



**Astrea Academy Trust**  
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

## **EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY**

**September 2023**

<b>Review Log</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date of Review</b>	<b>Comments/Changes</b>	<b>Approval</b>
V1.1	October 2021	<p>Updated CEO name and signature</p> <p>Trust Health and Safety Manager now delegated Outdoor Education Advisor</p> <p>Refresher training required every 3 years for EVC's.</p> <p>Insurance details now required to be obtained for travel providers.</p> <p>Staff competence for school led adventure activities to be uploaded to Evolve profile</p>	Steven Harrison (H&S Manager)
V1.2	September 2023	<p>Educational visits advisory service to the Trust provided by David Armstrong (BMBC).</p> <p>EVC's to complete visits training on National College.</p>	Dave Scott-Hepburn (H&S Manager)



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## Introduction

This Policy applies to the Astrea Academy Trust and its academy schools. It relates to all off-site educational visits involving children and young people taking place during or outside normal working hours, including weekends and holiday periods.

It includes educational visits, outings, school trips and off-site activities such as: local visits to parks, museums, libraries, and sports facilities; cultural, educational, recreational and exchange trips; outdoor activities; residential visits and field studies activities.

The effective implementation of this policy requires the commitment and co-operation of principals, managers and academy staff who manage and conduct off-site educational visits.

Astrea academies should ensure that they are familiar with this policy and make it accessible to their staff, and that the policy and any amendments are communicated effectively to their staff.

## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this document:

<b>Trust</b>	Astrea Academy Trust
<b>Academy</b>	Astrea Trust Academies
<b>EVC</b>	Educational Visits Coordinator
<b>EVA</b>	Educational Visits Adviser



## Statement of Intent

The Astrea Academy Trust recognises the considerable value of educational visits and outdoor activities which take place beyond the school site. The Trust is keen to encourage and support the development of such activities which make a valuable contribution to the learning and development of our pupils.

The Trust is therefore committed to meeting its statutory duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and subsequent Regulations, in particular, the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999; and to ensuring that other relevant statutory and common law duties and national standards of good practice are known and adhered to.

The Trust will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, in relation to off-site educational visits and outdoor activities:

- ★ the health, safety, and welfare of its employees, such as teachers, support staff, and others engaged in delivering activities; and
- ★ the health and safety of those who may be affected by the activities, such as pupils, children, young people, and others.

The effectiveness of this policy rests on the understanding that all managers, staff and volunteers engaged in educational visits and outdoor activities with pupils have an obligation to comply with the measures set out in this policy.

Well managed educational visits and outdoor activities make a significant contribution to the educational attainment and personal development of our children and young people.

The policy set out in this document will help ensure that such activities continue to be well planned, managed and conducted, and continue to play a leading role in the learning and development programmes provided by academy schools across the Trust for the benefit of our pupils.

Rowena  
Hackwood  
CEO  
The Astrea Academy Trust



## Organisation

This section outlines the key roles and responsibilities required for the management and conduct of off-site educational visits and activities.

### The Astrea Academy Trust Board

The Trust Board holds employer duties under health and safety legislation. The main duties of the Trust Board are to ensure:

- a) the provision of competent specialist advice and assistance for educational visits and activities.
- b) policy, standards, guidance, and information relating to educational visits is current, relevant, and available.
- c) the provision of an effective safety management framework for adoption by academies for managing and conducting visits.
- d) the provision of advice, guidance and information about the organisation and conduct of educational visits through access to competent specialist advice, guidance, policy, and standards.
- e) access to specific training for head teachers and managers, educational visits co-ordinators, other staff and governors about the procedures involved in the organisation of visits.
- f) scrutiny and approval of specialised and complex visits based on the information provided by the organising academy, submitted through the appropriate approval process. This process should be monitored through inspection and audit of academy-held information when required.
- g) the provision of effective emergency and critical incident support systems and procedures.
- h) the provision and operation of an effective monitoring system for the management and conduct of educational visits and activities.

### Educational Visits Adviser

The main duties of the role of the Educational Visits Adviser are to provide:

- a) Using the Trust's Evolve online visits system, review and, where agreed, approval of 'Category C' educational visits and activities. Category C visits are those involving adventure activities, overseas travel, residential experience, and those involving hazardous/specialised activities and/or environments.
- b) Direct access to professional advice, guidance, and consultancy, including technical advice on specialist activities, by email and by telephone and via the Trust's Evolve online visits system for academies across the Trust.
- c) Provision of up-to-date information on changes in national guidance or benchmarks of good practice and interpretation of any changes in legislation which may affect educational visits and the associated statutory duties of the Trust.
- d) Representation for the Trust at the national and regional Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel, and in other relevant forums.
- e) Advice and guidance on the selection and verification of external activity providers and externally verified quality assurance schemes.
- f) Liaison with Trust senior leadership to review schools' compliance with educational visits policy, guidelines, systems, and procedures.



- g) Technical advice for specialist outdoor activities, such as Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and specialist land and water-based activities.
- h) When necessary, review the qualifications and competence of staff members who wish to lead outdoor adventurous activities.

### **Academy Principals**

The main duties of Academy Principals are to ensure that:

- a) an academy policy for health, safety and risk management on educational visits is in place.
- b) the policy is monitored and updated as necessary.
- c) an effective academy critical incident and emergency response system is in place.
- d) an effective accident, incident and near miss reporting system is in place.
- e) academies comply with Trust policy, standards and guidelines for educational visits and activities.
- f) suitable training is provided for staff to undertake their roles as necessary.
- g) suitable supervision arrangements are in place for visits and activities which are based on risk assessment.
- h) the risk assessment process is in place, suitable risk assessments are completed for visits and activities and are retained for inspection when required.
- i) information from standards and policy reviews and monitoring arrangements is passed on to staff as necessary.
- j) an effective system for monitoring the management and conduct of educational visits and activities is in place.
- k) staff are aware of and have ready access to all policy, standards, guidance, and information relating to educational visits and activities.
- l) there is a designated, competent Educational Visits Coordinator and that effective liaison takes place between all staff involved in the process of organising and running of any visit.
- m) selection and verification of suitable external activity providers takes place.
- n) visit leaders and other supervising staff are competent to perform their roles.
- o) all visit planning issues have been satisfactorily addressed.
- p) all necessary policy, standards and guidance are adhered to, including, but not limited to health and safety, inclusion, educational objectives, and charging and remissions policy.
- q) arrangements are in place for the governing body to be made aware of visits well in advance so that questions may be asked as necessary;
- r) educational visits and activities are authorised at the appropriate level before they take place.

### **Educational Visits Coordinator**

All academies must appoint a suitably competent educational Visits Coordinator.

The main duties of the Educational Visits Coordinator are to ensure that the following tasks are carried out:

- a) all visits that take place, regardless of their duration, distance away, or perceived level of risk, are scrutinised through the appropriate approval process, and are recorded.
- b) educational visits and activities are approved at the appropriate level before they take place.



- c) sufficient time is allocated to organise visits properly and obtain any necessary approval, parental consent, or other relevant information.
- d) all the relevant issues outlined in visit planning checklists are addressed and detailed planning takes place.
- e) selection and verification of suitable external activity providers.
- f) there is effective liaison between themselves, governors, the principal and managers, the visit leader, other accompanying adults, parents, pupils, the Trust, the educational visits adviser and other relevant bodies to ensure adequate planning and supervision of the visit.
- g) suitable advice is sought about specific issues, such as special medical and educational needs, adventurous activities, or venues.
- h) the risk assessment process has been completed effectively, written risk assessments are in place and are retained for inspection when necessary.
- i) risk assessments are reviewed and adapted where necessary.
- j) near misses are reported and recorded and any lessons learned are shared with other staff as appropriate.
- k) emergency base contacts are organised for all visits and activities.
- l) accident, incident and near miss reports are completed and submitted as necessary.
- m) suitable training is provided where necessary for staff to undertake their roles competently.
- n) staff are assessed as competent to undertake their roles.
- o) where necessary, preliminary visits are undertaken.
- p) all necessary policy, standards and guidance is adhered to, including, but not limited to health and safety, inclusion, educational objectives, and charging and remissions policy.
- q) effective supervision arrangements are in place for visits and activities, including activities requiring specialist supervision and leadership, which are based on risk assessment.
- r) records are kept of all educational visits and activities which take place.
- s) effective child protection procedures are in place for educational visits and activities.
- t) the visit leader, principal, parents, pupils, and other accompanying adults know emergency procedures and contacts.
- u) there is adequate first aid provision for the visit which is based on risk assessment and needs analysis.
- v) all parties involved know the important practical arrangements such as pick-up and drop-off times and venues. It may be necessary to have a system to check that groups have returned safely if after school hours.
- w) the post-visit requirements are met from any accident reporting to reviewing arrangements and reports forwarded to relevant bodies.

### **The Visit Leader**

The visit leader has responsibility for the supervision and conduct of the visit and should have regard to the health and safety of the group.

The main duties of the Visit Leader are to ensure that:

- a) educational visits and activities are approved at the appropriate level before they take place.
- b) there is effective liaison between themselves, governors, the head teacher and managers, the visit leader, other accompanying adults, parents, pupils, the Trust, the outdoor education adviser, and other relevant bodies to ensure adequate planning





and supervision of the visit.

- c) school, establishment, Trust and or governing body requirements, regulations, guidelines, and policies are followed.
- d) the risk assessment process has been completed effectively, and written risk assessments are in place.
- e) effective judgements and dynamic risk assessments are made in the field and acted upon during the conduct of the visit.
- f) suitable supervision arrangements are in place for visits and activities which are based on risk assessment, and they are maintained throughout the visit.
- g) where necessary, preliminary visits are undertaken.
- h) selection and verification of suitable external activity providers takes place.
- i) effective supervision arrangements are in place for visits and activities, including activities requiring specialist supervision and leadership, which are based on risk assessment.
- j) risk assessments are reviewed and adapted where necessary.
- k) all the relevant issues outlined in visit planning checklists are addressed and detailed planning takes place.
- l) near misses are reported and recorded and any lessons learned are shared with other staff as appropriate.
- m) accident, incident and near miss reports are completed and submitted as necessary.
- n) emergency base contacts are organised for all visits and activities.
- o) a competent deputy visit leader is appointed where visits either extend beyond the school day or where the numbers of pupils undertaking the visit require additional support.
- p) the visit, venue and activities match the abilities and needs of the pupils, the competence of staff and the educational objectives.
- q) all other staff are aware of their role, all the organisational details and emergency procedures and contacts.
- r) educational visits and activities are approved at the appropriate level before they take place.
- s) their competence and knowledge of the venue match the activities they lead and enable them to determine when unsuitable activities are adjusted or curtailed.
- t) effective child protection procedures are in place for educational visits and activities.
- u) suitable first-aid provision is available based on risk assessment.
- v) the ratio of supervisors to pupils is appropriate for the needs for the group.
- w) staff and other supervisors have the details of pupils' special educational or medical needs which will be necessary for them to carry out their tasks effectively.
- x) any programmed "free time" for pupils is suitably organised with effective supervision arrangements in place.

### **Other Visit Staff**

Other supervising staff employed by the academy have a duty of care for the safety and welfare participants.

The main duties of other supervising staff are to ensure that:

- a) they fully understand their role within the party.
- b) they are competent to undertake their role during the visit.
- c) they follow the visit leader's instructions.
- d) they have any necessary information about pupils and organisation.



- e) they are aware of emergency procedures and contacts.
- f) inform the visit leader of any safety concerns or inform the academy if the visit leader does not implement suitable control measures which may be required by changes in circumstances.
- g) they have sufficient information and resources to enable them to contribute to the effective and safe running of the visit, particularly participant details, and emergency procedures.

### **Adult Volunteers**

When parents or other non-teacher adults act voluntarily to assist with visits and activities they also owe a duty of care to the children and young people taking part.

The main duties of adult volunteers are to ensure that:

- a) they fully understand their role within the party.
- b) they are competent to undertake their role during the visit.
- c) they always follow the visit leader's instructions.
- d) they have any necessary information about pupils and organisation.
- e) they are aware of emergency procedures and contacts.
- f) inform the visit leader of any safety concerns, or the academy if for some reason the visit leader does not implement control measures necessitated by changes in circumstances.
- g) they have sufficient information and resources to enable them to contribute to the effective and safe running of the visit, particularly pupil details and emergency procedures.

### **External Agencies or Activity Providers**

If an activity or visit involves the use of an external agency or activity provider, that agency or provider must be thoroughly scrutinised and assessed as suitable by the visit leader, the educational visits co-ordinator and the principal or manager.

The main duties of external agencies or activity providers are to ensure they:

- a) comply with any activity provision agreements made.
- b) comply with their statutory duties for health and safety and other matters relating to their provision.
- c) follow best practice in the provision of activities.
- d) comply with any licensing and quality assurance requirements for activity provision.
- e) ensure suitable liaison takes place with the visiting academy staff so that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and understood.

### **Pupils and Students**

Pupils and students should understand their responsibilities during the visit or activity. The main duties of pupils and students are to:

- a) Always follow the instructions of the visit leader and other supervisors during a visit.
- b) avoid taking unnecessary risks or activities that have not been assessed or are not included within the visit programme.
- c) inform the visit leader or other supervisors of anything they feel might harm themselves or others.
- d) be sensitive to local codes and customs, particularly when overseas.



## Parents and Guardians

Parents and legal guardians have an important role to play in ensuring the success of educational visits and activities.

The main duties of parents and legal guardians are to ensure that they:

- a) understand the nature of their child's visit including the types of activity, venues, costs, timings, and other arrangements.
- b) understand the code of conduct, that their child agrees to abide by this, and the consequences of the child having to be returned home for it being breached.
- c) attend briefing meetings where necessary to clarify visit and activity details, particularly for residential visits and where adventure activities or hazardous environments or overseas travel is involved.
- d) provide the visit leader with emergency contact details, relevant medical details, and written consent for the child to take part in the trip.
- e) provide informed consent (or withhold consent, explaining why) for participation of their child in the visit or activity.
- f) provide clear and up to date medical information about their child.



## Arrangements

This section outlines the practical arrangements which are in place for the implementation of this policy.

### 1. Policy

- 1.1. The Trust provides and maintains a policy which is specific to health, safety, and risk management on educational visits (this policy) which is communicated to Astrea academies.
- 1.2. Academies must ensure that they and their staff are aware of and comply with this policy for health, safety, and risk management on educational visits.
- 1.3. Academies are responsible for ensuring that they have in place an academy specific policy for health, safety, and risk management on educational visits.
- 1.4. The policy must be reviewed and revised as necessary, and its contents must be communicated effectively to staff.

### 2. Guidelines

- 2.1. The Trust adopts the National Guidance published by the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel at [www.oeapng.info](http://www.oeapng.info) as its employer guidance for off-site educational visits.
- 2.2. Additional procedural guidance is provided in this policy document and on the Trust's Evolve online visits system.
- 2.3. Academies must ensure that their staff are aware of, have access to, and comply with this guidance.
- 2.4. For advice on interpreting national guidance or applying it to specific visits or circumstances, academies should contact the Educational Visits Adviser or the Trust Health and Safety Manager

### 3. Specialist Advice

- 3.1. The Trust provides ready access to competent, specialist and up to date advice on all aspects of planning, managing, and conducting educational off-site visits and activities through the Educational Visits Adviser.
- 3.2. Academies must ensure that their staff are able to contact the Educational Visits Adviser or Trust Health and Safety Manager when necessary and must ensure that any advice or guidance provided is followed.

### 4. Monitoring

- 4.1. The Trust provides access to support for monitoring educational visits management and practice. This includes access to support for periodic review of school and establishment safety management systems for educational visits, in-the-field visit observations, review of visit data and data from monitoring activities, and the provision of self-evaluation materials to schools and establishments.
- 4.2. Academies are responsible for ensuring that they implement effective monitoring processes for educational visits, and they comply with any requirements of the Trust, in relation to monitoring arrangements and any recommendations resulting from monitoring processes.



## **5. Review and Improvement**

- 5.1. The Trust provides access to support for ensuring that information obtained from monitoring processes is reviewed so that action can be taken to make improvements when necessary and that such information is shared with other academies as appropriate.
- 5.2. Academies must ensure that they implement effective systems for reviewing and acting upon the findings of their monitoring processes for educational visits.

## **6. Information and Communication**

- 6.1. The Trust provides to academies access up to date information about safety and risk management issues relating to educational visits and activities using a variety of accessible methods.
- 6.2. Academies must ensure that they access such information and that it is communicated effectively to staff and others as necessary.

## **7. Emergency Procedures and Critical Incidents.**

- 7.1. Academies must ensure that they have in place robust arrangements and procedures for responding effectively to incidents and accidents, including serious incidents, during educational visits. This information must be communicated clearly to relevant staff.
- 7.2. An academy emergency base contact must be identified for all off-site educational visits who must have access to all relevant information about the visit to be able to respond effectively if required.
- 7.3. Academies must ensure that staff involved in conducting educational visits and activities carry with them during visits emergency contact details and information on contacting the Trust and their own academy emergency response system where necessary.

## **8. First Aid**

- 8.1. The Trust provides access to advice and guidance on first aid arrangements for off-site educational visits and activities.
- 8.2. Academies must provide first aid services and facilities to staff and pupils taking part in educational visits and activities based on risk assessment and first aid needs analysis and must have in place their own first aid policy. Such provision must meet, as a minimum, the standards required by the Health and Safety at Work (First Aid) Regulations 1981 (as amended).

## **9. Accident and Incident Reporting and Investigation**

- 9.1. Academies must ensure that accidents, incidents and near misses taking place during educational visits and activities are reported in compliance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013 (and any subsequent amendments) and in compliance with the Trust's policy on accident and incident reporting and investigation.
- 9.2. Reporting, recording and investigations must be conducted by principals and, where necessary, with the assistance of the Trust Health and Safety Manager. Information from such reports, records and investigations must be shared with the Educational



Visits Adviser and the Trust Health and Safety Manager to ensure that lessons may be learned, and practice improved and so that information is shared effectively with others as appropriate.

## **10. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 10.1. The statutory duty holder for health, safety and risk management on educational visits is the employer (the Trust) under health and safety legislation.
- 10.2. Many of the functions, tasks, and responsibilities for compliance with the relevant statutory duties are delegated to academies.
- 10.3. Roles and responsibilities are set out in the section of this policy headed '**Organisation**'.
- 10.4. Responsibilities for managing many of the tasks and functions required for effective safety and risk management on educational visits are also identified in this part of the policy called '**Arrangements**'.
- 10.5. Academies must ensure that all staff involved in managing and conducting educational visits are aware of and understand their respective roles and responsibilities.

## **11. Educational Visits Coordinator Role**

- 11.1. All academies must appoint an educational visits coordinator to provide support and assistance to staff organising and conducting educational visits, and to managers who scrutinise and authorise visits to take place.
- 11.2. Academies must ensure that the educational visits co-ordinator is suitably competent to undertake the role and they are provided with the time, resources, and management support necessary to carry out the role effectively.
- 11.3. Educational visits coordinators must complete National College Certificate in Organising and Managing School Trips.
- 11.4. Educational visits co-ordinators must keep up to date with developments in the field of educational visits and attend refresher training as necessary.

## **12. Visit Notification and Approval**

- 12.1. The Trust provides access to the Evolve online educational visits notification and approval system for use by academies. The Trust also provides access to specialist scrutiny and approval of specified categories of visits and activities.
- 12.2. Academies must ensure that educational visits and activities are notified, recorded, scrutinised, and approved in accordance with this policy before they take place and in accordance with specified timescales.
- 12.3. Academies must use the Evolve online visits system for the notification, recording and approval of all off-site educational visits.
- 12.4. An off-site educational visit is defined as whenever pupils leave the academy site for educational purposes organised by and under the responsibility of the academy.
- 12.5. For the purposes of planning, notification and approval, off-site educational visits are classified into three categories as follows:



CATEGORY	DEFINITION	NOTIFICATION, APPROVAL & TIMESCALES
<b>Category A</b>	<p>Straightforward routine day visits and activities requiring standard planning which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ local to the school (within walking distance).</li> <li>★ do not require the use of transport; and ★ take place mainly during school hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ generic risk assessment regularly reviewed and adapted if necessary.</li> <li>★ annual informed parental consent if required.</li> <li>★ appropriate information provided to parents</li> </ul>	<p>Must be authorised by the Principal.</p> <p>Evolve must be used for notification and approval.</p> <p>Timescale for notification to academy management for authorisation on the Evolve system is at least 2 Term time weeks before..</p>
<b>Category B</b>	<p>Day visits and activities requiring enhanced planning which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ may extend significantly beyond the normal school day; and/or</li> <li>★ require the use of transport.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ event-specific risk assessment ★ event-specific parental consent</li> <li>★ event-specific information to parents</li> </ul>	<p>Must be authorised by the Principal.</p> <p>Evolve must be used for notification and approval.</p> <p>Timescale for notification to academy management for authorisation on the Evolve system is advised to be least four Term time weeks in advance of the visit.</p>
<b>Category C</b>	<p>More complex and specialised visits and activities which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ overseas travel</li> <li>★ adventure activities or specialist hazardous activities</li> <li>★ remote or hazardous environments ★ residential visits</li> </ul> <p><b>Key requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ event-specific risk assessment ★ event-specific parental consent</li> <li>★ event-specific information to parents</li> </ul>	<p>Must be authorised by the Principal and approved by the Educational Visits Adviser.</p> <p>Evolve must be used for notification and approval.</p> <p>Timescale for authorisation by the academy Principal and submission to the Trust's outdoor education adviser is at least 1 Term in advance of the visit. This is to provide adequate time for checks to be made and advice to be provided and acted upon before the visit takes place.</p>





- 12.6. It is the responsibility of the academy to ensure authorisation and approval of visits has taken place at the appropriate level before the visit takes place.
- 12.7. The term approval in the context of the Evolve online system indicates that the declarations, assurances, undertakings, and information provided by the Academy in answer to questions on the visit form appear consistent with educational visits guidelines and standards of good practice.
- 12.8. Any additional information which may be contained in documents attached to the Evolve visit form will be randomly sampled as part of routine visit monitoring processes. Comment may be provided on documents only if specifically requested by the Academy.
- 12.9. It is the responsibility of the academy to ensure planning documents for visits, such as risk assessments, are suitable and sufficient for their intended purpose. If an academy requires scrutiny or comment on particular risk assessments or other documents attached to the visit form, beyond those which may be viewed during routine sample monitoring processes, a specific request must be made.
- 12.10. Academy staff should not sign contracts with providers or make commitments to participants or parents until sure that requirements for approval can be met, they are encouraged to ask the Educational Visits Adviser or Trust Health and Safety Manager to comment on un-submitted draft plans on Evolve for complex visits at an early stage, which could be a year or more before the visit.

### **13. Transport**

- 13.1. Academies must ensure that they comply with the Trust's policy on using contractors when hiring external transport for educational visits.
- 13.2. Academies must ensure that transport providers are compliant with the Contractors' Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) or be registered and approved for this specific work under the Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) system.
- 13.3. In situations where this may not be feasible or appropriate suitable due diligence must be undertaken to ensure the safety and quality of the transport provision being arranged – Proof of insurance levels must be obtained from all travel providers.
- 13.4. Where minibuses are used to provide transport for educational visits, Academies must ensure compliance with the Trust's policy for the safe use of minibuses.
- 13.5. Academies must comply with the law on the use of seat belts and child restraints in vehicles.

### **14. Insurance**

- 14.1. Academies must ensure that all educational visits and activities are suitably insured and that the details of such insurance are made available to parents and others as appropriate.

### **15. Visit Planning**

- 15.1. Academies must ensure that suitable visit planning takes place to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of participants, staff, and others during the visit.
- 15.2. Academies must ensure that staff organising and planning visits have access to, and follow Trust policy, standards, guidance, and any advice provided to them on behalf of the Trust.





## **16. Commissioning**

- 16.1. If an organisation outside the Trust is commissioned to provide a service which may include educational visits or activities, Academies must ensure it follows this policy or has in place its own policies and procedures which, as a minimum, meet the same standards.
- 16.2. Academies must understand that their duty of care for the safety and wellbeing of young people cannot be delegated to organisations providing educational visits and activities on their behalf. They must have in place suitable processes for the selection and verification of providers, for the effective quality assurance of services being provided to them and for ensuring appropriate insurance arrangements are in place.

## **17. External Activity Providers**

- 17.1. The Trust provides access to up-to-date advice and guidance on suitable external accreditation schemes and methods of obtaining suitable assurances from providers about safety and risk management during visits and activities.
- 17.2. Academies must ensure that external activity providers hold credible external accreditation for the activities they provide and for the dates of the proposed visit.
- 17.3. Academies must obtain suitable assurances from the provider about visit safety and quality before agreeing to the visit or activities.

## **18. School Led Adventure Activities**

- 18.1. The Trust provides access to specialist advice and assistance in identifying, interpreting, and checking specialist competencies and evidence of competence held by staff.
- 18.2. Where academy staff aim to deliver specialist leadership and supervision for adventurous activities, academies must ensure staff are suitably competent to undertake the role. Academies must ensure they obtain and keep records of suitable evidence of such competence.
- 18.3. Where nationally recognised qualifications exist, they must be held and kept up to date, or an equivalent qualification or statement of competence must be provided by a suitable technical expert.
- 18.4. Specialist outdoor leadership qualifications must be uploaded to the staff member's profile on the Evolve system.

## **19. Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations**

- 19.1. The Trust provides access to advice and guidance on adventure activities licensing requirements.
- 19.2. Where an external provider of adventure activities is proposed to be used, Academies must check whether the provider is required to hold a license for such activities under the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004 (and any subsequent amendments).
- 19.3. Where a provider is required by the regulations to hold a license, academies must check that the provider holds a valid license for the activities proposed and for the dates of the visit and must only use a suitably licensed provider for such activities.



## **20. Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

- 20.2. The Trust provides access to specialist advice and guidance on safety and risk management for Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions.
- 20.3. Academies operating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award must ensure they comply with safety and risk management advice provided on behalf of the Trust.
- 20.4. Academies operating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are responsible for complying with any planning or operational conditions required by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

## **21. Good Practice Requirements**

- 21.2. Academies must ensure that they and their staff keep up to date with current good practice in the field of educational visits and activities, and that such information is shared and communicated effectively with others as appropriate.

## **22. Duty of Care**

- 22.2. Academies must ensure that they understand that the duty of care they owe to pupils in their care during educational visits and activities cannot be delegated to others, even if they have commissioned services to be provided on their behalf, and that the duty of care extends for the full duration of the visit or activity.

## **23. Training**

- 23.2. The Trust provides access to strategic training on policy, standards, guidelines and procedures for staff including educational visit coordinators, governors, principals and managers; and information and advice on identifying and procuring all other training related to educational visits and activities.
- 23.3. Academies must ensure that their staff receive any training, including where necessary refresher training, which is required for them to keep up to date and to be able to carry out their roles and responsibilities competently.
- 23.4. Refresher training for EVC's is required every 3 years.

## **24. Assessment of Leader Competence**

- 24.2. The Trust is committed to ensuring that staff and others supervising children and young people during educational visits have appropriate training, knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to competently undertake their roles.
- 24.3. Academies must ensure that they seek assurances and evidence about staff competence to lead or supervise visits or activities.
- 24.4. Where specialised activities or environments are involved, advice should be sought from the Trust's outdoor education adviser/ Health and Safety Manager.

## **25. Risk Assessment**

- 25.2. The Trust is committed to implementing risk assessment procedures in compliance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (and any subsequent amendments) to identify, assess and control, so far as is reasonably practicable, the



hazards and risks identified for visits, activities and environments which could affect staff, pupils, or others.

- 25.3. Academies must ensure that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are conducted for all educational visits and activities and the significant findings are recorded and acted upon. Such records must be retained according to the requirements of the Trust's records retention policy and made available for inspection if required.
- 25.4. Risk assessments attached to visit forms on the Evolve system will be subject to routine sample monitoring processes. This does not mean that all risk assessments will be scrutinised for each visit on the system.
- 25.5. It is the responsibility of the academy to ensure risk assessments are suitable and sufficient for their intended purpose and that their staff are competent to carry them out. If an academy requires scrutiny or comment on a particular risk assessment attached to the visit form, which may be beyond those viewed during routine sample monitoring processes, a specific request must be made for this purpose.
- 25.6. Academies must ensure their staff taking part in off-site educational visits are competent to undertake and act upon dynamic risk assessments which may need to be made in the field whilst visits are in progress.

## **26. Preliminary Visits**

- 26.2. Academies must ensure that, where appropriate and where feasible, preliminary visits to providers, locations and venues are conducted by staff planning educational visits and activities.
- 26.3. Where it is judged impractical to undertake a preliminary visit, academies must ensure that suitable measures are put in place to properly inform the risk assessment and planning process for the visit.

## **27. Child Protection**

- 27.2. The Trust is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people and compliance with its statutory obligations as set out in the most recent edition of the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance document Keeping Children Safe in Education (and any subsequent amendments).
- 27.3. Academies must comply with this guidance and the Trust's safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures and must ensure that their staff are aware of and comply with such guidance.

## **28. Supervision**

- 28.2. The Trust is committed to the importance of providing effective and appropriate supervision for children and young people taking part in educational visits.
- 28.3. Academies must ensure that effective, appropriate, and active supervision is in place for all educational visits and activities and that such supervision is provided by a suitable number of experienced and competent teachers, leaders and other adults.



## **29. Records Retention**

- 29.2. The Trust has in place a records retention policy which is based on national guidelines from the Information and Records Management Society.
- 29.3. Academies must ensure that suitable records of educational visits and activities are retained in compliance with the Trust's policy on records retention.

## **30. Overseas Expeditions**

- 30.2. The Trust is committed to the value of students taking part in challenging overseas expeditions where appropriate and provides access to specialist advice, guidance and assistance for the planning and management of overseas expeditions.
- 30.3. Academies planning to use an external activity provider or specialist expedition company must ensure that their provider holds appropriate external accreditation for the activities and dates proposed.
- 30.4. Academies must ensure that proposals for such expeditions are notified and discussed with the Educational Visits Adviser before any contractual arrangements are entered into and before any payments have been made. This is likely to be at least twelve months or more in advance of the visit taking place.

## **31. Swimming and Water Environments**

- 31.2. The Trust provides access to up-to-date guidance on outdoor swimming and the use of natural water environments for educational visits and recognises that such environments present significant risks if not properly managed.
- 31.3. Academies must ensure that swimming and paddling or otherwise entering the waters of a river, canal, sea, or lake are not allowed as an impromptu activity. They must take place only when a suitable risk assessment has been completed and appropriate measures put in place to control the risks. The activities should be formal and supervised effectively.

## **32. Outdoor Equipment**

- 32.2. The Trust is committed to complying with the Provision and Use of Workplace Equipment Regulations (PUWER), the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulations and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (and any subsequent amendments to these regulations) in so far as they apply to educational visits and activities.
- 32.3. The Trust provides access to specialist advice and guidance on the storage, maintenance and use of specialist outdoor equipment and materials.
- 32.4. Academies must ensure that maintenance, storage and use of technical outdoor equipment and resources, such as (but not limited to) camping equipment, camp cooking equipment and fuel, is undertaken and supervised by staff who are competent to do so. The use of such equipment by young people must be subject to competent supervision and training and effective risk assessment processes.

## **33. Charging for Educational Visits**

- 33.2. The Trust is committed to compliance with the law on charging for school activities as set out in current government guidance.



- 33.3. Academies must ensure they comply with the law on charging for school activities and with the Trust's policy on charging for school activities and must ensure that their staff are aware of the statutory requirements and comply with them.

## **34. Inclusion**

- 34.2. The Trust is committed to the inclusion of all children and young people in their educational visits and activities and to ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made to include those with disabilities in visits and activities in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 (and any subsequent amendments).
- 34.3. Academies must ensure they make reasonable adjustments to include all children and young people in educational visits and activities in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 (and any subsequent amendments).

## **35. Young Persons**

- 35.1 The Trust recognises that children and young people are a vulnerable group due to their lack of experience, or absence of awareness of existing or potential risks or the fact that young persons have not yet fully matured.
- 35.2 The Trust provides access to advice and guidance on good practice for the supervision and risk management of young people during educational visits and activities.
- 35.3 Academies must ensure that suitable planning, competent supervision and risk assessment and risk management procedures are put in place, which consider the additional vulnerability of children and young people to hazard and risk during educational visits.

## **36. Parental Consent and Information**

- 36.2. The Trust provides access to advice and guidance on obtaining informed parental consent for children and young people taking part in educational visits and activities.
- 36.3. Academies must ensure that, where necessary, informed parental consent is obtained for off-site educational visits and activities and that up-to-date medical information is provided to visit staff.
- 36.4. Academies must ensure that parents and guardians are provided with clear information about when and where off-site educational visits and activities are taking place and any specific arrangements which apply to the visit or activity.