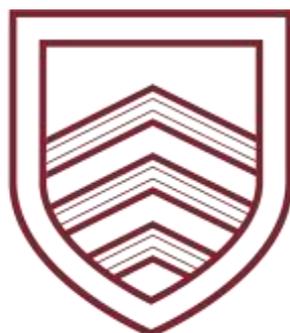


Educational Visits Policy



CLARE COMMUNITY
— PRIMARY SCHOOL —

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CLARE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Educational Visits Policy

Introduction

All offsite visits and activities that are organised and undertaken by the school are regarded as “educational visits”. Whenever pupils leave the school site under the direct or indirect supervision of school staff, they are undertaking an educational visit.

Aims and Objectives

The school aims to offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepares them for adult life. The Headteacher and Governing Body recognise the value and importance of learning outside the classroom and encourage staff to organise educational visits that enrich the curriculum and enhance the learning and development of our pupils.

Types of visits organised by the school

The school offers a wide range of educational visits, including:

- Visits to zoos, museums, stately homes, educational fieldwork in and around the town of Clare, visits to our partner secondary school, coastal fieldwork e.g. Walton-on-the-Naze, sporting activities, cultural visits to local theatres e.g. Bury St Edmunds Theatre Royal, visits to London etc.
- Residential visits to Outdoor Educational Centres.

The above list is only meant as an indication of visits possible. It is intended that visits will be very widely encouraged and their nature will evolve over time.

Access to Policies and Guidelines

Staff involved in the leadership and management of visits should be familiar with all relevant guidelines and policy documents, and should know how/where this information can be accessed.

Copies of all relevant documentation can be found in the following places:

- School office
- My Computer/ Teacher Drive/ 2019-20/Educational Visits Protocol

In the case of any serious incident, details of the correct procedures to be followed can be found in the Off-site Emergency Procedure and Business Continuity Plan (current year).

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for all the school’s educational visits. If the Headteacher is absent or unavailable, Mrs L Stranger will act as the appointed deputy, and fulfil the same responsibilities regarding the management and approval of educational visits.

Currently, the headteacher is also the School's Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC); the EVC oversees the planning and organisation of the school's visits, and provides advice and guidance to staff members, including recommendations regarding the approval of visits. The EVC will attend refresher/update training at least every 3 years.

The Governing Body representative, M.Wickes, is responsible for overseeing educational visits, and for assisting with the approval of residential/overseas/high risk visits. She will receive specific Governor training in order to fulfil this role.

Advice and Guidance

Staff should seek advice and guidance regarding educational visits from:

- the Headteacher
- other experts with specialist/local knowledge (e.g. National Park ranger)

Training

The school will ensure that the following training opportunities with regard to educational visits are made available:

- Training for EVC (to be refreshed every 3 years)
- Opportunities for Visit Leaders to seek advice from residential centres etc/ make prior visits where practical.
- Training for NQTs and new staff from the Educational Visits Coordinator as part of initial induction.
- Training for TAs/others from the Visit Leader before the visit takes place.

Monitoring

To assure quality of standards on educational visits:

- the EVC will accompany at least one visit per year to monitor real practice, and gain the information needed to review the policy and procedures;
- Records of these monitoring visits will be kept on file for future reference.

1. Planning and approval procedures

Visits should be recorded, checked and approved in accordance with the following procedures:

SPORT FIXTURES

A sporting fixture is defined as an event whereby students are competing against one or more schools in a sporting context; this then becomes an educational visit when the fixture or event involves students being out of school. Approval for sporting fixtures is given at the start of the year by the Headteacher. Notification of sporting fixtures is given by written letter at least two weeks before the event, and parental approval is then sought via a signed permission slip.

Category 1 - DAY VISITS

(Including visits that take place on a regular basis throughout the year, or over a specific period of time)

Notification of Day visits is given by written letter at least a month before the event.
Category 1 visits should be recorded using:

- Form 01 – Educational Visit Approval
- Form 02 – Information for Educational Visits
- Form 03 – Risk Management Form for specified visit
- Form 04 – Additional Needs Register

Category 1 visits should be checked and approved:

Internally - by the Headteacher (EVC)

- In addition, the Governing Body should be informed of visits that have taken place.

Category 1 visits should be submitted for approval:

- at the beginning of the academic term in which the visit is planned or
- at least 6 weeks in advance of the visit.

Category 2 – UK RESIDENTIAL VISITS

Visits that involve one or more nights away from home in the UK.

Category 2 visits should be recorded using:

- Form 01 – Educational Visit Approval
- Form 02 – Information for Educational Visits
- Form 03 – Risk Management Form for specified visit
- Form 04 – Additional Needs Register

Category 2 visits should be checked and approved:

Internally - by the Headteacher (EVC) and the Governing Body.

Category 2 visits should be submitted for approval:

- at the beginning of the academic year or the term before the trip is proposed. Outline Approval should be obtained from the Headteacher and/or Governing Body before any firm bookings are made.

If any of the above 3 types of visit involve what may be regarded as “High risk activities or environments” they MUST be given an additional subcategory “A” classification:

Sub Category “A” – HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES and ENVIRONMENTS

All day visits, or residential or overseas visits that involve hazards that are significantly different or more serious (in terms of severity and/or likelihood) than might normally be encountered in everyday or school life.

e.g. a weekly climbing day visit, a day visit to dry ski slope, a residential stay at outdoor centre,

All Sub Category “A” visits should be checked and approved:

Internally - by the Headteacher (EVC) and Governors.

All Sub Category “A” visits should be submitted for approval:

- at the beginning of the academic year in the case of residential visits or at least 2 months in advance of the visit for day visits.

2. Visit objectives

All educational visits should have a defined purpose, with clearly stated, justifiable educational objectives, or else they may not be approved by the Headteacher or Governing Body.

3. Selection of students taking part

Every effort is made to ensure that school journeys and activities are available and accessible to all who wish to participate, irrespective of special educational or medical needs, ethnic origin, gender or religion. However:

- Pupils may be excluded from educational visits because of poor conduct in school, previous poor conduct on visits or because of any risk they may pose to other students on the visit.
- Efforts will be taken to ensure that all visits are as inclusive as is reasonably possible and will support pupils with special/medical needs - e.g. transport provision. It may be necessary on some occasions to insist that a parent or carer accompanies a trip to provide further support than that available from staff. If a parent does join a trip with the sole responsibility of looking after their child, it will be made clear to that parent that the child is their responsibility for the duration of the school trip.

4. The Overall Group Leader/Visit Organiser

The Overall Group Leader must be assessed and approved as suitable and competent to fulfil their role and responsibilities by the Headteacher and EVC.

The Headteacher would normally require Visit Leaders of more complex and demanding visits (e.g. residential visits) to have much broader leadership experience.

5. Deputy and Volunteer Leaders

Residential visits, and visits taking more than one class require a Deputy Leader who is able to deputise, and take full responsibility for the Visit Leader, if necessary. Deputy Leaders

should be chosen carefully, and must be assessed and approved as suitable and competent to fulfil their roles and responsibilities by the Headteacher, EVC and Visit Leader.

Leaders should consider carefully the implications of volunteers being present on a school trip, especially where family members are present, and the possible complications that this might present. Risk assessments should address potential safeguarding issues, and ensure that parents who do not possess a DBS check, should not accompany children without a member of staff being present.

Clare Community Primary School has a responsibility to ensure that all adults involved in the supervision of children during school-related activities (including visits) are suitable people to work with children, and pose no threat to the young people in their care. All non-relatives who are accompanying visits must have been DBS checked by the school.

Concerns about possible safeguarding issues or poor practice by a member of staff, volunteer or other adult should be reported immediately to the visit leader.

Young people on educational visits should at all times have ready access to a competent adult who has an appropriate level of first aid training. This normally requires at least one of the attending adults to have appropriate and current first aid training. Even if first aid is provided /available at the venue then the visit leader must take a first aid kit, accident book, near miss forms and incident record sheet. At the very minimum, in the case of local visits, a first-aid kit must accompany one of the adults.

6. Staffing selection and supervision ratios

Effective supervision is of the utmost importance in maintaining the safety and welfare of the children on educational visits.

Ratios depend on the age and additional needs of the children on the visit. There will always be at least two adults accompanying any off-site experience, so that there is some flexibility and reserve capacity if things go wrong. The only exception to this would be upper KS2 children visiting the Baptist church (less than a minute's walk away from the school gates), where a member of staff at school will ensure we have arrived safely.

Particular consideration should be given to staffing levels required for visits that involve adventurous/high risk activities, and those that involve indirect or remote supervision.

As a general rule:

- EYFS: 1:4 and a member of staff must have Paediatric First Aid
 - Years 1 to 3 (aged below 8): 1:6
 - Years 3 (aged above 8) and 4: 1:8
 - Years 5 and 6 upwards: 1:15
-
- a minimum of two members of staff should accompany a Category 1 visit, rising to three for Category 2 and 3 visits.
 - mixed groups of students should be accompanied by male and female members of staff
- For Category 1 visits, if a member of the opposite sex is available at the visit venue then there is no specific requirement to have both male and female members of staff accompanying the visit.

- visits that involve adventurous/high risk activities, or involve indirect or remote supervision should have a higher staff:pupil ratio. (to be determined by the provider);

Children requiring 1:1 supervision for additional educational needs will also require this level of supervision off-site; these adults will be counted outside the ratio of adults: children;

7. Selection and suitability of accommodation or venues to be visited

As part of the overall risk assessment process, and in keeping with their legal duty of care, the Group Leader must take reasonable steps to check that any accommodation (e.g. youth hostel) that is used, and any venues (e.g. castles or museums) that the group plans to visit, are suitable, satisfactory and acceptably safe.

Many organisations now have websites or supply teacher information packs that provide all reasonable assurances regarding standards, or have obtained a Learning Outside the Classroom “Quality Badge”. However, if necessary, a letter should be sent to the manager of a place of accommodation or venue to be visited, requesting it is signed, and giving written assurances regarding their safety management systems and operating procedures.

When planning a visit, the Visit Organiser (and other group leaders) should, wherever possible, undertake an exploratory visit to inspect and familiarise themselves with the accommodation to be used and venues to be visited.

8. High risk activities and environments

Leaders who organise visits that involve high-risk activities and environments must be aware that such visits normally require a greater degree of planning and preparation by virtue of their complexity and unpredictability. Leaders and other supervisors must be sufficiently competent to supervise pupils in the activity/environment. Competence derives from knowledge, experience, training and personal qualities and may be evidenced by holding the relevant National Governing Body (NGB) award where appropriate, for high-risk activities. The school keeps a record of staff qualifications, training and leadership experience. This is stored in the Main Office.

Visit Organisers should plan alternative activities and venues to cater for possible changes in circumstances (e.g. worsening weather or rising river levels), and all staff should be aware of these possible contingencies. The EVC will ask to see and check these plans.

Clare Community Primary School pays annually insurance which covers all school visits within the UK (providing the visits are correctly approved). However, it is a requirement of the school to inform the insurance company of any trip which involves ‘water’ or other ‘high-risk’ activities.

9. Risk assessments and management

Clare Community Primary School has a legal duty of care for its young people, and must therefore give careful consideration to the hazards involved during an educational visit, and ensure that risks are managed at reasonable and acceptable levels.

The Visit Organiser should undertake an appropriate risk assessment for each visit, and this should be shared/discussed/agreed by all visit leaders before the visit takes place. Appropriate written evidence of this process should be provided and emailed to the headteacher at least a week before day of the trip/the trip departs.

The process of risk assessment should be a positive means of raising awareness of hazards and prompting constructive discussion regarding the best means of risk management – it should therefore be of real practical value to the leaders and group members, not just a paper exercise.

A set of written generic risk assessments and all necessary forms are available from the EVC and on the Teacher Drive. It is essential that:

- all relevant generic risk assessment forms are reviewed, amended and agreed at the start of each academic year by all relevant staff.
- these generic sections are stored on the Teacher Drive and staff are encouraged to use these in order to complete a specific risk assessment for the visit taking place.
- each visit should then have a specific risk assessment written for the visit taking place.
- new leaders/volunteers are asked to read all relevant forms and add their signed agreement before assisting with the leadership of a visit.
- completed assessments are spot checked/approved by the school EVC/SLT.
- each visit should also consider the medical or other needs of staff members attending in order that the risk to the visit can be accurately assessed.

10. Insurance and finance arrangements (including charging arrangements)

The EVC/Group Leader must ensure that adequate insurance arrangements are in place for all educational visits and Group Leaders should check carefully that the scope and level of cover provided is adequate for each visit. Visit Organisers should also check that any external service providers have sufficient public liability cover (normally at least £5 million).

- Clare Community Primary School pays annual insurance which covers all school visits within the UK (providing the visits are correctly approved). You DO NOT need to add an extra cost on for insurance purposes.

The Visit Organiser and school EVC should ensure that:

- each visit is accurately costed and budgeted for;
- adequate allowances are made for additional unforeseen costs and changes in circumstances;
- financial plans – especially for more complex and committing visits – are checked over and agreed first by the finance office before financial commitments are made;
- No firm bookings or financial commitments are made until the visit has been agreed and received “Outline Approval” by the Headteacher and LGB if applicable;
- Costs of the visit are made clear to all concerned (including parents), including how much will come from school funds and how much each parent will be charged or asked to contribute;
- money collected for visits is accounted for separately, and secure systems are in place to ensure that money is accessed and accounted for correctly via Parentpay;
- The cost of school visits or activities will have the following charges added to the overall cost of the visit to cover the charge for administration:

Up to £20 - an additional 50p per person will be added onto the cost of the trip
£21 - £200 - an additional £1 per person will be added onto the cost of the trip
£201 and over - an additional £2 per person will be added onto the cost of the trip
The organisation and set-up of the Parent Pay account for the trip will be coordinated by the finance officer.

Charging arrangements

No charge may be made in respect of any activity that is deemed to take place in school hours. An activity is deemed to take place during “school hours” if 50% or more of the activity, takes place within school hours.

If more than 50% is deemed to be outside of school hours then a charge may be made for “optional extras” only.

For residential visits, a school visit is considered to have taken place within school time if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils amounts to half or more of the number of half days taken up by the activity.

The school will not charge for:

- any activity undertaken as part of the curriculum , or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school trip and are accompanying students on a residential
- transport provided in connection with an educational trip during school hours where the trip is part of the curriculum or public examination preparation.

The school may ask parents for voluntary contributions towards the cost of these visits, but it must be clear that any contribution is genuinely voluntary.

Where it is not permissible to charge parents, any subsidy will come from departmental allocations or school funds.

The school may charge for activities that are provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, as long as these activities are optional extras (see details in the school charging policy). Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

The costs of the visit should be clear to all concerned, stating how much will be given, if anything, from other school funds and how much parents are being expected to contribute.

Pupil Premium children are eligible for financial assistance (usually 50% of the cost of the visit) if requested by parents/carer in writing (email is fine).

13. Parent information and consent

The Group Leader and EVC must ensure that parents/guardians are provided with appropriate and sufficient information about all visits. The amount of information and method of provision will depend upon the type of visit planned and the assessed level of risk involved.

Parents/guardians of each pupil on a visit are asked to complete and sign a written consent form, whether it be the CCPS consent for routine visits, or specific consent for a particular visit/activity.

There is no legal requirement to obtain parental consent for visits/activities during normal school hours but it is nonetheless good practice to inform parents and seek consent for any activities that parents might be particularly concerned about.

Any special/medical needs of pupils are collated by the Group Leader and supervising staff are briefed and trained accordingly.

Parents are asked to give written consent to the administration of plasters and off-the-shelf first aid/medication, if deemed necessary.

In the case of more serious medical treatment being required the assistance of a GP or A&E Department of a hospital should be sought. The Children Act 1989 allows a doctor to provide any necessary treatment by doing 'what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare'.

In this case the Parent/Carer must be contacted and advised of the situation as soon as possible. Consent for this is obtained via the 'Consent for School Visits' (Template D).

Parents should be clearly informed of the arrangements and responsibilities for collecting a pupil after a visit.

The Visit Organiser must obtain parent contact details for all pupils on the visit, including primary and secondary contact if visit is outside of school hours.

Parents should be kept clearly informed about arrangements for any educational visits, the nature and extent of which will depend on the visit. Documentation and recommended information includes:

- Parent letters, using the approved template – e.g. sports fixtures/regular events
- Parents meetings –e.g. residential
- Parental consent – parents receive a letter giving permission for day visits at the start of the school year. However, further permission must be sought for residential visits or other specific visits
- Forms to gather up to date information regarding special/medical needs
- Forms to obtain up to date parent contact details of parents or other responsible adults
- Letters informing parents of late returns to school or incidents on visit.

14. Staff briefing and emergency procedures

All staff in charge of visits must be fully aware of the off-site emergency procedures.
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It is important that all staff (including volunteers) involved in the leadership of a visit are fully briefed about each visit. Staff should be aware of their expected roles and responsibilities before, during and after a visit.

Visit leaders should be aware of emergency procedures and how to obtain outside assistance or contact the emergency services if required.

Part of the planning for emergencies must involve the recording of one or more Emergency Home Contact(s) who should be available at any time during the visit.

The Visit Organiser must ensure that group leaders have immediate access to the emergency contact details of the School Leadership Team, EVC and the parents of those on the visit.

A properly equipped first aid kit is always available to staff during school visits and must be checked and taken on all visits. The school first aid kits are stored in the Medical Room.

All staff should be made aware of the conduct and behaviour expected of them during the visit, particularly in regard to issues such as smoking and alcohol use.

The Visit Leader has the responsibility for ensuring that all of the following have been taken into account:

- staff roles and responsibilities
- emergency procedures/arrangements
- emergency home contacts
- school/personal mobile phones for staff
- mobile phones for students – policy e.g. should they be confiscated in emergencies
- first aid equipment – how many? where stored? who is responsible for upkeep?
- staff conduct/behaviour

15. Briefing and preparation of the students

Providing relevant information and guidance to students is an important part of preparing for all school visits. Students should be briefed about safety arrangements and what clothing/equipment should be brought.

Leaders must ensure that students clearly understand what will be considered unacceptable behaviour or conduct, and the consequences of non-compliance. “Buddy systems” are an effective means of promoting safety and welfare within the group, especially with younger students.

Students should be briefed what to do in an emergency, or if they become separated from the rest of the group.

It is good practice to teach students how to recognise dangers and manage risks sensibly.

Students should be made very clear of the expectations of the visit, in particular:

- conduct and behaviour
- discipline and consequences of non-compliance
- ***use of any electronic devices (including mobile phones) will not be permitted on any trip***
- group safety – group leader’s/buddy systems
- special/medical needs – data protection
- personal medication – storage/administration
- required uniform/identifying clothing – eg. School uniform
- remote supervision arrangements -
- emergency contact arrangements

16. Documentation (and visit records)

Hard copies of supporting documentation (e.g. risk assessments) should be stored and retained in the school for 10 Years.

If no significant incidents occurred during the visit, the school disposes of the paperwork after a period of 10 years. If a significant incident occurs during a visit that could be investigated at a later date, all relevant details are retained until 25 years since the year the visit has taken place.

17. Visit Approval

Low risk day visits (Category 1) are approved in-house by the Headteacher (with EVC guidance and support)

Day visits involving high-risk activities or environments are approved by Headteacher/EVC/Governors.

UK residentials, including those involving high risk activities or environments are approved by Headteacher /EVC/Governors.

The Visit Organiser must carefully check all visit forms before submitting for approval.

When required, Governor Approval for a visit is given by the governor with specific responsibility for overseeing educational visits.

The procedure for Governor Approval involves:

For low risk day visits (Category 1) – not required.

For high-risk day visits – the governor with specific responsibility for overseeing educational visits. A hard copy of the visit form is given to and signed by the Chair of Governors.

For residential visits (Category 2 and 3) and those involving high-risk activities/environments – the governor with specific responsibility for overseeing educational visits. A hard copy of the visit form is given to and signed by the Chair of Governors.

18. Amendments to visits

If there are significant late changes to visit plans that have already been approved or submitted for approval, the Visit Organiser must notify all relevant approving authorities (EVC/Headteacher/ Governors) of these changes and ensure that their additional consent is given.

If there is an amendment to a visit and there is time to update the paperwork then this should be done following consultation with SLT and the EVC (Accompanying staff should be made aware of changes and parent/carers informed as appropriate). In the case of a last minute or emergency amendment then Form 11: Emergency Changes Report Form should be completed and attached to all copies of relevant paperwork. Staff accompanying the visit should also be advised of any changes. If the changes affect timings, location or activities then parent/carers should be informed of these changes.

19. Post visit review and evaluation

It is good practice for Visit Organisers, on return from a visit, to review the visit with their Deputy Leader and/or the EVC/member of the Senior Leadership Team, and to record any examples of good practice and lessons learned that might assist with the planning and leadership of future visits. (Form 09 – Visit Evaluation Form)

In particular, it is important to record and review any accidents, incidents, or near-misses (i.e. dangerous incidents that nearly happened, but fortunately didn't) on the relevant forms. (Form 07 – Incident Report Form and Form 08 – Near Miss Report Form)

It is important that details are recorded as soon as possible after an incident whilst they are still fresh in the memory, preferably with signed witness accounts.

Visit Organisers should take blank photocopied pages from the school's accident book to record details of any incidents. These can then be copied or added to the school accident book on return home.

Serious incidents must be notified to RIDDOR (HSE's "Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995), using the procedures and standard forms available from the Headteacher. The report must be made according to the guidelines attached on the form.

Post visit reviews and accident/near miss records are reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governors. Any lessons learned are shared with all relevant staff and any necessary changes to procedures made.

After any major accident, the school will undertake a review of the incident and their emergency procedures.

Staff are encouraged to express any concerns regarding the organisation and management of visits in writing to the Headteacher and these will be taken seriously and dealt with in confidence. If necessary, issues will be considered further by the Governing Body.

Approved:

Date:.....

Agreed:.....

Review Date:

Appendix:

Form 01 – Educational Visit Approval
Form 02 – Information for Educational Visits
Form 03 – Risk Management Form for specified visit
Form 04 – Additional Needs Register
Form 05a – Off-site emergency procedures – Loss of student/Serious accident to individual
Form 05b – Off-site emergency procedures – Vehicle breakdown/accident
Form 06 – Safeguarding on visits report form
Form 07 – Incident report form
Form 08 - Near-miss report form
Form 09 – Visit Evaluation form
Form 10 – Visit Monitoring Form
Form 11 – Emergency Changes Report Form
Template A – Procedure Flow Chart
Template B – Checklist for Visit Organisers
Template C - Day Visits letter
Template D – Residential Trip letter
Template E – Generic Additional Needs
Template F – Initial Meeting with Parents- Possible outline agenda
Template G – Educational Visits Annual Consent Form