

Educational visits

SWANLEA 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 promote social confidence, our Swanlea Values 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 2024](#)
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3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

They are 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 body to approve residential trips of more than 24 hours
- Signing off all trips via the Evolve system

1.2 The educational visits co-ordinator (EVC) Kathrin Meinicke 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

3.2 Trip Organiser

Every educational visit will have 1 member of staff designated as the trip organiser. The organiser will:

- Plan the proposed visit, taking into account the health and safety risks to pupils and staff
- Assign staff, 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 organiser
- 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. 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 the Headteacher or a Deputy Headteacher, and based on factors including:

- Cost
- 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, 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

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, deputy 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, 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, 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 pupils.

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 and approved by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. Risk assessments or those provided by the destination itself might also be used to support this process
- All risk assessments are uploaded to Evolve by Shelley Khatun.
- 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 headteacher or deputy headteacher and a copy taken on the visit and another copy left with Shelley Khatun.

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:

- At least 1 supervising adult able to administer first aid is present on all trips
- Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the school's first aid and health and safety policies.
- 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
- The trip lead will ensure that all students return into the building and are registered and then, when authorised, students are dismissed.

5.2 Transport

- Transportation for trips will be organised by the school. 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.

7. Communication and consent

We will contact the parents and carers of pupils invited to take part in an educational visit at least two weeks before the proposed date of the trip, unless authorised by the Headteacher.

Communication will be via letter or if letters are not returned by phone call 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
- Parents/carers will be asked to provide written consent for educational visits by signing and dating a form to be returned to the school.
- 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. 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 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.
- 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. We will not normally charge for any educational trip.

- 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.
- 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 body, 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 before the start of the trip
- All adults, have had adequate safeguarding checks.

Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission 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
- 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](#) and [foreign travel advice](#) when organising these visits.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years. 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 policy
- Child protection policy
- First aid policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special educational needs (SEN) policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan

Appendix 1: proposed visit planning information

This information is to be sent to the by the staff member proposing the educational visit, and submitted to headteacher or deputy headteacher.

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: > Staffing > Volunteers > Physical supplies > Transportation		
Accommodation options, where needed		
Insurance needed, where applicable		
Risk assessment plans and first aid provision		

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: 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/the head teacher/the trip leader].

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 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.