



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

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### **Introduction**

Site visits, which provide valuable opportunities for learning through first-hand experience, are something which we strive for at ERT but the safety of children is always our first priority.

**The safety of all children and adults participating in any planned educational visit or journey is of paramount importance.**

It is the duty of all staff leading all educational visits to risk assess any planned visit thoroughly and to consult with the Education Visit Co-ordinator (EVC).

If in any doubt about the safety of any member of the party the visit should not go ahead.

All risk assessments must be given to the EVC and retained for future reference.

A Risk Assessment document is a legal requirement and subject to audit.

All staff planning visits should read and follow the detailed guidance in the file "LOtC" from Suffolk County Council.

### **Planning a Visit**

The following questions must be addressed:

- What are the educational benefits likely to arise from the visit?
- What does the place to be visited have to offer?
- Is there sufficient time for planning?
- Is the travelling distance suitable?

- Is enough known about the location?

### **Types of Visits**

**Educational Day Visits:** The school proforma including a risk assessment must be completed for each of these.

#### **The Organiser of the Visit will:**

- **Liaise with the EVC throughout the process;**
- Ensure the Checklist for Planning an Educational Visit is followed (**Appendix 1**);
- Fill in a detailed Risk Assessment (**Appendix 2 & 3**);
- Discuss the risk assessment with the EVC who will make a decision as to whether the visit can go ahead;
- Send a letter to parents outlining the event and requesting parental consent;
- Choose adult supervision with care:
- The capabilities, experience, talents and qualifications of all accompanying adults should be given appropriate consideration;
- Every person accompanying children on a school visit must have an enhanced DBS
- A Paediatric First Aider must accompany every visit.
- Complete an Emergency Contact List (**Appendix 4**);
- Collate the children's emergency numbers and medical records (**Appendix 5**);
- Brief all adults, before the visits r/e their roles and responsibilities and what to do in case of a critical incident;
- On return complete a Report and Evaluation sheet (**Appendix 6**) and fill in any additional accident / incident forms as appropriate.

### **Levels of Supervision**

Teachers and other adult supervisors need to undertake greater care than that expected of the most careful parent. Levels of supervision are decided upon for each visit, taking into consideration the relevant variables (e.g. age, experience, children, nature of activity, location, physical hazards).

As a guide:

- Nursery children should be supervised at a level of 1:2
- Reception children should have a minimum adult to pupil ratio of 1:4
- KS1 adult : pupil ratio – a minimum of 1:6
- Lower KS2 adult : pupil ratio -a minimum of 1:8
- Upper KS2 adult : pupil ratio - a minimum of 1:10

Visit organisers should take individual children's circumstances into account and adjust the supervision as necessary to ensure the safety of children at all times.

A qualified teacher must accompany children on all visits. It is not appropriate for AOTTs (Adults Other than Teachers) to be responsible for leading visits in school time. For sporting fixtures out of school a qualified teacher will accompany the group whenever possible. On the rare occasions when a qualified teacher is not available, parents will be informed that they must accompany their child and take full responsibility for them.

Failure to make adequate provision could place visit organisers at professional risk.

### **Farm Visits**

Farms can be dangerous places so taking children to a farm should be carefully planned. The risks to be assessed should include those arising from misuse of farm machinery and the hazards associated with E Coli 0157 and other infections. Those who are pregnant are at particular risk. Check that the farm maintains good washing facilities, clean grounds and public areas.

#### **Never let children:**

- Place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths after feeding the animals
- Eat until they have washed their hands
- Sample any animal foodstuffs
- Drink from taps
- Ride on tractors or other machines
- Play in the farm area

#### **Inclusion**

The visit organiser will make every effort to ensure that all children are included on visits, including those with special educational needs, disabilities or other special conditions or circumstances. This may require additional adult support, increased staff to pupil ratio, adult training for specific medical conditions etc.

The visit organiser will take all reasonable steps to ensure inclusion for all.

#### **Equipment**

The following items should be taken on all visits:

- First Aid Equipment
- One emergency asthma inhaler and paperwork relating to each child in the group with asthma. (Children should also carry their own inhaler unless too young to do so.)
- Prescribed medication
- Sick bucket
- Mobile phones
- Contact list for emergencies for all children and adults in the party

#### **Transport**

In the event of an accident:

- Attempt to park in a safe place
- Keep the passengers in the vehicle unless they are at risk by doing so.
- On a motorway children should be taken away from the road.
- Note the precise location.
- Assess the situation and report the details to school as soon as possible.
- An adult must stay with the children at all times.

#### **Delays**

If delayed contact the school at the earliest possible opportunity and proceed at a safe speed.

#### **Injuries**

- Assess the injured without injury to yourself.
- Only attempt First Aid if qualified.
- Reassure and protect the casualty from further harm.

- Send for help: dial 999 and give the following information:  
the location, details of casualties – age / condition, phone number.

**Critical Incident Plan**

- Trip organiser to inform Clive
- Sophie to contact parents
- Trip organiser to know that no parents are to be contacted from the accident scene
- Headteacher/EVC to keep in contact with trip organiser

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