



School Visits Policy

Date Policy was formally adopted	November 2020
Review Date	November 2023
Chair's Name	Steph Green
Chair's Signature	

Core Values

Respect

Enjoyment

Care

Confidence

Challenge



1 Introduction

1.1 The Governing Board has the responsibility of providing guidance for off-site school visits and it is essential that any staff member of Rodings Primary School reads this policy before contemplating or organising any educational trip or visit to be made by children from this school.

- Read *THE OEAP National Guidance – Guidance for the Management of Outdoor learning, Off-site visits and Learning Outside the Classroom. (Essential reading documents specific for your role e.g. Governor / Head / EVC / Visit Leader / etc.)* see website link : www.oeapng.info/
- The remaining parts should be referred to as and when guidance is sought.
- **NB: FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE REGULATIONS MAY LEAD TO CONSEQUENCES FOR INSURANCE COVER AND LEGAL LIABILITY.**

2 Reasons for Visits

2.1 All schools are required to offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

2.2 All activities must have a clearly defined educational purpose and seek to ensure that the National Curriculum is delivered to all children, regardless of social background, race, gender or differences in ability. All are entitled to the development of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. To enrich the curriculum for the children at Rodings Primary School, a range of educational visits and other activities are offered that add to what they learn at school.

3 Visits and curriculum links

3.1 All educational visits and activities support and enrich the work we do in school. There are also a number of people who visit the school to support our work. Some visits relate directly to areas of learning for individual classes, whilst others relate to all children.

3.2 For each subject in the curriculum there is a corresponding programme of activities, which includes visits by specialists. All these activities are in line with guidance published by the LA: e.g.

- English – theatre visits, visits by authors, poets and theatre groups;
- Science – use of the school grounds, visits to local woods and parks;
- Mathematics – use of shape and number trails in the local environment;
- History – castle visits, study of local housing patterns, museums;
- Geography – use of the locality for fieldwork, field work further away
- Art and design – art gallery visits, use of the locality;
- PE – range of sporting fixtures, extra-curricular activities;
- Music – range of specialist music teaching, extra-curricular activities, concerts for parents and children to hear;



- Design and technology – work with local secondary schools;
- Computing – its use in local shops/libraries/secondary schools etc;
- RE – visits to centres of worship, visits by local clergy.

NOTE – when extra-curricular activities take place there should always be an adult, other than the one running the activity on the premises.

4 Gaining approval for a trip

4.1 Governors

As part of their responsibility for the general conduct for the school, the Governing Board has adopted this policy for the effective and safe management of educational visits.

The Governors must approve any visit involving an overnight stay or overseas. The Governors delegate the Headteacher/EVC the responsibility to approve all other visits.

The Governors have adopted a charging and remissions policy.

4.2 The Headteacher or EVC:

4.2.2

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that all school activities are properly planned and appropriately supervised and that this policy is implemented.

4.2.3

The Headteacher should ensure that the aims of the visit are commensurate with the needs of the pupils, including those with special educational needs for whom additional, appropriate arrangements may need to be made. For additional guidance refer to the Equality Act 2010

4.2.4

The Headteacher should ensure the suitability of all staff appointed to the visit.

4.2.5

The Headteacher should ensure that the visit leader fully understands his/her responsibilities.

4.2.6

The Headteacher should implement effective emergency contact arrangements.

4.2.7

The Headteacher should ensure that financial and insurance matters, staff ratios and parental consent are dealt with appropriately.



4.2.8

The headteacher should have a system in place to record, audit and monitor school off-site visits.

An electronic submission process EVOLVE is used to log, audit, approve the following:

Type of Visit	Approved By		
Overseas	EVC	Head	LA
Residential	EVC	Head	LA
Adventurous	EVC	Head	LA
Day Visit	EVC	Head	
Local	EVC	Head	

5 Choosing a provider

After considering the reasons for the visit, the visit leader should check out the provider.

On residential, adventurous or overseas visits, leaders should check to see if the Provider holds the LOtC Quality Badge or has specific National Accreditations (ABTA bonded, AALA licence, Adventuremark, etc.)

6 Parental Consent :

OEAP National Guidance Document

This guidance reflects the DfE guidance with particular note where consent is NOT required:

‘Parental consent on off-site activities. Written consent from parents is not required for pupils to take part in the majority of offsite activities organised by a school (with the exception of nursery age children) as most of these activities take place during school hours and are a normal part of a child’s education at school. However, parents should be told where their child will be at all times and of any extra safety measures required.’

Please note the DfE form for obtaining consent for Adventurous, Residential, Overseas, or visits outside normal school hours:

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/doc/d/dfе%20consent%20form.doc>



7 Visits and staffing

CHECKLIST FOR ALL OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES

Complete Visit leader checklist : www.oeapng.info 3.3e-Visit-Leader-Check-List

The visit leader must recognise that whilst leading the visit, he or she is in effect representing the Headteacher and holds delegated responsibility for Health & Safety and Duty of Care.

It is the responsibility of the Visit Leader to carry out risk assessment / risk management for the visit. For risk assessment guidance see www.oeapng.info 4.3g Risk Management

8 The visit

8.1 On the day

The school office will access Evolve to gain the following information:

- an amended list of children present and going on visit.
- full list of volunteers and staff and groups of children for which they are responsible
- the itinerary for the entire day.
- a copy of the written briefing notes for the volunteers.

The Visit leader will:

- check children to ensure bags, lunchboxes and clipboards are taken
- take First Aid Kit, sick bucket, inhalers and other medication e.g. epipen and mobile phone.
- Copies of Emergency / Critical Incident cards given to all leaders.

8.2 During the visit

Young Children must be kept in escorted groups at all times. With older children close, or even remote supervision, is acceptable with suitable checks and contingencies in place.

There should be a system in place to safeguard young people at all times. (e.g. If toileting issues arise, an approach could be to send young children into the toilets on their own but in small groups.

Courtesy to the public must be shown at all times, care taken not to block pathways, etc.

Staff and supporting volunteers should ensure the safety and well-being of the pupils in their care and inform the visit leader or another member of staff of any relevant incident involving pupils in their care as soon as possible.

Every adult must be given an emergency procedures card. This will have the school's contact and action plan in case of an emergency.



8.3 On return

8.3.1 Check all children off the coach and a member of staff must lead the class either into school or to an area of the school grounds where children can be collected by parents and teachers can check them off, thus ensuring that each child departs with a known parent or appropriate adult.

8.3.2 A teacher must remain with uncollected children until all parents have arrived and all children have departed.

9 Financing the visit

When stating the cost for each individual:

- explain where this cost has come from and that the school would like a voluntary donation from parents to fund the visit. Stipulate the County/School's policy concerning parents who are unable to offer a voluntary contribution – which is that, no child will miss a trip if parents do not make a voluntary contribution. Stress, however, that if sufficient financial support is not forthcoming that the visit may have to be cancelled. State when and how you would like to receive payment. Cheques may be made payable to Rodings Primary School [unless otherwise specified].

Some visits may incur vast amounts of money (example ski trip for 80 students £90,000)

A formal approval from the SLT / School Business Manager must be sought before deposits paid.

10 Insurance

Introduction

Insurance is an area where misconceptions abound. It is too important to be left to chance and those involved with schools [teachers, pupils and parents] need to be sure of the nature and level of cover which is provided, both according to statutory requirements and that which may be additionally obtained on a voluntary basis through premium payments.

The following advice will help clarify some of the many queries which are raised, though it does not replace the need for individuals to seek information on insurance from their LA, school or professional association which is pertinent to their own circumstances.

Personal

The teacher, in common with all other employed persons, is covered against industrial injuries by the weekly contribution which must be paid during employment. In addition, all employed persons have a possible claim against their employer if they sustain any bodily injury by accident arising out of, or in the course of, their employment. Such claims can only be substantiated where injury can be proved to be through negligence of the employer or another employee [Employers Liability].



In respect of pupils, schools have a legal duty to take care of the well being and safety of young people. Where there is a breach of this responsibility a claim for compensation may be brought.

There is no requirement for schools to make provision for loss through personal injury as the result of an accident where no blame may be attached. Personal accident insurance cover for pupils is a matter for the parents to arrange.

Indemnity

Please see reference to parental Consent : -
OEAP National Guidance Document

www.oeapng.info 4.3d-Parental-Consent

DfE Document : See EVOLVE – Resources – DfE Tab H&S Advice from DfE 2014

Insurance Provision

Teachers should be aware of the school provision for insurance.

11 Transport

See guidance from OEAP NG -

www.oeapng.info.pdf

4.5a-Transport-A-general-considerations

4.5c-Transport-in-private-cars

12 Emergency / Critical Incident Procedures

See OEAP National Guidance document :

<http://oeapng.info> 1a-Critical-Incident-Management-Employer

- All leaders must carry the school's 'Critical Incident form' (z Cards)– With Emergency Telephone contacts and action plan should an incident happen.
- On return, the visit leader must comply with the school's normal accident reporting procedures.

13 Monitoring and Evaluation

After any visit, it is good practice to ensure a system of feedback, review and rigorous evaluation. In the case of overseas visits, there is a particularly strong case for ensuring this takes place and includes the consultation of the young people concerned, the parents, the leaders and partner organisations.

Such a process will help in the celebration of success as well as feeding into the general planning and risk management for future visits. Any significant issues should be shared with the EVC, the Head/Manager and the employer's advisory team.



Appendix 1 - Extended Learning Locality

Forest School, Leaden Roding Village Hall, Leaden Roding Church

Rodings use this extended area on a regular basis for a variety of learning activities, and approved staff are allowed to operate in this area without completing the EVOLVE visit approval process, provided they follow the below operating procedure. Forest School risk assessments are carried out before each visit to consider weather conditions and environmental disturbance such as fallen trees since the last visit.

Operating Procedure for Extended Learning Locality

The following are potentially significant issues/hazards within our extended locality:

- Road traffic.
- Other people / members of the public / animals.
- Losing a pupil.
- Uneven surfaces and slips, trips, and falls.
- Weather conditions.
- Activity specific issues when doing environmental fieldwork (nettles, brambles, rubbish, etc).
- Fallen trees and branches

These are managed by a combination of the following:

- The Head, Deputy or EVC must give verbal approval before a group leaves.
- Only staff judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved. A current list of approved staff is maintained by the EVC and office.
- The concept and Operating Procedure of the 'Extended learning locality' is explained to all new parents when their child joins the school.
- There will normally be a minimum of two adults. Staff are familiar with the area, including any 'no go areas', and have practiced appropriate management techniques.
- Pupils have been trained and have practiced standard techniques for road crossings in a group. *For primary schools this is easy to do with some simple road markings in the playground – with a little practice this can become drilled and slick, as everyone knows what is going to happen.*
- Where appropriate, pupils are fully briefed on what to do if they become separated from the group. *This needs a decision and will depend on the area you are in – return to school, wait where they are, go to x and ask for help, etc).*
- All remotely supervised work in the extended learning locality is done in 'buddy' pairs as a minimum.
- Pupils' clothing and footwear is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school.
- Staff are aware of any relevant pupil medical information and ensure that any required medication is available.
- Staff will deposit in the office a list of all pupils and staff, a proposed route, and an estimated time of return. *Consider adopting (or adapting) the 'Signing-out sheet' below and in EVOLVE Resources / ECC tab.*
- A mobile is taken with each group and the office has a note of the number.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (eg gloves, goggles)



Signing-out sheet for ad-hoc activities in the school locality, where the school policy addresses the generic risk management issues.

Leave this completed form in the office or other agreed place when you go out.

Date	
Visit Leader	
Accompanying Staff	
Volunteers	
Group/Class/Form	
Activity	
Destination/Venue details	
First Aid kit / Emergency Card taken?	
Time out	
Time back	
Contact number	
Any other relevant details/issues (eg pupil medical/behavioural needs)	



Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Term/Abbreviation	Meaning
AALA	The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority
ABTA	The Travel Association and formerly known as the Association of British Travel Agents
DfE	Department of Education
ECC	Essex County Council
EVC	Educational Visits Coordinator
LA	Local Authority
LOtQ	Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Mark
OEAP	Outdoor Education Advisors Panel
SLT	Senior Leadership Team

