

# **Sunning Hill Primary School**



## **Educational Visits Policy**

**September 2020**

*Governing Body Review date: September 2023*

Previous review date(s): September 2013, September 2014, September 2017

## **Rational**

Sunning Hill Primary School has a strong belief in the value of learning beyond the school day and out of the school premises. We demonstrate this by taking part in carefully planned educational visits. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is enhanced by providing learning outside of school.

## **Purpose**

Educational Visits can provide incentive and support to work being covered as part of the school curriculum. It may be that a visit provides an effective introduction to a unit of work or topic; alternatively teaching staff may decide to use an educational visit at any time during a project to enhance and support learning.

Teaching staff must ensure that the educational benefits to the children are **identified, maximised and recorded**.

## **1. Guidance**

The school has formally adopted, through its Governing Body, the Bolton Council Guidance for Educational Visits and Off-site Activities. This School Visits policy supports the Local Authority guidance and sets out how our educational visits will be developed, planned and managed.

## **2. Approval Procedure and Consent**

The Head teacher has nominated Mrs Ali as the Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) and the Governing Body has approved this appointment. This person has attended the LA EVC updated training course in the summer term 2017 and will be given sufficient time and resources' to carry out the role (see responsibilities' below).

The Head will ensure that the Governing Body is aware of Educational Visits taking place via Headteachers reports.

All prospective trips should be discussed with the Head/SLT member/or EVC prior to development. It may be necessary for the group leader to prepare an outline including estimated cost and arrangements. Further work (on the visit) should not take place until approval is given.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

Low risk and routine visits will be approved by the Head teacher or a member of SLT. These visits must be submitted, at least 7 days before the visit takes place, but should be completed as far in advance as is practically possible. All higher risk activities (adventurous, residential, and overseas) will be submitted to the LA 4 weeks prior to the trip for approval.

There will be a named Group Leader (and where appropriate, deputy) on all visits.

Written parental consent will be sought for all residential or adventurous activities. This will confirm that parents have understood the purpose, estimated cost and arrangements for the visit. In this school it will be the responsibility of the office staff to draft/issue the letter.

### 3. Responsibilities

#### 3.1. Governor's

The Governing body will satisfy themselves that appropriate safety measures are in place and that staff have been trained to undertake their role.

#### 3.2. Head Teacher

*< see Section 2.2, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities >*

#### 3.3. Educational Visits Co-ordinator

*< see Section 2.3, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities >*

#### 3.4. Group Leader

*< see Section 2.4, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities >*

#### 3.5. Pupils

The Group Leader should make it clear to pupils that they must:

- not take unnecessary risks;
- follow the instructions of the leader and other adults;
- dress and behave sensibly and responsibly;
- look out for anything that might hurt or threaten anyone in the group and tell the Group Leader about it;
- Children will wear high visibility jackets where appropriate.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

Pupils whose behaviour may be considered to be a danger to themselves or to the group may be stopped from going on the visit. The curricular aims of the visit for these pupils will be fulfilled in other ways.

### **4. Planning off-site visits**

The Group Leader is responsible for planning the off-site visit that they are leading, The Head Teacher/EVC must be satisfied that the person planning the visit is competent to do so and has the necessary experience.

The Group Leader must agree all plans with the Head Teacher or a member of SLT.

*<Please see Section 6, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities>*

### **5. Preliminary Visits**

Wherever possible and with agreement from the Head teacher Group Leaders will undertake a preliminary visit to:

- ensure that the venue is suitable to meet the aims and objectives of the school visit;
- assess potential areas and levels of risk;
- ensure that the venue can cater for the needs of the staff and pupils in the group;
- ensure that they are familiar with the area before taking a party of young people.

If it is not feasible to carry out an exploratory visit, the Group Leader will contact the venue, seeking assurances about the venue's appropriateness for the visiting group. In addition, the Group Leader will seek views from other schools who have recently visited the venue and where appropriate liaise with other bodies i.e. Tourist Boards.

*<Please see Section 7, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities>*

### **6. Risk Assessment**

It is the responsibility of the Group Leader to carry out risk assessments covering all aspects of the proposed trip which must be approved by the EVC or the LA (for more adventurous trips).

On-going 'dynamic' risk assessment will be completed by the Group Leader throughout the trip to ensure that hazards are monitored and appropriate safety measures are put in place.

It is the responsibility of the Group Leader to ensure that all accompanying staff are familiar with the risk assessment and to continue to brief staff throughout the trip.

## **7. First Aid**

For adventurous activities, visits which involve overnight stays, or visits abroad it is the policy of this school to have a minimum of 1 qualified first aider in the group or to ensure that first aid treatment is available at the proposed venue. All adults in the group will know how to contact emergency services.

During a local visit/ trip the Group Leader will take with them:

- a suitably stocked first-aid travel bag;
- a person appointed to be in charge of first-aid arrangements (this may not be a qualified first aider).

*<Please see Section 15, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities>*

## **8. Staffing**

We will ensure that, during any trip/visit there is a sufficient ratio of adult supervisors to pupils. To do this we will consider various factors e.g the age of the group, the nature of the activities, the duration, the type of journey and the medical needs of any pupils within the group.

Where adult volunteers are used the school will ensure that (where appropriate) DBS screening is undertaken e.g. overnight stays.

Accompanying staff and adult helpers will have the appropriate skills to support the Group Leader and understand the needs of the group. They will be briefed by the Group Leader before the visit/trip.

*<Please see Section 12, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities>*

## **9. Competence to Lead**

If the school is leading an adventurous activity, such as canoeing, the EVC, Head Teacher and LA will ensure that the Group Leader and other supervisors are suitably qualified to lead and instruct the activity before they agree that the visit can take place. The member of staff will complete an Activity Leader Form (ALF) and provide an **original**, valid certificate as proof of their competence.

*<Please see Section 11 & 28, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities>*

## **10.Communication**

To ensure that all those involved in the visit understand their roles and responsibilities, the Group Leader will hold a briefing where they will ensure that staff are aware of any pupils who may require closer supervision. Teachers retain responsibility for the group at all times.

## **11.Information to Pupils**

The group leader must decide what information should be provided to pupils and how to present the information, they must be satisfied that the pupils understand key safety information. Pupils should understand:

- the aims and objectives of the visit / activity;
- background information about the place to be visited;
- how to avoid specific dangers and why they should follow rules;
- why safety precautions are in place;
- why special safety precautions are in place for anyone with disabilities;
- what standard of behaviour is expected from pupils;
- who is responsible for the group;
- what to do if approached by a stranger;
- what to do if separated from the group;
- emergency procedures;

## **12.Participation**

Pupils whose behaviour is such that the group leader is concerned for their, or others' safety, will be withdrawn from the activity. On residential visits the group leader will consider whether such pupils will return home early. This information will be communicated to parents in writing and during briefing sessions (for longer trips/visits).

### **13. Pupils with special educational or medical needs**

We will work with parents to accommodate the specific needs of pupils. We will give consideration to appropriate supervision ratios and additional safety measures that may need to be addressed at the planning stage. These will be written into our risk assessments.

### **14. Communicating with Parents/Guardians**

The Group Leader will ensure that parents are given information about the purpose and details of the visit and are invited to any briefing sessions (for longer or more adventurous visits).

The Group Leader will explain to parents how they can help prepare their child for the visit by, for example, reinforcing the visit's code of conduct.

We will ask parents to provide:

- the group leader with emergency contact number(s);
- a signed consent form;
- relevant information about their child's health which might be relevant to the visit.

#### **14.1. Parental Consent**

On enrolment of pupils, Sunning Hill Primary School will seek consent for Educational visits (on/offsite) that take place within the school/establishments normal hours, for example, visits to local amenities, environmental studies, swimming and sporting fixtures. If these visits are likely to extend beyond this, adequate advance notice will be given by the school.

For all other visits (i.e. class trips, adventurous, residential or overseas) consent will be obtained on an individual trip basis.

If parents withhold consent absolutely the pupil will not be taken on the visit, the curricular aims of the visit will be delivered to the pupil in some other way, wherever possible.

Pupils can only go on the visit if the signed consent form has been received. In exceptional circumstances, verbal consent by telephone will suffice for trips that do not involve additional risk (e.g. not adventurous, residential or overseas.)

If the parents give a conditional consent the Head Teacher will need to consider whether the child may be taken on the visit or not.

## **15. Emergency Controls**

The school has developed emergency procedures for educational visits. These are amended, as necessary, for each visit.

The school will appoint an appropriate member of staff as the emergency school contact for each visit. All major incidents will be reported to this person, especially those involving injury or that might attract media attention.

The Group 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 Group Leader will take a copy of the Emergency Procedure with them.

*<Please see Section 20, Guidance for Educational Visits & Off-site Activities>*

## **16. Local trip arrangements**

The school will follow the procedures outlined in the School Trips & Visits Procedures document. Staff will be supported by experienced colleagues when planning a trip and all procedures will be checked by the EVC coordinator.

## **17. Evaluation**

The Group Leader will evaluate the visit and report to the EVC. Details of visits will be shared at the Standards Committee of the Governing Body.

Sunning Hill is a Rights Respecting School and this policy relates to the following articles:

Article 3 - All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 19 - You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

*Our school aims to support all families and the wider community. Any queries or concerns regarding individual policies will be considered on an individual basis.*