

Monkwick Infant School and Nursery



Educational Visits and School Trips Policy

Statement of intent

Monkwick Infant School and Nursery understands that visits and trips can be effective ways of motivating pupils, and they can often offer unique educational experiences. The school aims to ensure that pupils are engaged in their learning and are given opportunities to explore this in a more practical setting.

The school takes the health and wellbeing of our staff and pupils very seriously. This policy has been designed in line with DfE and HSE guidance and details our responsibilities for pupils and staff members while out on educational visits and school trips.

1. framework

- 1.1. This policy has been created with regard to relevant legislation including, but not limited to:
 - The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- 1.2. This policy has also been created with due regard to the following guidance:
 - DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
 - DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
 - HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'
 - DfE (2013) 'Driving school minibuses'
- 1.3. This policy should be used in conjunction with the following school policies:
 - [Complaints Procedures Policy](#)
 - [Behavioural Policy](#)
 - [Charging and Remissions Policy](#)
 - [Health and Safety Policy](#)
 - [Equal Information and Objectives](#)

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **'In loco parentis'** means that the group leader of any school trip or educational visit has a duty of care over the pupils in place of a parent.
- 2.2. **'School trip'** means any educational visit, foreign exchange trip, away-day or residential holiday organised by the school which takes pupils and staff members off-site.
- 2.3. Activities of an **'adventurous nature'** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Trekking
- Caving
- Skiing
- Water sports
- Climbing

3. Key roles and responsibilities

3.1. The **governing board** is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's **Complaints Procedures Policy**.
- Ensuring educational trips and visits positively impact on pupils' lives, teaching them new life skills and providing new experiences.
- Promoting good safeguarding practices to ensure the safety of pupils when partaking in extra-curricular trips and activities.

3.2. The **headteacher** is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- Appointing an educational visits coordinator (Melanie Atwell, DHT).
- Liaising with the educational visits coordinator and communicating information regarding any planned trips to parents.
- Liaising with the governing board regarding the organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities, including settling any disputes.
- Being part of the approval process for extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring the educational visits coordinator is competent to oversee the coordination of off-site education, and arranging for training to be undertaken as necessary.
- Overseeing the work of the educational visits coordinator, ensuring a whole-school approach is adopted when planning and coordinating extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring there are contingency plans in place in the event of a member of staff being absent on the day of the trip or activity.

3.3. The **educational visits coordinator (Melanie Atwell)** has overall responsibility for:

- Overseeing all issues and controls regarding extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Working with the local outdoor education adviser (Norberto Fusi) to help staff assess and manage risks.
- Ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy.
- Reviewing and approving risk assessments prior to school trips and educational visits to ensure pupil and staff safety. The school uses 'Evolve' to managed documents related to EVs.
- Reviewing itineraries prior to an educational visit or school trip and ensuring that this is distributed to parents and staff to ensure the day is well organised and safe.
- Appointing an appropriate member of staff to be the designated leader of the trip.
- Ensuring that any problems are raised in a meeting with the governing board.

3.4. The **designated leader** in charge of the trip is 'in loco parentis' and has a duty of care to all pupils on the trip. They are also responsible for:

- Checking the schedule is free on the school calendar prior to planning an educational visit.
- Identifying the educational purpose of the extra-curricular trip or activity and presenting its benefits to the headteacher/EVC.
- Liaising between all appropriate parties, including the local outdoor education adviser, during the planning and organising of extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Completing all essential documentation for the trip, including a risk assessment and uploading these to the 'Evolve' system.
- Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity **two weeks** in advance of the trip.
- Distributing permission slips to parents **two weeks** prior to the trip and chasing up any permission slips that have not been returned **one weeks** prior to the trip.
- Understanding and operating safeguarding measures throughout the planning, organisation and delivery of the extra-curricular trip or activity.
- Delegating responsibilities to other staff members on the school trip.
- Ensuring all adults on the trip are aware of their responsibilities and that volunteers are appropriately supervised.

3.5. Staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring the safety of the pupils is maximised throughout any educational visit or activity.
- Liaising with the designated leader to understand personal responsibilities and ensuring the smooth running of the school trip or activity.
- Ensuring that any outdoor space visited, e.g. a park and playing field, is kept clean and free from litter during the trip.

3.6. Pupils are responsible for:

- Following instructions from staff while on school trips.
- Behaving in a manner which matches the ethos of the school, and for following the behaviour rules set out in the school's [Behaviour Policy](#) with regards to this policy.

4. Training of staff

4.1. Staff will receive training on this policy as part of their induction and when necessary.

5. Planning school trips

5.1. Prior to planning a school trip, the following guidance will be read by the organisers:

- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'

5.2. A thorough risk assessment will be conducted by the [designated leader](#) during the planning of the trip, to ensure pupil and staff safety.

5.3. Staff will follow the 'Planning an Education Visit Checklist'.

5.4. The school will do everything in its power to ensure that all pupils are given an opportunity to participate in school trips, for example, organising two trips with a smaller group size or finding a venue which can cater for all pupils.

6. Risk assessment process

6.1. Our risk assessment process is designed to manage risks when planning trips, while ensuring that learning opportunities are experienced to the fullest extent.

- 6.2. The individual carrying out the risk assessment process will have the skills and competence needed for the role, understand the risks involved, and be familiar with the activity.
- 6.3. The process is as follows:
 - Identify the hazards
 - Decide who might be harmed and how
 - Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
 - Record findings and implement them
 - Review assessment and update if necessary
- 6.4. A generalised risk assessment form is available on the staff shared area – it may be appropriate to use a trip specific risk assessment depending on the potential risks of the trip.
- 6.5. All risk assessment should be uploaded onto 'Evolve' for the EVC to review and approve.

7. Vetting providers

- 7.1. When considering external providers for activities, the [educational visits coordinator](#) will check whether they hold the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge' to indicate they meet nationally recognised standards.
- 7.2. If a provider does not hold the badge, the [educational visits coordinator](#) will check the following to ensure they are a suitable organisation to work with:
 - Their insurance arrangements
 - Their adherence to legal requirements
 - Their control measures
 - Their use of vehicles
 - Staff competency levels
 - Safeguarding policies
 - The suitability of their accommodation
 - Any sub-contracting arrangements in place
 - The presence of necessary licences
- 7.3. If it is deemed appropriate to engage with an external provider, a written agreement will be created outlining what each party is responsible for.
- 7.4. If an organisation does not meet the school's standards, they will not be considered.

8. Equal opportunities

- 8.1. The school promotes values of equality and does not discriminate against any individual or group of pupils when organising a trip.
- 8.2. The extra-curricular trips and activities offered to pupils will provide new experiences and develop life skills.
- 8.3. Extra-curricular trips and activities are organised, managed and conducted in accordance with the school's [Equality Information and Objectives](#).
- 8.4. Due to the popularity of some extra-curricular trips and activities, the school offers places on a first come, first served basis.
- 8.5. Any individual, staff or otherwise, shown to be taking preference over one pupil or a group of pupils will be subject to formal disciplinary action.
- 8.6. For school trips that require additional payment, the fee will be reasonable and help will be provided where possible for pupils who cannot afford the initial fee.

9. Parental consent

- 9.1. Parental consent is generally required for off-site activities that take place during school hours.
- 9.2. Parents will be informed of activities by letter and will have the opportunity to withdraw their child from taking part.

10. Staffing ratios

- 10.1. There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Our minimum staff to pupil ratios is 1:6.

11. Insurance and licensing

- 11.1. Insurance will be in place for every trip, to ensure adequate protection and medical cover is in place.
- 11.2. Where a crime is committed against a member of the party, it will be reported to local police as soon as possible.

12. Accidents and incidents

- 12.1. In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip in the UK, the school's accident reporting process will begin, as detailed in the [Health and Safety Policy](#).
- 12.2. The [headteacher](#) will keep records on 'Handsam' of any incidents, accidents and near misses.
- 12.3. Media enquiries will be referred to the [headteacher](#) or, if they are not available, the [deputy headteacher or the clerk to governors](#).

- 12.4. Staff will use guidance as set out in the [Critical Incident Policy](#), in particular the 'after a critical incident' section, to ensure the safety of pupils and staff should anything happen, e.g. a terrorist attack.
- 12.5. Staff will be briefed on how to react and respond should an emergency situation occur, e.g. a terrorist attack.
- 12.6. Relevant risk assessments will be undertaken before the trip, including for points of interests such as museums and hotels.
- 12.7. Pupils and staff are informed of an evacuation plan before entering trip venues; this should include an agreed rendezvous point, to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency.
- 12.8. To ensure pupils are easily identifiable, they must wear [school uniform](#).

13. Missing person procedure

- 13.1. The school places pupil and staff safety as its top priority when participating in school trips.
- 13.2. Before embarking on the trip, extensive risk assessments are undertaken in accordance with [section 6](#) of this policy.
- 13.3. The [designated leader](#) will communicate with the venues of the school trips to ensure the correct group sizes are planned for each setting.
- 13.4. When travelling with a pupil with SEND, the [designated leader](#) will ensure an adult is with them at all times and that the visit is adequately modified to suit the pupil's needs in accordance with [section 14](#) of this policy.
- 13.5. Everyone on the trip will be provided with a contact sheet for all members of staff, in the event they are unable to locate their group.
- 13.6. All staff members will be required to carry mobile phones with them at all times.
- 13.7. Regular head counts of all pupils and staff will take place throughout the day to ensure all persons are present at all times.
- 13.8. In the event someone goes missing whilst on a school trip:
 - The trip leader will ensure the safety of the remaining pupils and staff by taking a register to identify who is missing.
 - The trip leader will immediately identify at least [one](#) adult to start looking for the person and another adult to contact them via phone, these people will look for the person until, where necessary, the police arrive.
 - Where possible, the venue will be notified of the missing person to help ensure the person is found quickly.

- If the person cannot be contacted or located within **10 minutes**, the local police will be contacted.
 - If the police are called, the trip leader will contact the **headteacher**, or other available person, back at the school and inform them of what has happened.
- 13.9. If the police are called to an incident where someone is missing, they will oversee locating the person and will advise on factors including, but not limited to, when to contact next of kin.
- 13.10. If the missing person cannot be found, the group will return to school.
- 13.11. If a member of the party has gone missing and is subsequently found, the trip leader will:
- Review the group sizes and staffing ratios to ensure no one becomes separated from their group.
 - Review whether more registers should be conducted throughout the day.
 - Assess which venues they attend to ensure they are suitable for the group.
 - Make recommendations to the educational visits coordinator to ensure similar incidents can be avoided in the future.

14. Pupils with SEND

- 14.1. Where possible, activities and visits will be adapted to enable pupils with SEND to take part. The SENCO will liaise with pupil's parents, where appropriate, to consider what reasonable adjustments may be necessary.
- 14.2. Pupils with SEND will be accompanied by a responsible adult during the extra-curricular trip or visit.

15. Finance

- 15.1. The financial procedures outlined in the school's **Charging and Remissions Policy** will always be followed when arranging trips.
- 15.2. Money for school trips will always be paid directly to the school. Under no circumstances should school trip money be processed through personal accounts.

16. Monitoring and review

- 16.1. The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the **headteacher**.
- 16.2. The **governing board** will review this policy **September 2024**

