
POLICY ON:	Educational Visits
Member of Staff Responsible for the Policy:	Headteacher
Date on which this Policy was last reviewed:	March 2023
Date on which this Policy is next be reviewed:	March 2026
Dissemination of the Policy:	SLT; All SLs; First Aid Staff; Pastoral team; Union Representatives; school website

Huntington School

Policy for Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities

Introduction

This policy sets out the establishment procedures within which all employees must operate. Further details can be gained by referring to the Employer Policy as detailed in Section 2.

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.

Learning beyond the classroom is the use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning. It is about getting children and young people out and about, providing them with challenging, exciting and different experiences to help them learn.

It 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 where we learn. It is not an end in itself but rather a vehicle to develop the capacity to learn. Good quality learning beyond the classroom adds much value to classroom learning.

1. Scope and responsibilities

This policy applies to all educational visits, outdoor learning and adventurous activities carried out with young people. It does not apply to work-experience placements, work related learning or alternative provision.

The Headteacher retains the role of the Educational Visits Co-ordinator. They will have the training and experience to enable them to competently discharge their responsibilities as listed in The Employer Policy.

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator is: Julie Kettlewell

2. Establishment policy and procedures

The Huntington School Policy for Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities (June 2018)

is the employer's policy. Specific local procedures will be in line with but not duplicate this policy.

Where there is conflict with non-statutory guidance or advice from other sources the employer policy will take precedence with clarification sought from the Headteacher, and if required from North Yorkshire Educational Visits Advisory Service.

Consent

Routine acknowledgement: whilst it is not a legal requirement to gain parental consent for curriculum activities, written acknowledgement will be gained on enrolment for routine local visits and activities which are a part of our normal educational provision during the school day and information regarding the nature of the types of visit will be included with the acknowledgment request. We will always aim to fully inform parents in writing of the nature of each visit, activity or series of a similar nature, remind parents that they have acknowledged this, and give opportunity to update information and emergency contact details. On occasions a curriculum opportunity may become available at short notice and we will always aim to notify parents that their child will be offsite but this may not be possible.

Non-routine consent: Written consent, which may be electronic via Microsoft Forms or Wisepay, will be gained on enrolment for those visits which are non-routine visits and activities and those visits which fall outside of normal hours. We will fully inform parents usually by email or letter of the nature of each visit, activity or series of a similar nature.

Specific consent: Written consent, which may be electronic via Microsoft Forms or Wisepay, will be gained for every individual visit, activity or series of a similar nature which involve a higher level of risk including but not limited to longer journeys, residential visits and adventurous activities. We will fully inform parents by email or letter of the nature of each visit, activity or series of a similar nature.

Medical information: We will use the medical information on record in our Student Information Management system alongside any updated information which parents will be given the opportunity to provide for most visits and activities. Where visits or activities involve a higher level of risk it may be appropriate for separate medical information and consent forms to be completed.

Staff competence

Records will be kept of induction, training, relevant qualifications and competence using the 'My Details' section of Evolve.

To ensure sustainability of important visits deputy leaders will be appointed in order that contingency plans can be put in place should a visit leader be indisposed.

EVC Training

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator will attend appropriate training and revalidation as required by the employer.

Visit Leader Training

Visit leaders will be approved by the Headteacher and will have attended appropriate training as required by the employer.

3. Planning and approval procedures

Visit leaders should follow the employer policy, establishment policy, guidance, local procedures and standard assessments of risk.

Risk management is a vital part of planning and assessing benefits and risk associated with visits and activities. Sensible risk management relates to identifying significant hazards and mitigating against risk through appropriate control measures. It is not a paperwork exercise but a dynamic process before and during a visit or activity in order that young people can be kept safe from harm. Wherever the need arises additional risks and significant findings will be recorded using event specific risk assessment.

External providers: wherever possible visit leaders will gain credible assurances of health & safety management systems and quality provision through a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. Alternatively assurances will be gained through a Provider Statement as detailed in the employer policy

4. Visit Planning and Management System

Evolve is Huntington School's web-based system used to facilitate the efficient planning, management, approval and evaluation of visits. All staff that lead or accompany visits can access their own account which is set up by the Educational Visits Co-ordinator.

The default option is a day visit within the United Kingdom. Visits can be further categorised as follows:

- On-site or local learning area
- Joint visit
- Overseas
- Residential
- Adventurous (provider led)
- Adventurous (self-led)

Visits will be recorded as detailed in the summary table below.

Approval of visits will be made as detailed below. Initial approval in principal will also be gained as required in the employer policy.

Governing Body: the governing body has a strategic role to set the vision and direction of the school and has responsibility for its educational and financial performance. To enable this it will hold the Headteacher to account by oversight of learning beyond the classroom opportunities to ensure that the educational experiences are of high quality, that best value is obtained and financial regulations are adhered to.

Headteacher/EVC: all visits and activities.

Visit planning approval summary table for Huntington School:

	Planning/Recording Process	Risk Management	Final Approval
On-site/Local Learning Area	Recorded on Evolve	Risk assessment supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	EVC/Head
Day Visit outside Local Learning Area	Recorded on Evolve	School risk manages journey and non-provider led activities using risk assessment supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	EVC/Head
Overseas	Recorded on Evolve	Risk assessment and supplemented by specific documentation necessary	Governing Body
Residential	Recorded on Evolve	Risk assessment and supplemented by specific documentation necessary	Head
Adventure, provider led	Recorded on Evolve	Provider risk assessments School risk manages journey and non-provider led activities using risk assessments supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	Head
Adventure, self-led	Recorded on Evolve	Risk Assessment	Governing Body/ Adviser

5. Incident Management

In the case of an incident during a visit all members of staff will follow the establishment's Managing Serious Incident's document and Alcohol on Trips guidance which can be found in the appendices.

6. Monitoring of visits and procedures

Governors will monitor the implementation of this policy by acting as a critical friend in monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the policy.

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator will ensure that there is a system in place for appropriate monitoring of visits and activities.

7. Charges for Off-site Activities and Visits

Charges for educational off-site visits and adventurous activities, including charges for visits and transport, requests for voluntary contributions and remission of charges are made in line with DfE guidance. Reference should also be made to the Charging for School Activities Policy.

8. Inclusion & SEND

We endorse the principles for young people of a presumption of entitlement to participate, accessibility through direct or realistic adaptation or modification and integration through participation with peers.

We acknowledge that it is unlawful to treat a young person with a protected characteristic less favourably or fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that young people with protected characteristics are not placed at a substantial disadvantage without justification.

We also acknowledge that expectations of staff must be reasonable, so that what is required of them (to include a young person) is within their competence and is reasonable. Reference should also be made to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy.

9. Safeguarding

Safeguarding procedures should be considered as part of the planning process with additional consideration for residential visits. Visit Leadership Teams should:

- As part of planning, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and other staff to identify any relevant safeguarding issues
- Have access during a visit to the DSL (or trained deputy) either directly or through the Base Contact.

Any volunteers who accompany any visit or activity will be vetted and be directly supervised by a member of staff. If they are to have significant unsupervised access to young people then an enhanced DBS disclosure will be obtained and they will undergo induction and training in their role

and responsibilities as detailed in employer and school policies and local procedures. Reference should also be made to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

10. Insurance

Young people participating in visits and activities will have annual travel insurance provided under an annual Schools Journey Insurance policy. Any differences to this will be notified to parents/carers as appropriate before any consent or payment is made.

11. Transport

Careful thought must be given to planning transport to support off-site activities and visits. Statistics demonstrate that it is more hazardous to travel to an activity than to engage in it and staff must follow any specialist guidance provided by your employer.

APPENDIX A

Guidance Statement on Alcohol Use During Educational Visits and School Trips

This guidance sets out expectations regarding the consumption of alcohol by staff during school trips and educational visits, to safeguard students and uphold professional standards.

General Principle

During all school-organised trips, the duty of care to students is paramount. Staff are expected to always act in a professional capacity and ensure they are fully able to respond to any situation that may arise.

Alcohol Consumption

- Staff must not consume alcohol in the presence of students at any time during a school trip.
- Staff must not consume alcohol while directly responsible for the supervision or care of students.
- Alcohol must not be consumed at any time where it could impair judgment or delay a response in the event of an emergency.
- In some circumstances (e.g. multi-day residentials), where staffing levels, supervision plans, and accommodation arrangements ensure that a full and adequate duty rota is in place, a small amount of alcohol may be consumed by off-duty staff in private, away from students and with prior approval from the trip leader and senior leadership team (SLT).

Residential Trips – Staff Expectations

- A rota or on-call arrangement must be agreed in advance to ensure that at least one staff member of each sex (in case there are in-room issues) is abstinent and available to always respond, including overnight.
- Alcohol must not be brought or consumed in any shared staff/student areas.
- Any consumption of alcohol must be moderate, discreet, and must not affect readiness or professionalism the next day.
- In all cases, professional conduct must be maintained and any risk of reputational harm to the school must be avoided.

International Trips / Older Students

- For trips involving post-16 students in settings where alcohol is legally permitted, staff should:
 - Discuss expectations around alcohol with students in advance and warn them that trips abroad are not appropriate times to experiment with alcohol.
 - Ensure all decisions reflect safeguarding principles and local laws.
 - Avoid any situation that could be seen to condone or encourage underage or inappropriate drinking.

Final Notes

- All decisions regarding alcohol consumption during school trips must be approved by the trip leader in consultation with the Headteacher.
- The safety, wellbeing, and reputation of the school and its students must always come first.

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