



# Educational Visits Policy

Signed:  
Position:  
Date:

## Current Covid-19 guidance

ALL VISITS, MUST have a written COVID-19 risk assessment. This should include the following:

- Regularly washing/sanitising hands including when going outside, before and after touching shared objects such as activity equipment, before eating, after using the toilet, when getting on or off transport, when returning inside;
- Avoiding touching objects shared by the public – for example, a member of staff could hold a gate open to avoid everyone touching it;
- Avoiding activities which involve touching each other (e.g. holding hands);
- Sanitising equipment before it is used.
  - Consideration of the activity – if there is a risk of injury this should be avoided so as to reduce the need for first aid, close contact with participants, or visits to hospital
  - How pupils are grouped together on transport, where possible this should reflect the bubbles that are adopted within school
  - Additional cleaning of vehicles – if this is your own vehicle you will be responsible. If hiring a vehicle this needs to be checked with the company you are hiring from
  - Organised queuing and boarding of transport

## **1.0 Preface**

At Lodge Primary School, we believe that activities that are outside the normal curriculum are an important additional experience for young people. They enhance the young person's development in terms of learning new skills, broadening their horizons and encountering new personal, social and educational experiences. However, for such activities to be successful they require proficient preparation and management. The more complex the activity the more potential there is for mishap. The aim of this document is to provide guidance to ensure that all such activities are carried out safely.

**Lodge Primary School has adopted the official Sandwell policy for off site and out of hours activities.**

## **1.1 Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff with the appropriate guidelines that they require for planning off site and out of hours activities so they meet the requirements of the local authority and the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel.

## **1.2 Legal requirements**

All legal requirements are set out in the adopted Sandwell Policy. Employees of the local authority and school have a duty of care to the children (this will be overseen by the teacher). At all times a teacher has a duty of care for young people under his/her supervision.

The law expects "effective supervision" for off site and out of hours activities so therefore it is the schools' responsibility to ensure the correct level of supervision is provided. The nature and location of the activity, the competence and experience of staff, together with the age and ability of the young person, determine the degree of supervision required.

The adopted Sandwell policy states:

- 1 adult for every 6 children in school years 1 to 3.
- 1 adult for every 10/15 children in school years 4 to 6.
- Under 5s reception/nursery 1 adult for every 4 children.
- Where there is a mixed gender group every effort should be made to ensure male and female staff attend.
- In the instance that a child is in need then 1:1 provision must be available.

It is important to remember that these ratios are a minimum requirement. Some activities, for example adventurous activities, will require a higher ratio.

## **1.3 Responsibilities**

The following section identifies the functions, roles and responsibilities that key people hold.

Local Authority:

- Ensuring that EVCs, visit leaders and other establishment staff involved in educational/off site visits are assessed as competent in their specific tasks.
- Monitoring the work of EVCs in schools/establishments to help identify training needs and appropriate levels of delegation.

Governors:

- Ensure that the headteacher and the EVC are supported in matters relating to educational/off site visits and that they have the appropriate time and expertise to fulfill their responsibilities.
- Ensure that the headteacher and the EVC have taken all reasonable and practicable measures to include participants with special educational needs or medical needs on a visit.
- It is strongly recommended that Governors should be made aware of all visits and planned by the school. An appropriately experienced Governor should be involved in scrutinising applications for approval of the following types of visit:
  1. Where a trip or activity involves any component of adventurous activity
  2. Where a trip involves an overnight stay
  3. Where a trip is taking place wholly or partly overseas.

#### Headteacher:

- Ensure teachers/leaders are made aware of and understand LA guidance on emergency planning and procedures. Training and briefing sessions must be provided for school staff.
- Ensure that the EVC briefs the leader and supervisors have ready access to them during the visit.

#### Educational Visits Coordinator:

- Assess the competence of leaders and other adults proposed for a visit and change accordingly if required.
- Organise the training of leaders and other adults going on a visit. This will commonly involve training such as first aid, hazard awareness etc.
- EVC's must revalidate their qualification every 3 years

#### Visit Leader:

- Undertake and complete the planning and preparation of the visit including the briefing of group members and parents.
- Ensure the ratio of supervisors to participants is appropriate for the needs of the group.
- It is recommended that visit leaders re validate training every 3 years

### **1.4 Staff conduct**

While on an educational visit/off site activity staff will remain professional and act as role models at all times. While on residential visits it is the staff's responsibility to ensure an adequate number of adults are on duty at all

times. This includes ensuring that the appropriate ratios are met and staffs do not leave the site if these are not met.

Staff who are supervising children on a trip will also need to dress appropriately for the task and activities in hand. If the children are asked to be in school uniform then staff should dress as they would for a usual school day.

## **2.0 Submitting an application**

An Evolve application for an off site visit must be put in at least 1 week prior to the departure date. If it is an out of hours, adventurous activity or residential trip then an application must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the departure date. This is because the LA requires 6 weeks to approve the application. (Sandwell approved residential trips don't need to be sent to the LA)

LA approval is also needed where a trip or activity involves any component of adventurous activity (but not when the adventurous activity is taking place at Malthouse Activity Centre and being run by their staff).

The following order will be followed when submitting an application:

- Visit leader to submit the application.
- EVC will assess and approve/decline the visit.
- Headteacher approval.
- Governor approval.

### **1. One Off Consent**

The Department for Education (DfE) has prepared a One-Off Consent Form to be signed by the parent(s) (or those with parental responsibility) on enrolment of their child in a school. A Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council version of this form is available in the resources section of EVOLVE. In its current format, this consent form need only be sent out once in the lifetime of a child in school: however, if you wish to add further questions to this form, then it should be sent out at least annually. Additional information collected might be medical information for young people or contact details for parents.

For Nursery and Early Years children, consent should be sought for each visit. You may use a tear-off slip at the bottom of a letter for this as long as a One-Off Consent form is also held, and the activity does not fall into one of the higher risk categories of overseas, residential or adventurous.

## 2. Specific Consent

A blank Specific Consent Form is available in the resources section of EVOLVE. Specific consent **MUST** be sought for visits where there is an element of any of the following:

- Adventurous activities
- An overnight stay
- Travel abroad

Head Teachers/Managers or Visit/Activity Leaders should consider also seeking specific consent for:

- Trips taking place outside of the LA where the school is located (for most schools this will be Sandwell MBC) or more than 3 miles from the school.
- Swimming in public pools inside of SMBC or neighbouring authorities. Neighbouring authorities must share a border with Sandwell eg Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Walsall.

Schools must either use an activity provider that holds the Learning Outside of the Classroom (LoTC) Quality Badge or send a Provider Questionnaire to the activity provider clarifying their responsibilities, insurance etc. Provider Questionnaires only need to be completed when first using the establishment, although schools should check on a regular basis that provider information remains up to date. A blank Provider Questionnaire is available in the resources section of EVOLVE in the Other Useful Information tab.

### 2.1 Approval Procedures

All off site activities and on site out of hours activities (e.g. breakfast club, football club etc.) should take place with the knowledge and approval of the headteacher and EVC. An Evolve application should be completed for each activity. If it is a repeating activity it will need to be completed on a termly basis. After school clubs do not need a risk assessment. All external providers for after school clubs will be provided with appropriate school policies and will be expected to adhere to the Lodge Primary ethos.

- A written risk assessment is needed for all trips in light of Covid regulations
- All staff need to have completed a visit leader course before being able to lead a trip.

## **2.2 Risk assessment responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the visit leader to carry out the risk assessment. The EVC will support and assist where necessary.

When using an external provider the school will not request a risk assessment when the external provider is leading the activity, but they will request to have in writing that the provider has an up to date risk assessment. The school will put their own risk assessment into place.

## **3.0 Staff checklist**

The following outlines what the visit leader is responsible for and what should happen before, during and after a visit.

Before the visit	<b>When</b>
Identify the need for a trip and the possible outcomes.	When the need arises.
Discuss the trip with NS to discuss viability of the trip and its purpose	Once the need has been identified (at least 2 months before departure. Longer if it is a residential.)
Discuss with EVC necessary pupil: staff ratio. Through discussion with the EVC appoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A group leader</li> <li>- A deputy group leader</li> <li>- A first aider (with overall first aid responsibility)</li> </ul> Other staff and volunteers to be involved in the trip.	Within a week of the initial discussion with the EVC.
Discuss transport requirements with office staff and request provisional costing.	Within a week of the initial discussion with the EVC.
Discuss requirements with venue and request provisional costing.	Within a week of the initial discussion with the EVC.
Discuss all aspects of the trip with the head teacher including the purpose, the outcomes, the destination, projected costs and the necessary staff ratios.	7 weeks before the departure date.
Confirm bookings for transport and venue. Ensure confirmation of all bookings is received in writing including the number of seats on the coach.	6 weeks before the departure date.
Undertake and complete the planning and preparation of the visit. Confirm plans with the EVC.	Once the trip has been confirmed.
Send out parental confirmation and medical letters.	As soon as the trip has been confirmed.
Complete the necessary forms on Evolve and undertake and complete a comprehensive risk assessment if required. (If not a RM checklist) Where necessary, the RA should be based on a pre visit. The RA should be completed by more than one person. Attach all documents to Evolve.	2 weeks before departure date. (Earlier if possible.)
Share all plans with the headteacher.	Once trip is approved by the EVC.
Provide kitchen staff with provisional details of the trip.	Following return of permission letters.
Re-confirm bookings with transport and venue.	1 week before departure.
Allocate groups of children to staff.	1 week before departure.
Brief all staff involved ensuring they are clear about their responsibilities.	1 week before departure.
Ensure pupils are aware of their responsibilities and information they need to know (e.g. money, clothing etc.)	At least one day before departure.
Ensure all paperwork is ready (Visit summary sheet, RA, Emergency contact, original consent forms (a copy left at school), staff medical forms, staff contact numbers).	At least one day before departure.

<b>During the visit</b>
Oversee the loading of the coach on the day, including lunches for children.
Ensure children are appropriately seated.
Complete a double head count before departure.
Meet the appropriate person at the venue and organise children.
Confirm lunch arrangements on arrival.
Ensure groups are in the appropriate place at the appropriate time.
Ensure double head counts occur throughout the day.
Ensure children are back on the coach ready for the departure time.
Contact the headteacher/EVC to notify when the coach departs. Discuss arrival time.
If the coach will be arriving late notify the school again.
Supervise the children disembarking the coach. Ensure all valuables are collected.
Ensure all children are collected.
Ensure any incidents are reported to the headteacher/EVC and correct paperwork completed.
<b>After the visit</b>
Liaise with First Aid leader to ensure stock is replenished and put away.
Complete evaluation forms on Evolve.
Feedback to EVC/headteacher/children and parents (where necessary) on any successes/problems.
If appropriate write as a class, or individually, a letter of gratitude to the venue/coach company.

#### **4.0 Monitoring**

Monitoring of educational visits will take place on a regular basis. This is so that the headteacher is confident in knowing that pupils are safe at all times and that proposed outcomes are met. Monitoring will be the responsibility of the headteacher and the EVC.

The following areas will be monitored:

- The planning and approval process.
- Evaluations of visits.
- Observation of visit leaders in action (field monitoring)
- Accidents/incidents

#### **5.0 Record Keeping**

*Where there have been no incidents or near misses ...*

One-Off Consent Forms - school should keep all forms until new ones have replaced them, and then destroy the old forms. Retain forms for a minimum of 12 months after a child has left the school.

Specific Consent Forms - school should keep all forms for a minimum of 12 months after the date of the visit.

If there is an incident/near miss on a trip it needs to be kept until the whole

cohort reaches 25 years old. However, as Lodge has adopted the Sandwell policy and therefore Evolve all records will be stored electronically. The only hard copy that needs to be kept is one sample consent form. Risk assessments for trips that occur on a regular/yearly basis can be used again, however they will need to be updated and amended accordingly and annually.

## **6.0 Mandatory forms**

When carrying out a educational visit/activity it is the responsibility of the visit leader to complete the following forms:

### Off site activities

- Emergency Consent form
- Parental consent form

### On site out of hours activities

- Emergency contact form
- Parental consent form

### Off site residential/dangerous/ overseas activities

- Emergency contact form
- Parental consent form
- Risk assessment

All of the above forms are available on Evolve under the pink resources tab.

Review: 1.12.21

Next review: Autumn term 2022 (due to Covid pandemic)