

Educational visits Policy

Newfield Primary School



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1. Aims and scope

Educational visits are activities arranged by, or on behalf of, 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 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 pupils' education and personal growth.

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
- › Trips abroad 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 2023](#)

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 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
- Working with the governing board to approve residential trips of more than 24 hours

1.2 The educational visits co-ordinator (EVC) Ms Clifford 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 designate a suitable trip lead for each visit
- Assess outside activity providers
- Advise the headteacher when they're approving trips (Headteacher will have final approval)
- 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

3.2 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 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

3.3 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

- › 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 pupils' 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

3.4 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

3.5 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

3.6 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 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.

4. Planning and preparation

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by Ms Bolt, 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 breakdown, including multiple options where available
- Resources, including staffing, volunteers, 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 governing board.

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.

4.1. Inclusion

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

If a pupil with a disability 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 pupils.

In some cases, it may be reasonable and necessary to prevent a pupil with challenging behaviour from coming on a trip to protect their safety and the safety of the other pupils attending.

We will consider all reasonable options to help the pupil go on the trip safely, such as adapting the trip itinerary and increasing staffing numbers so the pupil can be supervised on a 1:1 basis.

5. 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 the Trips and Enrichment folder and in **appendix 2**, and approved by the headteacher. Existing risk assessments 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, named children whose behaviour may cause a risk, 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 headteacher, and a copy taken on the visit and another copy left with the office.

5.1 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:

- › There will always be at least one first aider with a current paediatric first aid certificate on school trips
- › Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the school's first aid and health and safety policies. These can be found in the First Aid Policy. 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 pupils at any time
- › The trip lead will take regular headcounts and/or rollcalls
- › Where no male members of staff are present on the trip, male pupils in Year 3 and below will use the female toilets with a female member of staff. This only applies to public toilets accessed by adults and not toilets specifically for the use of visiting schools. For all other year groups, they must go in groups of 3 or more and a member of staff will wait outside.

5.2 Transport

Transportation for trips will be organised by the school, in line with our Health and Safety Policy. 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.

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](#) 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 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 pupils 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 1 week ahead of the visit, and asked to confirm their attendance in writing or verbally directly with 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.

Volunteers will be required to wear a green high vis vest.

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 (where viable) at least 2 weeks before the proposed date of the trip. Communication will be via letter, 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 (only relevant to those names listed on the risk assessment)

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.

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.

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 and ask to speak to the Headteacher. The Headteacher will direct the school office to 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 to speak to the Headteacher who will make a decision about who will notify the parents/carers. The trip leader will 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.

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.

9. Charging and insurance

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

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 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, together with the governing board, 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 pupils – 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 holds the LOTC Quality badge or similar local accreditation. We will follow the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas travel guidance](#) and [foreign travel advice](#) when organising these visits.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every year by the EVC and the headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing board.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Charging and remissions policy
- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Child protection policy
- First aid policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special educational needs (SEN) policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

Proposed Visit Planning Information



Newfield Primary School - School Trip Request Form

Name of Teacher(s) completing request:			
Venue/Trip Details:		Date of Trip:	
What is the ratio of adults to children?		Details of first-aiders attending?	
Risk Assessment Please attach to this form. It needs to be signed by HT. A copy must be taken on the trip with you.	Date risk assessment completed:	Mode of Transport: (To be booked and confirmed by office staff)	Date booked:...../...../..... Signed:.....
Please give a breakdown of total cost of trip: (remember to include all costs, entry/transport/any other costs)	Entry: £	Other Costs: £	
	Coach: £.....	Other Costs: £	
	Other Costs: £	Total Cost of Trip: £	N/A
	(Please give details)		
Contribution per pupil? (This should cover the cost of the trip)	£..... x pupils = £.....		
Will the school be subsidising the trip? If yes, what is the approximate			

amount?	
<p>Once your trip has been approved and booked by Penny please complete order forms for any invoices that school will pay and submit all forms to Diana. Please let us know in advance if you need a cheque on the day of your trip.</p> <p>Order forms attached: Yes / No</p>	

Signature of Teacher: Date:

Signature of School Secretary Date:.....

Approved by Headteacher: Date:

Office use only:

<i>Has the kitchen been advised re: packed lunches by Penny:</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Order entered onto SIMS/FMS system by Diana:</i>	<i>Yes/No:</i>
<i>Did the income collected cover cost of trip:</i>	<i>Details:</i>

Please put this form in the Trip folder which is kept in the office.



Newfield Risk Assessment: Trips and Visits

Risk Assessment

Establishment: Newfield Primary School

Assessment Date:

Activity:

Completed by:

Date Reviewed: _____

Reviewed by: _____

No of Pupils:

No of Staff:

Person in charge of the activity:

Hazard <i>List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people.</i>	Who may be affected	Control Measures <i>List existing controls or note where the information may be found. (e.g. Information, instruction, training, systems or procedures)</i>	Any Further Action <i>List the risks which are not adequately controlled and proposed action where it</i>
Hazards associated with travelling to/from venues. Road traffic accidents both as an occupant of a vehicle and as a pedestrian resulting in serious injury or death. Assault resulting in injury. Child going missing. All these could result in disruption or termination of travel.	Staff/Young People/ Members of the public	1. Specific control measures relating to supervision of each group produced by the Party Leader and EVC. 2. Specific measures for managing an emergency produced by EVC/Party Leader (to come straight back to school). 3. On-going control measures overseen by party leader.	1. The Headteacher/Manager to ensure staff competence. 2. The Headteacher/Manager to ensure staff competence
Hazards associated with undertaking the activities designed to meet the objectives for each visit.	Staff/Young People/ Members of the public	1. Generic control measures specific to most activities produced by Education, Health and Social Care 2. Specific control measures relating to	1. Education, Health and Social Care will review and update control measures in response to changing national guidelines, e.g.

<p>Although most of the risks for these activities will be associated with a specific activity and picked up by the specific risk assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury from slipping, tripping 		<p>supervision of each group, produced by the Party Leader and EVC</p> <p>3. Ongoing control measures overseen by party leader</p>	<p>new DfE guidelines</p> <p>2. The Headteacher/Manager to ensure staff competence</p> <p>3. The Headteacher/Manager to ensure staff competence</p>
<p>Road traffic accident – risk of injury or death</p>	<p>Young people and staff, members of the public</p>	<p>Appropriate supervision – supervisors competent and briefed by group leader.</p> <p>Young people organised in manner suitable for age and behaviour (event specific).</p> <p>Young people briefed and educated in basic Road Safety – rules for keeping safe.</p>	<p>Roads crossed at pedestrian crossings.</p> <p>Route assessed by group leader – event specific</p> <p>Parents informed. Basic road safety rules covered with young people as appropriate prior to visit.</p> <p>Keep a note of changes to route (road works etc)</p>
<p>Sexual Assault</p>	<p>Young people</p>	<p>Supervising staff DBS checked.</p> <p>Guidelines for changing/using toilet agreed in an event specific and on-going RA.</p> <p>Direct supervision, never alone where access by others is possible.</p>	
<p>Accident – First Aid incident</p>	<p>Young people and staff, members of</p>	<p>Party Leader to deal with incident – will have basic First Aid kit and mobile phone with school number.</p>	<p>If an emergency call 999.</p>

	the public		
Permission	Young people	Parents to be informed of the trip.	Parents able to request that their child doesn't attend the trip.
Behaviour	Young People	Chn showing uncontrolled behaviour leading up to the trip may be asked to be accompanied by a parent or not be permitted to go	Extra parent may need to attend or some children will stay at school



Newfield Volunteer Behaviour and Code of Conduct Agreement

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 trip leader 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.

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
- Sign in to Inventory on the day of the trip and wear their ID badge throughout their time on the trip.
- Wear a green Newfield hi-vis jacket whilst on the trip

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
- Use their mobile phones on the school trip

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

Signed:

Date: