional support staff, and other adjustments as appropriate.

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

# Risk assessment

We will carry out a full risk assessment at least 2 weeks before the start of all trips.

This will be completed using the school’s risk assessment template which can be found in Teams and in **appendix 2**, and approved by Alison Laws, EVC. Existing risk assessments which can also be found in or those 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 risks associated with transport to and from the destination.

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

Trip leads will raise any concerns or questions about potential risks and safety measures with the headteacher and, where appropriate, third party vendors.

Every risk assessment will be approved by the Alison Laws, and a copy taken on the visit. and another copy left in the Risk Assessment file in the School office.

**Staff ratios and first aid**

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

At least 1 male and 1 female supervising adult is present (for mixed student groups)

At least 1 supervising adult able to administer first aid is present on all trips

Appropriate first aid equipment will be take on all trips, in accordance with the school’s first aid and health and safety policies. These can be found on the School website under policies and also on Teams under essential info. First aid equipment is kept in all vehicles and should be carried on staff persons.

All supervising adults will be made aware of any medical issues or allergies at the start of the trip

Adults without a DBS check will not be left alone with students at any time

The trip lead will take regular headcounts and/or rollcalls

**Transport**

Transportation for trips will be organised by the school, in line with our safety procedures, see minibus policy available on the school website under policies and on Teams under essential info. We will make sure students, 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.

**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.

This includes checking that organisations hold the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge. Where an organisation does not, we will check additional details as outlined in the DfE’s guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/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.

# Volunteers

Where appropriate, parents and carers may be asked to volunteer to attend and supervise students alongside staff members 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 learners going on the trip

The setting and circumstances of the trip

Volunteers’ skills, attitude and past behaviour, including previous volunteer experience

Parents/carers selected to volunteer will be informed at least 2 weeks ahead of the visit, and asked to confirm their attendance in writing. 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 young person.

# Communication and consent

We will contact the parents and carers of students invited to take part in an educational visit at least 2 weeks before the proposed date of the trip. Communication will be via 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 student 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.

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.

In the case of overseas trips, they will be asked to provide passport information and European Health Insurance Card or UK Global Health Insurance Card information, if available.

# 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.

1 member of staff will always accompany a student seeking medical treatment.

In a case of a student 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 student 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 student when found. The remaining staff and adults will return to the school with the rest of the students.

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).

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.

# Charging and insurance

Parents/carers won’t be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place during school hours. They also won’t be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place outside of school hours **if** it is part of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination, or religious education.

Where necessary, we may ask for a voluntary contribution to the costs of educational visits, but this will be entirely optional (except for residential visits) and will not affect students’ 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.

# Residential visits

The headteacher, together with the senior leadership team, will approve all residential trips longer than 24 hours.

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 1 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 students – this will include relevant DBS checks

Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission at least 2 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

For visits abroad, we will make sure that any organisation providing activities hold the LOtC Quality badge or similar local accreditation. We will follow the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s overseas travel guidance](https://www.gov.uk/safer-adventure-travel-and-volunteering-overseas) and [foreign travel advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) when organising these visits.

# Review

This policy will be reviewed every yearby the EVC and the SLT. At every review, the policy will be shared with relevant staff and stakeholders.

# 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 policy

First aid policy

Supporting students with medical conditions policy

Special educational needs (SEN) policy

Equality information and objectives

Accessibility plan

# Appendix 1: proposed visit planning information

To be completed by the staff member proposing the educational visit, and submitted to Alison

**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: StaffingVolunteersPhysical suppliesTransportation  |  |  |
| Accommodation options, where needed |  |  |
| Insurance needed, where applicable |  |  |
| Risk assessment plans and first aid provision |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date:** |  |  |
| **Activity:** | **Location of visit:** |
| **People at risk of harm:** | **Additional Information:** | **Number of staff in attendance** |
| **Name of person completing form: Job title: Date of visit:** | **Time of visit:** |

# Appendix 2: risk assessment template

| **Hazard** | **Risk****(how people might be harmed?)** | **Initial Rating****L, M, H** | **Control Measures Implemented** **(to reduce risk)** | **Final Rating****L, M, H** | **Additional Action Required** **(action by whom and completion date – use separate Action Plan if necessary)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

DESIGNATED FIRST AIDER ON THIS VISIT IS ….................................................... FIRST AID KIT MUST BE CARRIED AT **ALL** TIMES

**Action Plan**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Additional Action Required** | **Who will action?** | **When will this be actioned?** | **Completion date** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Authorised by: Date:

Venue Risk Assessment Received: Y/N

# Appendix 3: volunteer behaviour and 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 Alison Laws 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, which can be found on the school website

Volunteers agree to:

Remain professional and respectful with staff and students 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 students

Report any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a student to staff as soon as possible

Volunteers agree **not** to:

Exchange contact details with students unless told to by a member of staff

Engage in physical contact with students 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 student unless previously agreed with staff

Take photographs or record pupils without the permission of students and staff

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

**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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consent-for-school-trips-and-other-off-site-activities).

Parents and carers should sign and date the form and return it to school at the earliest convenience

**Trip destination:**

**Trip date(s):**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I am happy for my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to take part in the school trip to [insert destination].

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 student 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.

**Appendix A – changes/updates/amendments**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Change made**  | **Action to complete**  | **Staff name**  |
| 03.10.23 | REVIEW |  NONE | AL |
|  19.11.24 |  REVIEW |   |  AL |