

OVERSTONE PARK SCHOOL

School Trips Policy and Procedures



School Trips

Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2026	September 2027	Mrs M Brown Mrs D York Miss A West Ms J Brown Mrs L Vippond

We believe this policy relates to the following legislation:

- Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- Equality Act 2010
- Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 1996
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002
- School Premises (England) Regulations 2012

We encourage educational visits as we believe they 'offer an invaluable opportunity to enrich young peoples' learning, raise their self esteem, increase their motivation and appetite for learning and raise levels of achievement in many aspects of their life and education.' (Welsh Assembly Government 2008)

An educational visit could be a short term visit in the local community, a day visit further afield, a visit lasting several days at a residential educational centre or an educational visit involving overseas travel.

We will ensure that we comply with all DfE/Welsh Government and Local Authority documentation before any educational visit is authorised and all precautions are taken to ensure pupils' safety.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Aims

- To provide a clear and coherent structure for the planning and evaluation of educational visits in order to enhance the curricular and recreational opportunities for pupils.
- To work with other schools to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Principal

The Principal will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- be responsible for the sanctioning and authorising of all educational visits whatever the duration or purpose;
- ensure that the Educational Visit Coordinator and Party Leaders have appropriate training and are sufficiently competent, experienced and qualified;
- ensure all volunteer helpers/supervisors are subjected to a Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records check before they take part in an educational visit;
- ensure all accidents and emergencies are dealt with and reported;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report on the success and development of this policy.

Role of the Educational Visit Coordinator

The coordinator will be competent, experienced and qualified to undertake the role, and will undertake appropriate training in organising and supervising educational visits, risk assessment, emergency procedures, medical and first aid, pupil behaviour and discipline, supporting pupils with additional learning needs, outdoor activities, water safety, and dealing with the media.

- ensure that all documentation is in place before the Visit Plan can be authorised by the Principal;
- review the planning, documentation and competence of the Party Leader before recommending the authorisation of any educational visit;
- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- work closely with the Principal;
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- review and monitor;
- annually report on the success and development of this policy.

Role of Party Leaders

Party Leaders will complete a Visit Plan before any visit is authorised, covering: a Risk Assessment based on a pre-visit; the nature, purpose and length of the visit; accommodation details; the year group and pupil numbers; pupil names; contact details; emergency contact details; parent consent forms; medical records; the number of adults; Disclosure and Barring Service checks of parent helpers; adult pupil ratio; insurance; costings of the visit; coach firm and contact details; travel arrangements; itinerary of visit; medical and first aid; school mobile phone; and emergency procedures.

Role of Other Supervising Adults

The party leader will ensure that all supervising adults are trained in supervisory procedures for educational visits, allocated a group of named pupils, given pupil information, implement the school's equalities policy and schemes, report and deal with all incidents of discrimination, attend appropriate training sessions, and report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

Risk Assessment Procedures

Risk Assessments will be completed on preliminary site visits and will cover: what are the hazards; who might be affected by them; what safety measures are needed to reduce risks to an acceptable level; can the party leader put the safety measures in place; and what steps will be taken in an emergency. We will use or adapt risk

assessments that have been produced by venues who provide instructor led activities. A risk assessment of the mode(s) of transport will be undertaken.

Accidents and Emergencies

The group leader will be in charge of all accidents and emergencies; report and record all accidents and emergencies; ensure all pupil contact details are in place; contact parents in the case of an incident; and deal with any reports or interviews to the media.

Recommended Adult Pupil Ratios

We will use the following adult pupil ratios (Wales): Early Years 1:3, Y1 to Y3 1:6, Y4 to Y6 1:10.

We will use the following adult pupil ratios (England): Primary Schools 1:10-15, Secondary Schools 1:15-20.

Medical and First Aid

The group leader will ensure staff are trained in first aid; supervisory adults are aware of all medical and first aid arrangements and procedures; the medical information of all pupils is in place; parent consent forms are in place; pupil medications are in place and secure; and parents are contacted if their child is injured.

Authorisation of Educational Visits

The Principal will authorise all short term or day educational visits and seek the approval of the Local Authority for a residential visit.

Role of Parents

Parents will be informed of all educational visits by the school and will be given full detailed information of the visit; complete a standard parental consent form before their child attends an educational visit so that medical conditions, allergies and special dietary needs are covered; submit current emergency contact details before an educational visit takes place; attend all planning and information meetings held by the school before any residential or overseas visit takes place; be subjected to a Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records check before they take on the role as a volunteer helper/supervisor on an educational visit; undertake training in the above role; be allocated named pupils during the visit; encourage effort and achievement; encourage completion of homework and return it to school; provide the right conditions for homework to take place; hand in homework on time; support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school; and be asked to take part in periodic surveys conducted by the school.

Planning & Information Meetings

Parents will be invited to attend a planning and information meeting before any residential or overseas visit takes place, at which they will be informed of the group leader, deputy leader and accompanying staff and parents, adult-to-pupil ratio, dates and times of departure and return, destination contact details, method of travel, coach firm/travel company, itinerary and activities, total cost, payment dates, insurance arrangements, pupil medical and dietary information, checklists of clothing and equipment, pocket money guidance, and ground rules for the visit.

Role of Pupils

Pupils will be aware of and comply with this policy; abide by the ground rules and standards of behaviour for the educational visit; know which adult is responsible for them; look after their possessions and spending money; take pride in their work and produce work of a high standard; listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher or volunteer; ask for further help if they do not understand; participate fully in all lessons and discussions concerning progress and attainment; treat others, their work and equipment with respect; support the school Code of Conduct; talk to others without shouting and use language which is neither abusive nor offensive; wear appropriate clothing or school uniform; liaise with the school council; and take part in questionnaires and surveys.

Role of the School Council

The School Council will be involved in determining this policy, discussing improvements to this policy during the school year, and reviewing the effectiveness of this policy.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will be aware of and comply with this policy; give consent before any educational visit involving their child takes place; provide all relevant medical information and up to date contact details for their child; and receive from the school all relevant information regarding the planned educational visit.

Training

The Educational Visit Coordinator will undertake training organised by the Local Authority; train all Party Leaders and volunteer helpers; ensure all school personnel have equal chances of training, career development and promotion; and ensure all school personnel are kept up to date with new information and guidelines concerning equal opportunities.

Financial and Travel Arrangements

The school office will act as 'treasurer' and will collect all monies from parents/carers and pay all bills; organise all transport arrangements and deal with reputable travel firms; and ensure the school minibus complies with all regulations and appointed drivers are suitably qualified, experienced and insured.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

- School Handbook/Prospectus; School website; Staff Handbook;
- Meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops;
- School events; Meetings with school personnel;
- Written communications with home such as weekly newsletters and end of half term newsletters;
- Annual report to parents; Headteacher reports to the Governing Body;
- Information displays in the main school entrance; Text messages; Email;
- Social media: Facebook, Twitter, virtual pin boards, school blog.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Principal:	Mrs M F Brown	Date:	September 2026
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