



St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled) Primary School

Learning Outside the Classroom (off site-visits)

Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

These often the most memorable learning experiences, help us to make sense of the world around us by making links between feelings and learning. They allow us to transfer learning experienced outside the classroom and visa versa.

Learning outside the classroom is about raising achievement through an organised, powerful approach to learning in which direct experience is of prime importance. This is not only about what we learn but importantly how and when we learn.

The school has formally adopted, through its Interim Executive Board, the Kent Regulations and Guidance for the Safe Practice of Offsite Visits/Educational Visits. Further school procedures have been agreed with the Interim Executive Board to ensure that this policy is adhered to. This policy is available on the school website: www.st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk

Kent Regulations and Guidance for the Safe Practice of Offsite Visits/Educational Visits are available to view at -

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/curriculum_and_pupil_learning/educational_offsite_visits/outdoor_education_unit.aspx

Aims and purposes of Educational Visits

The school has a strong commitment to the added value of learning outside the classroom, some of which takes place beyond the statutory school day and beyond the school premises.

Each year the school will arrange a number of educational visits and activities that take place off the school site and/or out of school hours, which support the aims of the school.

The range of opportunities and activities are outlined in the school prospectus along with the criteria by which pupils are able to access them and the methods by which parents will be notified and asked for their consent.

The Interim Executive Board has given its approval to the following types of activities being arranged in support of the educational aims of the school:

- Out of hours clubs (music, drama, art, science, sport, homework, etc)
- School teams
- Regular nearby visits (libraries, shops, parks and places of worship)
- Day visits for particular year groups
- Residential visits
- Overseas visits
- Adventurous activities, which might be classed as higher risk
- Swimming Lessons as part of PE Curriculum

These activities may be made available by open access to class or year group or by invitation.

Approval Procedure and Consent

The Headteacher is the nominated Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC) and is supported by the Educational Visit Advisor (EVA). The Interim Executive Board has delegated the consideration and approval of educational visits and other offsite activities to the Headteacher and as signatory, as necessary, on behalf of the Interim Executive Board. This policy will be reviewed in two years.



Before a visit is advertised to parents the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) must approve the initial plan.

Visits that include adventurous activities and/ or a residential element will require approval by the Local Authority via the on-line Visit Notification and Approval system. 'e-Go' Usernames and Passwords will be managed by the Headteacher.

Day visits that do not include adventurous activities but involve groups travelling outside the County of Kent will be registered (Notification) on the above system (e-Go)

Where external contractors are involved in organising all or part of the visit the contract will be made with the school on behalf of the pupils.

For local visits, parents are required to sign one form which covers the lifetime of their child's education in the school. Parents will be given the timetable for the activities that pupils are involved in and will be informed by letter or phone call if an activity has to be cancelled.

For any visit lasting a day or more, parents will be asked to sign a letter, which consents to their son/daughter taking part. This will include a separate medical consent form. The school has a standard model letter, which should be used for this purpose.

For out of hours clubs and school teams, parents will be asked to sign a general letter of consent for participation in these activities when their son/daughter are involved.

All payments for visits will be made through the school's accounts.

The school has a separate policy for 'Charging and Remissions' which applies to all educational visits.

Staffing

The school recognises the key role of accompanying staff in ensuring the highest standards of learning, challenge and safety on a school visit.

Teachers and other staff are encouraged and supported to develop their abilities in organising and managing pupils' learning in a variety of environments. The selection of staff for educational visits will be a key priority in the initial approval of any proposed visit.

The staff: pupil ratios will not exceed those as recommended by the Local Authority. On residential visits the gender of the staff responsible for supervision and pastoral care will reflect the gender of the pupils.

The school does not support additional people accompanying educational visits who are not pupils at the school or part of the agreed staff complement. This may include family members accompanying visits if the Governing Body is not satisfied that there is an educational benefit for the pupils.

The appointed Visit Leader will be fully supported in the tasks required to arrange the visit. This will include, as necessary, making time or finances available to conduct an exploratory visit, undertaking risk assessments, briefing teachers and other staff, accessing training courses, reviewing and evaluating the visit or identifying time when the leader and EVC might work in partnership.

Use of volunteers

In accordance with safeguarding statutory guidance “Under no circumstances should a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity’.

DfE April 2014: Keeping Children Safe in Education: Page 25 Pt: 75,

The school will ensure that a DBS check is undertaken for any volunteer attending a residential visit or who may be required to undertake any level of personal care eg: taking children to the toilet during a visit.

Any other volunteer adults, including parents, assisting with educational activities and visits may not require a DBS if the volunteer is not engaging in a regulated activity. This means in practice that volunteer adults cannot take sole charge of a group of children and therefore, any such volunteers must be paired with a member of staff.

The Expectations of Pupils and Parents

The school has a clear code of conduct for school visits based on the school’s ‘Behaviour Policy’. This code of conduct will be part of the conditions of booking by the parents, and will include guidance in relation to the potential of withdrawal of a pupil prior to and during the visit if such conduct would have led to a fixed term exclusion from school. The school should state the implication for parents e.g. associated costs that will be met by parents, collection of child, as part of the agreement signed from parents.

Emergency Procedures

The school will appoint a member of the SLT as the emergency school contact for each visit. All major incidents should immediately be related to this person, especially those involving injury or that might attract media attention.

The Visit Leader will leave full details of all pupils and accompanying adults on the visit with the emergency school contact, including the home contact details of parents/guardians and next-of-kin, as appropriate.

The Visit Leader will take with them a copy of the schools (linked to KCC) Major Incident Procedures, along with the contact details of the appointed emergency school contacts.

All incidents and accidents occurring on a visit will be reported back through the school systems. The Outdoor Education Unit should also be advised of any serious incidents or accidents.

The school will have emergency funding available to support the Visit Leader in any emergency that occurs in the UK or abroad.

Evaluation

All visits will be evaluated by the Visit Leader with the EVA. A short evaluation report will be made available for the SLT.

The EVC will ensure that any risk assessments for the visits or activities are evaluated and/or modified as a result of findings or feedback from the visit.

The EVA is responsible for presenting a financial account for the visit which will be audited as part of the school’s procedures.