

Moss Hall Junior School



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Educational Visits Policy

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Statement of intent

Moss Hall Junior School 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 OEAP (Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel) guidance and details our responsibilities for pupils and staff members while out on educational visits and school trips.

Legal framework

This policy has been created with regard to relevant legislation including, but not limited to:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

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'

This policy should be used in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Equalities Policy
- DBS Policy

Definitions

'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.

'Residential' means any school trip which includes an overnight stay.

Activities of an 'adventurous nature' include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Trekking
- Caving
- Skiing
- Water sports
- Climbing

Key roles and responsibilities

The governing body 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.

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- Appointing an educational visits coordinator
- Liaising with the educational visits coordinator and communicating information regarding any planned trips to parents.
- Liaising with the governing body regarding the organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities, including settling any disputes.
- Being part of the approval process on 'Evolve' for 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.
- Ensuring suitable safety measures are in place prior to each trip or activity.
- 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.

The educational visits coordinator has overall responsibility for:

- Overseeing all issues and controls regarding extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Liaising between all appropriate parties, including the local outdoor education adviser, during the planning and organising of extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Working with the local outdoor education adviser to help staff assess and manage risks.
- Ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy.
- Conducting risk assessments prior to school trips and educational visits to ensure pupil and staff safety. Making sure the leader of the trip is competent to lead the visit.
- Appointing an appropriate member of staff to be the designated leader of the trip.

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.
- Completing all essential documentation including 'Evolve' for the trip, including a risk assessment.
- Creating an itinerary prior to an educational visit or school trip and distributing it to parents and staff to ensure the day is well organised and safe.
- Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity **six weeks** in advance of the trip.
- Distributing permission slips to parents **six weeks** prior to the trip and chasing up any permission slips that have not been returned **two 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 the necessary checks have been carried out on volunteers in line with the DBS Policy.

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.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Following instructions from staff while on school trips.
- Keeping pride in their presentation, understanding that they are representing the school whilst on an education trip.
- Ensuring that, during visits to outdoor spaces, they keep the area tidy and free from litter.
- 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.

Training of staff

Staff will receive training on this policy as part of their induction.

Staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their CPD.

Planning school trips

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

- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- OEAP National Guidance <https://oeapng.info/about-ng/>
- A thorough risk assessment will be conducted by the lead teacher during the planning of the trip, to ensure pupil and staff safety.
- Adventure activities will always be identified at the planning stage and never added during the trip.
- When planning water sport activities, the need for instructors and lifeguards will be taken into account, particularly when using facilities which may not have a trained lifeguard present.
- 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.

Risk assessment process

Our risk assessment process is designed to manage risks when planning trips, while ensuring that learning opportunities are experienced to the fullest extent. The individual carrying out the risk assessment process will have the skills, status and competence needed for the role, understand the risks involved, and be familiar with the activity. This then has to be submitted on the LA Borough system called 'Evolve'.

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

Vetting providers

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.

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

If it is deemed appropriate to engage with an external provider, a written agreement will be created outlining what each party is responsible for.

If an organisation does not meet the school's standards, they will not be considered.

Equal opportunities

The school promotes values of equality and does not discriminate against any individual or group of pupils when organising a trip. These points must be taken into consideration:

- The extra-curricular trips and activities offered to pupils will provide new experiences and develop life skills.
- Extra-curricular trips and activities are organised, managed and conducted in accordance with the school's Equalities Policy.
- Due to the popularity of some extra-curricular trips and activities, the school offers places on a first come, first served basis.
- 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.
- Where possible, pupils will be given the opportunity to contribute to the planning and organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities.
- 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.
- School trips will be a reasonable cost and will not exceed the budget allocated to each school within the federation.

Safe use of minibuses and seatbelts

The School will use a Minibus for travelling to and from an event if necessary. The school currently borrows a Minibus from a cluster of local schools.

- The driver will have a current driving licence, be aged 25 years or over and hold a full licence in at least a category D PCV in order to drive on a domestic school trip.
- Before driving abroad, the educational visits coordinator will contact the LA for guidance on which licence is required.
- Drivers will complete the relevant form from the providers school office and supply a photocopy of their driving licence.
- Internal damage to the minibus is the responsibility of the individual or organisation using the minibus. The providers school will decide who is responsible for covering the cost of any repairs.

- The minibus will carry strictly one person per seat and seatbelts must be worn at all times.
- Fines incurred will be paid by whoever was driving the minibus at the time the offence was committed.
- Start and finish mileage, along with any potential risks, defects or damage identified, will be reported to the provider upon return to the school.

Parental consent

Parental consent is not generally required for off-site activities that take place during school hours.

Written consent is required for:

- Activities of an adventurous nature.
- Residential trips.
- Foreign trips.
- Trips outside of school hours.

If preferable and appropriate, parents may complete an annual consent form at the start of any academic year which gives consent for their child to be involved in any and all activities, both on and off-site, that take place at any time, including the school holidays.

Separate consent will be sought for trips which require payment.

Staffing ratios

There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Staffing ratios depend on the activity the pupils are attending and the make-up of the class cohort, taking into consideration any SEND or behaviour concerns. Our minimum staff to pupil ratios are as follows:

- Abroad: Ratio
- Other residential: Ratio
- High risk: Ratio
- Day trip visits: Ratio

Insurance and licensing

When planning activities of an adventurous nature in the UK, the educational visits coordinator will check that the provider of the activity holds a current licence.

Where a crime is committed against a member of the party, it will be reported to local police as soon as possible.

Medical expenses will be recorded and stored in SBM's office.

Accidents and incidents

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.

In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip abroad:

- Organisers will cooperate fully with local emergency services and understand that any injury or death of a member of staff or pupil outside of Great Britain may be subject to the law of the land where the accident occurred.
- The first point of contact within the UK will be the Headteacher who will contact the family of the injured person.
- Pupils will be asked not to contact friends or parents in the UK until the family of the injured person can be contacted.
- The British Embassy/Consulate will be informed.
- The insurer will be notified.

The Executive Headteacher will keep written records of any incidents, accidents and near misses.

Media enquiries will be referred to the Executive Headteacher or, if they are not available, the Head of School.

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.

Staff will be briefed on how to react and respond should an emergency situation occur, e.g. a terrorist attack.

Relevant risk assessments will be undertaken before the trip, including for points of interests such as museums and hotels.

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.

To ensure pupils are easily identifiable, they must wear high vis jackets. Failing this, pupils will be given a badge with the school logo on, which must be worn at all times.

Missing person procedure

The school places pupil and staff safety as its top priority when participating in school trips, either domestically or abroad.

- Before embarking on the trip, extensive risk assessments are undertaken. The educational visits coordinator will communicate with the venues of the school trips to ensure the correct group sizes are planned for each setting.
- When travelling with a pupil with SEND, the educational visits coordinator will ensure an adult is with them at all times and that the visit is adequately modified to suit the pupil's needs.
- 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.
- All staff members will be required to carry mobile phones with them at all times.
- Upon arriving at every venue, the trip leader will identify a rendezvous point where pupils and adults should go if they become separated from the rest of the group.
- Pupils and staff will wear school branded clothing or high vis jackets, in order to make them easily identifiable.
- Regular head counts of all pupils and staff will take place throughout the day to ensure all persons are present at all times.

In the event someone goes missing whilst on a school trip domestically or abroad:

- 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 or relevant authorities, e.g. the British Embassy, will be contacted.
- If the police are called, the trip leader will contact the **Executive Headteacher and/or The Head of School**, or other available person, back at the school and inform them of what has happened.
- If the police, or another authority, is 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.
- If the missing person cannot be found, the group will return to school. If this is not possible, e.g. when a trip is taking place abroad, the educational visits coordinator will make arrangements to ensure the group's safety, e.g. by changing venues or cancelling visits.

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.

Pupils with SEND

Where possible, activities and visits will be adapted to enable pupils with SEND to take part. Where this is not possible, an alternative activity of equal educational value will be arranged for all pupils. Pupils with SEND will be accompanied by a responsible adult during the extra-curricular trip or visit.

Finance

The financial procedures outlined in the school's Charging and Remissions Policy will always be followed when arranging trips.

The school will act in accordance with the DfE's guidance document 'Charging for school activities' (2018) and, therefore, will only charge for trips which are classed as an 'optional extra'. This is education provided outside of school time which is not:

- Part of the national curriculum.
- Part of a syllabus for an examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
- Part of religious education.

Money for school trips will always be paid directly to the school. Under no circumstances should school trip money be processed through personal accounts.

All letters to parents regarding school trips will include a clause explaining what will happen in the event that the trip is cancelled or a pupil cancels their place on the trip.

In the event that the trip is cancelled due to unforeseeable circumstances, it is at the Executive Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Executive

Headteacher will consult the governing board on the matter, taking into account the cost to the school, including alternative provision costs.

In the event that a pupil cancels their place on a trip, it is at the Executive Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Executive Headteacher will consult the governing board on the matter, taking into account the pupil's reasons for cancelling their place, whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip, and whether the space on the trip can be offered to someone else.

Where a pupil has previously cancelled a space on a school trip and received a full refund, the school has the right to refuse to allow the pupil to attend future trips and visits.

The school will take a common-sense approach to refunds and cancellations, ensuring that all pupils are treated equally.

Any charge made in respect of pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the trip divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Once trip arrangements are booked and confirmed, if contributions to a trip exceed the total cost of the trip, a refund will be given where the excess is greater than £1 per pupil.

Any excess of expenditure will be subsidised by the school fund.

Foreign trips

When planning school trips abroad, the school will consider the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's guidance 'Safer adventure travel and volunteering overseas' (2015) and, where an activity poses significant risks, the school will also consult the British Standard for adventurous activities outside the UK. The EVC must take into account:

- Validity of passports and visa requirements will be dealt with within three months of the initial notification of the trip, to avoid problems when the trip is due to take place.
- Staff and pupils will be taught about the culture and values of the country they are visiting, to ensure they understand and respect the values of the citizens.
- Before the trip, staff are trained in spotting suspicious behaviour and remaining vigilant whilst abroad.
- Before the trip, pupils will be taught how to remain vigilant in the country they are visiting, particularly about advances from strangers.
- Registers will be taken at the start and end of each day, as well as before, during, and after events, and at regular intervals whilst on days out to ensure the whereabouts of pupils are known at all times.
- Staff will check the town/city's local news at the start of each day of the trip, to ensure their planned activities are safe to go ahead.
- A minimum of **two** members of staff attending the trip will have at least an intermediate understanding of the destination country's language.
- At the start of the trip, all pupils and staff are provided with an emergency contact sheet, this includes the trip leader's mobile phone number, as well as emergency numbers and phrases for the country they are visiting.
- When using external providers abroad, the school will check whether the provider holds an equivalent of the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge'. If no such equivalent can be ascertained, the school will make checks in the same manner prior to agreeing to use the provider.

Evaluating trips and visits

Following an educational trip/visit, the educational visit coordinator will expect any staff members present on the trip to assess the success of the trip in respect of both educational value and safeguarding effectiveness.

Based on this assessment, recommendations will be made to improve future trips and visits.

Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the Executive Headteacher in conjunction with the Educational Visits Co-ordinator.