



Educational Visit Planning and Approval Policy

POLICY OWNER: Health, Safety and Welfare Team

ISSUE DATE: January 2018

REVIEW DATE: January 2020

Educational Visit Planning & Approval Policy



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1. INTRODUCTION

Educational visits which occur off-site pose particular challenges when ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all involved. This will include pupils, staff and others affected by the activity. Early planning and approval is essential to identify any potential problems and risks that may occur. The health and safety of all involved in the activity is paramount, and as part of the planning for the activity, a full assessment of the hazards must be undertaken to identify and control risk to those participating in all school trips and activities.

It is essential that every person involved in the planning and running of Educational Visits is familiar with and understands the policy.

SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to schools where the council is the employer, referred to as “local authority schools”, who wish to provide educational visits for school pupils. This policy confirms the procedure for the planning and approval for educational visits. The policy lists the stages of the process required by the council and provides the required documentation.

AIMS

This policy:

- Defines what constitutes an educational visit, and whether a visit is off-site
- Identifies the key people in the planning and approval of the visit
- Provides forms for use in the planning and approval process for educational visits
- Ensures that the identified key people’s roles and responsibilities are clearly defined

RESPONSIBILITIES

The council will:

- Provide, review and update the policy and all associated documentation
- Monitor, as part of annual school audits, the implementation and use of this policy
- Review a sample of conducted visits during the annual audit to ensure compliance with the policy
- Liaise periodically with the Health and Safety Advisers to discuss any issues or problems

The Head Teacher will:

- Nominate a suitable senior member of staff to be the Educational Visit Coordinator (EVC) for their school
- Ensure that the EVC is trained and updated as necessary
- Keep oversight of all educational and off-site visits, and audit and review completed visits
- Provide assistance as needed to the council in their monitoring of compliance with the policy

The Educational Visit Co-ordinator will:

- Review Educational Visit Outline Plans and reject or approve as appropriate
- Review Educational Visit Plans and reject or approve as appropriate
- Liaise with their Health and Safety Adviser as necessary
- Ensure that they attend all training and updates as required by the Director of Childrens Services or their Head Teacher
- Escalate any concerns they may have to their headteacher.

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The Visit Leader will:

- Prepare the Educational Visit Outline Plan at least 8 weeks before the activity is due to take place
- Seek provisional authorisation from the Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC)
- Amend the Educational Visit Outline Plan as necessary to gain provisional approval from the EVC
- Prepare the Educational Visit Plan with the assistance and advice of the school's Health and Safety Adviser
- Submit the detailed plan for approval by the EVC
- Prepare risk assessments for the various aspects of the activities, including travel, accommodation and "Plan B" activities
- Ensure that all staff involved have the relevant competencies
- Ensure that any activity providers have been suitably vetted for health and safety competence
- Be trained in both risk assessment and dynamic risk assessment methodology to enable competent risk based decision making with emphasis on when things do not go as planned

The Group Leader(s) will:

- Be responsible for supervising some or all of the participants in the activity
- Ensure that the Educational Visit Plan is followed accurately

The school's Health and Safety Adviser will:

- Give advice to any of the people involved in the planning of any activity
- Advise on risk assessments related to the visit
- Be prepared to give robust, constructive criticism where necessary

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This document follows the principles set out by the Department for Education in relation to the health and safety responsibilities of schools for visits and trips (DfE 2014) and the detail contained within National Guidance, issued by the Outdoor Education Advisors Panel (www.oeapng.info)

Under the Health and Safety At Work etc Act 1974, employers are responsible for the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees. Employers are also under a duty of care to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of others on their premises or anyone who may be affected by their activities. By this definition, the local authority as employer has a duty of care to the local authority (community, special and voluntary controlled) schools, its staff, pupils and to members of the public who may be affected by Educational Visits.

The Management of Health and Safety At Work Regulations 1999 require employers to:

- assess the risks of their activities
- implement measures to control those risks
- tell their employees about these measures

Under health and safety legislation, employees must:

- take reasonable care of their own and others' health and safety
- co-operate with their employers over safety matters
- carry out activities in accordance with training and instructions
- inform the employer of any serious risks

3. Professional Duty of Care - "IN LOCO PARENTIS"

Schools have a common law duty towards pupils under the age of 18 known as "in loco parentis".

Brown v Nelson and others [1971] LGR 20 found that schools have a general duty to take reasonable steps for the safety of those under their charge and that they "discharge their duty of care if they know the premises and if the premises are apparently safe, and if they know that the premises are staffed by competent and careful persons."

This means that teaching staff must take the same care of their pupils both on and off-site that a parent would take in the same circumstances. However, the courts also recognise that teachers and other professionals holding professional responsibility for children have a 'higher' Duty of Care which comes with the professional status. This requires teachers and others to plan, manage and supervise children in the context of their professional role, and not simply as a parent might. A breach of this duty of care leading to injury to a student will be seen as indicative of negligence.

The principal applies to all members of staff, including non-teaching staff, who take responsibility for school pupils. Voluntary supervisors are also covered by this, although the law would expect a higher standard of care from the professionals because of their training and experience.

4. DBS CHECKS

Adults who regularly supervise children and young people would be undertaking regulated activity. Regulated activity, within the context of Children and Young People means any activity that includes the teaching, training, instruction, care advising and/or guiding and driving will require an enhanced DBS check to be undertaken.

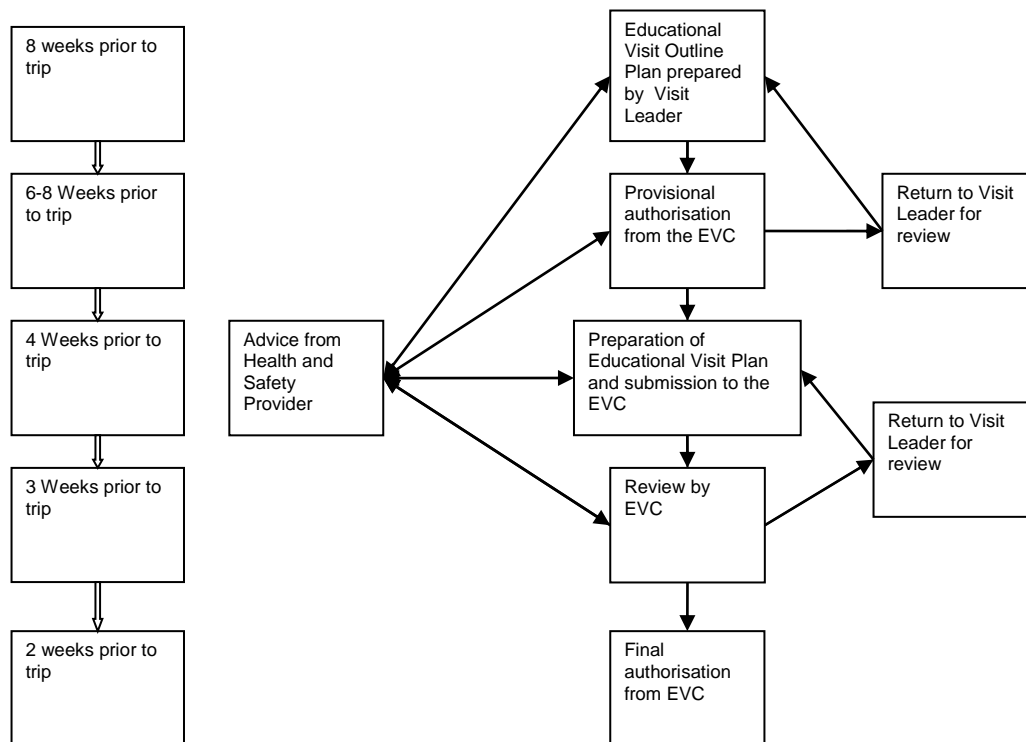
Parents or other workers who are accompanying visits and who are fully supervised by someone with an enhanced DBS check won't require a check to be undertaken. If it is not possible to guarantee that parents or other workers will be supervised by someone with an enhanced DBS check then they will require their own DBS check.

Guidance on regulated activity is available [here](#)

5. PREPARATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL VISIT PLAN

The completion of the Plan is a two stage approval and authorisation process. Provisional authorisation and approval is given by the EVC on receipt of an Outline Plan. At this stage, the activity organiser can start to prepare a full Educational Visit Plan. The Educational Visit Plan must be completed at least 2 weeks before any activity is scheduled to allow for proper consideration to be given and advice sought where necessary. The approval process is shown below and may be completed either through paper based systems or via the use of digital and on line systems such as EVOLVE

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Blank Educational Visit Outline Plan and Educational Visit Plan documents can be found at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE

The Activity Organiser and EVC must seek advice on health and safety issues from their chosen health and safety adviser prior to the submission of and final authorisation of the Educational Visit Plan. The health and safety adviser does not have the power to authorise or stop the activity as this responsibility rests primarily with the EVC and ultimately with the council. If the school intends to go ahead with the activity despite advice from their health and safety adviser, the EVC must notify the Health, Safety and Welfare Section at the council of their intent by phone (confirming the call in writing) prior to the proposed educational place taking place so that the matter and any associated risks can be assessed accordingly and any required action taken.

As the Health and Safety Adviser's contract is with the school, the adviser does not have a duty to inform the council of any issues around disregarded advice but should they wish to do so they should contact the Health, Safety and Welfare Section by email at hsassistance@iow.gov.uk.

7. INSURANCE

The Visit Leader must ensure that adequate insurance arrangements remain in place. Additional arrangements may be necessary to obtain insurance cover for activities abroad and activities of a potentially hazardous nature. The Visit Leader must contact the IWC's Insurance Team in good time via email at insurance@iow.gov.uk to confirm that the necessary cover is in place and is adequate. Copies of all certificates should be included in the Educational Visit Plan.

It should be noted that special insurance conditions apply to certain countries as outlined in appendix 6. If you are contemplating an educational activity in any of these countries please contact the Isle of Wight Council's insurance team for further advice.

8. TRANSPORT

When arranging the hiring of vehicles and drivers, the Visit Leader should check that the company used has appropriate insurance cover by obtaining written confirmation that the insurance policy applies to all people using the vehicle and all activities and journeys that are undertaken.

Privately owned vehicles should not be used unless in an emergency situation. Any staff or volunteers using their own vehicles must provide proof that their vehicle is safe, has a current MOT certificate and road tax, suitable and sufficient seat belts and that their insurance covers them for business use.

Where a minibus is being used and the driver isn't being provided by a professional company then the driver must have an in date valid MIDAS qualification.

All drivers must conform to the Council's work travel safety policy.

9. HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES

Hazardous activities must be led by appropriately qualified, competent and experienced staff. It is acceptable to use Group Leaders who are not employed by the school, but it is the responsibility of the Visit Leader to ensure that all Group Leaders are checked for competence, experience and their qualifications are verified. All Group Leaders who will be working unsupervised as part of the planned activity must have had an enhanced DBS check done in the last 3 years, and proof of that check should be obtained either directly from the Group Leader if self employed or in the form of a declaration from the employing company. The declaration should list the employees acting as Group Leaders, date of DBS check and whether any issues were raised on the check.

10. VISITS ABROAD

A Foreign Activities Checklist is available at Appendix 3.

11. SUPERVISION RATIOS

It is important to have a suitable ratio of Group Leaders to pupils for any visit. National Guidance recommends that as a baseline for low risk visits, there should be 1 adult for every 6 pupils in school years 1 to 3 (under 5s reception classes should have a higher ratio); 1 adult for every 10-15 pupils in school years 4 to 6 and 1 adult for every 15-20 pupils in school year 7 onwards. IWC has decided that this is appropriate guidance. When determining the ratio for a specific activity, consideration should be given to the following factors:

- sex, age and ability of the group
- pupils with a disability / learning difficulty
- nature of activities
- experience of adults in off-site supervision
- duration and nature of journey
- type of any accommodation
- competence of staff, both general and on specific activities
- requirements of the organisation/location to be visited
- competence and behaviour of students
- first aid cover

Where groups include pupils of both sexes, these must be accompanied by both male and female staff, with the following exceptions:

- where an educational visit involves a small group on an activity lasting less than 24 hours, and not involving an overnight stay

- where appropriate adult help is available at the group's venue and only the journey involves the presence of adults of one sex
- where an activity involves pupils working without direct supervision

It is acknowledged that there are occasions when it is appropriate for pupils to work in situations where they are not directly supervised in order to explore, however briefly, a carefully and clearly defined area. In such cases, particular care must be taken to ensure that pupils are appropriately trained, briefed and experienced for whatever is involved.

There must be appropriate emergency procedures and pupils must have the knowledge and ability to use them. Precisely what procedures are necessary depend upon the particular circumstances but these must be considered and agreed prior to undertaking the activity.

12. FIRST AID PROVISION

Details of first aid provision should form part of the Educational Visit Plan. There are no defined numbers of qualified first aiders that should be available on an activity, although consideration should be given to:

- numbers in the group and the nature of the activity
- likely injuries and how effective first aid would be
- distance to nearest hospital

Whatever decision is made, first aid should be available and accessible at all times.

13. ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES USING LICENSED PROVIDERS

When planning to use adventure activity facilities offered by a commercial company or by a local authority, the group leader should check:

- whether the provider is legally required to hold a licence for the activities it offers and, if so,
- that the provider actually holds a licence.

A licensed provider does not necessarily have to hold a licence for all its activities. Other activities may be accredited under non-statutory schemes. The provider can give information on what activities are licensed.

It is illegal for a provider of licensable status to offer a licensable activity without a licence. The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority can check on the licence status of a provider. Their contact details are as follows:

Adventure Activities Licensing Authority
17 Lambourne Crescent
Llanishen
Cardiff CF4 5GG

Tel: 01222 755715 Fax: 01222 755757

Web site address: <http://www.aala.org>

Please note that the proposal to abolish the AALA is currently on hold, and that the requirements to be licensed remain in force.

14. ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES USING NON-LICENSABLE PROVIDERS

Not all providers are required to hold a licence. Not holding a licence does not imply a lack of competence or disregard for safety.

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If proposing to use a non-licensable provider, the Visit leader should ensure that the provider is vetted for any potential health and safety issues. Advice should be taken from the school's health and safety provider.

15. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

A senior member of staff should be appointed to act as the group's contact out of school hours. This person should have a copy of the Educational Visit Plan. A copy of the Educational Visit Plan should be sent to the Health, Safety & Welfare Team at IWC for information who will liaise with Emergency Management at IWC in the event of an emergency.

National Guidance states, and IWC recommends that any emergency procedure should instruct the Group Leaders to:

- establish the nature and extent of the emergency as quickly as possible
- ensure that all the group are safe and looked after
- establish the names of any casualties and get immediate medical attention
- ensure that all group members who need to know are aware of the incident and that all group members are following the emergency procedures
- ensure that casualties are accompanied to hospital by a member of staff
- notify the police if necessary
- notify the British Embassy/Consulate if an emergency occurs abroad
- inform the school contact
- notify insurers
- notify the provider/tour operator
- ascertain telephone numbers for future calls
- write down accurately all relevant facts and witness details and preserve any vital evidence
- Take photographs if possible
- keep a written account of all events, times and contacts after the incident
- complete an accident report form as soon as possible
- no-one in the group should speak to the media
- no-one in the group should discuss legal liability with other parties

The main factors for the school contact to consider include:

- ensuring the group leader is in control of the emergency and establishing if any assistance is required from the school base
- contacting parents and keeping them as well informed as possible at all stages of the emergency
- liaise with the Head Teacher
- the reporting of the incident using appropriate forms if necessary (RIDDOR & Workrite)
- escalation for significant incidents such as coach, train, airplane crashes, hotel fires, etc.

In the event of an emergency, the Group Leader should contact the school contact. Any emergency situations arising on schools trips can be reported to emergency planning via Wightcare telephone 01983 821105 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). The school contact, who should normally report the emergency, should ask for the 'Emergency Management Duty Officer.' The emergency planning team will then liaise as necessary with the media, communications, police, emergency services, etc.

Appendix 1

Educational Visit Outline Plan

Educational Visit Outline Plan

Educational Visit Title	
Venue Contact Details	
Group Leader contact details	Name: _____ Department: _____ Telephone number: _____ Email address _____
Planned date and duration	Date: _____ Duration (days / hours): _____
Specific learning outcomes	
Means of transport	
Number & age group of children	
Number of staff	
Any other relevant information, including contingency plan	
Visit Leader	Signed: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____
Initial approval from Educational Visit Coordinator	Signed: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 2

Educational Visit Plan

Educational Visit Plan for:

.....

Date / Time from:	
Date / Time to:	

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Visit Leader:	
Job Title:	
Contact Details:	Phone: Email:
Plan completed by:	
Job Title:	
Educational Visit Coordinator:	
Approved?	Yes / No
Advice & Guidance Provided by Safety Advisor:	
Company / Organisation:	

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Venue	
Venue Contact Details	
Preliminary Visit Completed?	
Description of venue / part of venue where activity will take place	
Safety Coordinator at venue	
Specific learning aims and objectives	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Contingency "Plan B" (venue, risk assessments, outline plan)	
Number & age group of children (Attach copies of consent forms to rear of plan)	
Details of children with special needs / behavioural issues / medical problems (attach medical forms as necessary to rear of plan)	
Names of staff and roles at event including contact details (please attach relevant training certificates and other documentation to the rear of the plan)	
Schedule of Activity including Transport Details	

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First Aid Provision / accident & incident reporting arrangements	
Personal Protective Equipment / Safety Equipment required	
Are any hazardous substances to be used during the activity (please attach Safety Data Sheets)	Y / N Details:
Communication strategy during visit	
Missing / found children strategy	
Emergency Services Aware?	Police: Y/N Ambulance: Y/N Fire: Y/N Other: Y/N Details:
Additional documentation required	School Risk Assessments Venue Risk Assessments (including activity) Any relevant safe working procedures Insurance certificates Training Records / certificates Vehicle safety documentation First aid information

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Has advice been sought from the school's HS Provider?	Y/ N Date advice sought:
Details of any advice given:	
Visit Leader	Signed: Print Name: Date:
Final approval and authorisation from Educational Visit Coordinator	Signed: Print Name: Date:
Copy of Educational Visit Plan sent to Health, Safety & Welfare Team	Date sent Sent by:

Appendix 3

Foreign Activities Checklist

Foreign Activities Checklist

Language	Main language: Group Leader(s) fluent: Is English a second language?	
Visas	Is the visit to an EU country? Are visas required?	
Legislation	Are there any local restrictions on activities Are there any laws which participants and Group Leaders need to be aware of	
Culture	Are there any cultural issues affecting the trip? Are there any religious issues affecting the trip?	
Food & Drink	Is food and water safe to eat / drink? Is food and water outside of the hotel / residence safe to eat / drink?	
Money	Local currency: Other currencies accepted:	
Telephones	Main mobile network: Compatible UK Networks: Local Emergency number (999):	
Vaccinations	Any specific vaccinations required:	

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Insurance	Any personal insurance recommended / essential for participants / Group Leaders:	
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Language - It is recommended that at least one member of staff should know enough of the language to hold a basic conversation. It is also advisable for pupils to have a basic knowledge of the local language before the visit.

Visas/Passports - The group leader should ensure that all members of the group hold valid passports and visas (if appropriate).

Foreign Legislation - The group leader needs to check relevant legislation, particularly on health and safety e.g. fire regulations.

Culture - Body language, rules and regulations of behaviour, dress codes, local customs etc. that will be expected and which staff and pupils will need to be aware of.

Food and Drink - Group members should be warned of the dangers of drinking tap water in certain countries. In some countries it is safer to drink bottled water, and care needs to be taken with raw vegetables, salads and unpeeled fruit, raw shellfish, undercooked meat or fish.

Money - How to carry money and valuables discreetly. If larger amounts of money will be needed, it is advisable to take travellers cheques.

Telephones - How to use phones abroad, money required and code for phoning home.

Vaccinations - The group leader should find out whether vaccination is necessary and ensure all members of the group have received it in good time. Check whether the country to be visited requires proof of vaccination.

Insurance - The group leader must ensure that the group has comprehensive travel insurance appropriate to the visit.

Appendix 4

Emergency Contact List

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Emergency Contact List

Please distribute to all staff who must carry this list with them at all times.

Wightcare telephone 01983 821105 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

<i>Role / Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
Visit Leader		
Educational Visit Coordinator		
School Contact		
Group Leader		
Group Leader		
Group Leader		
Group Leader		
Assistant		
Assistant		
Assistant		
Assistant		
First Aid Contact		
Driver		
Driver		
Driver		
Venue Contact		
Hotel / Residence Contact		
British Embassy Contact		
Local Emergency Number		

Appendix 5

Completed Educational Visit Review Checklist

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Visit title:	Visit Date
Reviewer:	Date Reviewed

Pre-Visit Review

Action	Completed by	Date	Comments
Outline plan submitted			
Advice requested?			
Outline plan approved			
Detailed plan submitted			
Risk Assessments			
Competent people?			
Emergency planning?			
Advice Requested?			
Detailed plan approved			

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Post-Visit Review

		Comments
Did the visit take place?	Y / N	
Was Plan B needed?	Y / N	
Were there any unforeseen problems?	Y / N	
Were any children or staff injured or were there episodes of ill health?	Y / N	
Did the Activity Plan reflect the educational visit?	Y / N	
Did the risk assessments reflect the visit?	Y / N	
Were any changes or amendments needed to improve safety?	Y / N	

Signed:.....Date:.....

Once completed, please send to the Health, Safety and Welfare Section either by post to: County Hall, Newport, PO30 1UD or email to: hsassistance@iow.gov.uk

Appendix 6

Countries for Whom Special Insurance Considerations Apply

Countries for whom no insurance cover for kidnap and ransom is available:

Columbia
Iraq
Mexico
Nigeria
Philippines
Venezuela
Yemen

Countries for whom specific extra insurance terms and premiums will apply:

Afghanistan
Iraq
North Korea
Somalia
Chechnya

In addition to the list of countries above any territory which where an EU or OFAC sanction has been applied will also require special insurance notification. Please note that trips to areas covered by a sanction may not be insurable at all.