



THE PARK
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

Management of Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-Site Activities Policy

Policy Update

Policy Lead Person:	Headteacher
Approved By:	Local Governing Board
Next Review Date Due:	June 2021

- Staff *must* sign
- Staff *should* sign
- Governors *should* sign
- Publicly Available

1. Introduction

This policy covers all off-site visits and activities organised through the school and for which the Governing Board and Headteacher are responsible.

The Governing Board endorses the Devon County Council /Torbay Council policy document "*Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-Site Activities Health and Safety Policy 2018*" (OEVOSA) as the basis for the school's policy for the management of visits and off-site activities. The purpose of this policy is to explain *how* the overall OEVOSA policy will be applied in practical terms at a local level, and in particular, the specific roles, responsibilities and arrangements that will apply at The Park Community School. This policy also complements and should be read in conjunction with the school's Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policies.

The Governing Board seeks to ensure that every pupil has access to a wide range of educational experiences as an entitlement. As part of this entitlement the Governing Board recognises the significant educational value of visits and activities which take place away from the immediate school environment.

The Governing Board aims to enable this school to become an educational environment in which all members of the school community can thrive, regardless of race, religion, culture, gender or individual need. We intend to apply this aim to the planning and management of all visits and off-site activities.

Visits and off-site activities support, enrich and extend the curriculum in many subject areas, encourage co-operation, team work and the application of problem solving skills and develop independence and self-confidence.

Residential opportunities, physical challenge and adventure can have a particular part to play in the development of personal and social qualities for all young people. Outdoor education helps young people to be physically active and to understand how to assess and manage risk.

The management of visits and off-site activities places particular responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of all participants on the Governing Board, Headteacher, EVC, the party leader, members of staff and volunteers, pupils and parents. The school also has responsibilities to other members of the public and to third parties. This policy on visits and off-site activities therefore complements the wider school health and safety policy.

It is a priority of this school that all visits and off-site activities are safe, well-managed and educationally beneficial.

2. **Responsibilities of the Headteacher**

The Headteacher will:

- ensure all visits and off-site activities have specific and appropriate educational objectives;

- have overall responsibility for the approval of all visits and activities, based on compliance with the OEVOSA document and recognised good practice, even where this task may have been delegated to another named person;
- ensure that all off-site visits, and especially residential visits, are carried out with reference to the Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct;
- ensure that there is a suitably experienced and competent Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) to oversee adherence to the OEVOSA policy and that the tasks associated with this role are clearly outlined in this policy;
- ensure off-site programmes are led by competent staff who are appropriately experienced to assess the risks, manage the activity and manage the specific group;
- provide relevant induction, training and other Continuous Professional Development opportunities for staff involved in the provision of visits and off-site activities;
- ensure that for all off-site visits and activities risks have been assessed, the significant findings of these assessments recorded and any appropriate safety measures implemented accordingly .

3. Responsibilities of the Educational Visits Co-ordinator

Although holding the ultimate responsibility, the Headteacher has delegated specified tasks to a suitably experienced and competent EVC. The EVC is responsible for carrying out the following agreed tasks and attending the relevant training and update training provided by the Local Authority (LA).

Name of EVC: Libby Tanton-Joy

The functions delegated to the EVC are:

- to be the principal contact with the LA over planned visits;
- to establish monitoring systems to ensure that educational visits are undertaken in accordance with OEVOSA and the school specific arrangements named in this policy;
- to ensure that the management of visits and off-site activities is informed by an appropriate risk assessment;
- to draw up the Standard Operating Procedures for 'routine and regular' visits and activities;
- to manage and update the Evolve website, including updating staff lists and training record;s
- to ensure that approval and endorsement arrangements for all visits are in accordance with OEVOSA requirements;
- to provide staff with support, advice and information that they need to comply with OEVOSA requirements;
- to ensure that leaders and staff have any relevant qualifications and are competent to lead and support particular visits and activities as outlined in OEVOSA;
- to ensure that procedures to inform parents and to obtain their consent where necessary are in place;
- to ensure that appropriate emergency arrangements are in place for visits and off-site activities;
- to review accident and incident reports relating to visits and off-site activities to ensure that any lessons are learnt;
- to ensure that any third party provider / contractor / coach has been vetted for competence in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA.

4. Responsibilities of the Visit Leader

The Visit Leader will:

- have overall responsibility for the supervision and conduct of the visit or activity;
- obtain approval for the visit, in line with OEVOSA, and the specific arrangements of this policy prior to undertaking the activity;
- assess the risks to staff, young people and members of the public presented by the visit or activity in order to identify and implement any safety measures. This process will be undertaken in line with the arrangements described in section 8 of this policy;
- carry out specific activities in accordance with the detail of OEVOSA ;
- use the school planning checklist provided in OEVOSA to ensure all procedures have been followed;
- vet any third party provider / contractor / coach for competence in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA;
- brief all supervising staff, volunteers and pupils in roles, responsibilities and expectations;
- inform parents about the visit and gain their consent in accordance with the arrangements described in OEVOSA;
- establish appropriate emergency and contingency arrangements for the planned visit or activity which will include the identification of sufficient First Aid cover;
- continually re-assess risks during the activity and make adjustments accordingly;
- ensure emergency contact numbers are shared with EVC, School Office, visit staff and, where appropriate, with students.

5. Responsibilities of additional members of staff taking part in visits and off-site activities

Members of staff, volunteers and parent helpers should:

- assist the Visit Leader to ensure the health, safety and welfare of others including young people on the visit.;
- take time to understand their roles and responsibilities whilst taking part in a visit or activity.

6. Responsibilities of pupils

Whilst taking part in off-site activities pupils also have responsibilities about which they should be made aware by the Visit Leader or other members of staff, for their own health and safety and that of the group. Young people should:

- avoid unnecessary risks;
- follow instructions of the party leader and other members of staff.;
- behave sensibly, keeping to any agreed code of conduct;
- inform a member of staff of safety concerns.

7. Responsibilities of parents

Parents have an important role in deciding whether any visit or off-site activity is suitable for their child. Subject to their agreement to the activity parents should:

- support the application of any agreed code of conduct;
- inform the party leader about any medical, psychological or physical condition relevant to the visit.;

- provide an emergency contact number;
- provide consent in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA.

8. Risk Assessment

The school is committed to a wide variety of outdoor activities, many of which will be repeated over each academic year where the risks will be very similar or the same. Therefore, when visits are 'routine and regular' in that they occur repeatedly each academic year, the measures taken to control these risks are listed in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). These are the control measures that will apply to all such visits and off-site activities and have been drawn up by the EVC and will be brought to the attention of anyone undertaking the role of Visit Leader.

In assessing the risks presented by a planned visit or activity, the Visit Leader must judge if the SOP are adequate for controlling the risks. For each visit/activity, the SOP document will be generated online and the Visit Leader will *either* confirm these as adequate for the proposed visit/activity *or* the additional control measures needed will be listed in the final enhanced risk assessment column.

Any ad hoc visit which is not repeated regularly, plus any activities delivered by school staff falling within the definition of Category B, will have a separate stand-alone risk assessment, as will any overseas Category C visit. This process will be undertaken by the Visit Leader who, whilst being supported by the EVC, will be competent and equipped to complete this task. To meet statutory requirements and to ensure sufficient communication with other staff involved a risk assessment will be recorded using the risk assessment format

9. Approval of off-site activities

The Headteacher will be responsible for approving all off-site activities subject to assurances that arrangements are in line with this policy and risks are adequately controlled. This includes approving the Visit Leader for each visit or off-site activity.

There are 3 categories of visit:

Category A:

Non-adventurous visits i.e. visits to local places of worship, farms, public places etc

Non-adventurous residential visits i.e. cultural visits to towns/cities etc

Category B:

Adventurous visits where activities are *delivered* by school staff (i.e. Ten Tors, kayaking etc)

Adventurous day visits led by external providers (i.e. visits to climbing centres, a pony trekking centre etc)

Adventurous residential visits to outdoor centres

Category C:

Visits of all types outside the UK

In-line with the requirements of OEVOSA, details of Category B and C visits will be uploaded onto the Evolve on-line system to facilitate the approval by the Headteacher ahead of final endorsement by the Local Authority Adviser for Outdoor Education.

The policy of *The Park Community School* is that Category A visits will be uploaded to the Evolve system.

10. Safeguarding

The safety and welfare of children is paramount. In the event of a safeguarding issue or concern being identified during the trip or visit, the visit leader should follow the school's child protection/safeguarding policy and procedures. All staff and volunteers on the trip should be made aware of these before the trip or activity takes place. Arrangements should be in place to enable contact with the school's Designated Safeguarding Officer outside normal school hours if necessary. Contact details should be communicated to all staff/volunteers on the trip (as well as the visit leader) in case the safeguarding concern is about the visit leader.

11. The provision of training and information

A copy of this policy, along with the overall OEVOSA document, will be made available to all staff within the school who may be responsible for participating in off-site visits and activities and to any parent requesting a copy. Access will also be made available to the overarching OEVOSA policy, and additional guidance information, via the Babcock LDP website: www.babcock-education.co.uk/ldp

The Headteacher will ensure that staff leading or participating in visits are competent for the activities involved. When required, specific training will be undertaken and competencies maintained in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA. This process will be overseen by the EVC and records of qualifications will be uploaded to the Evolve system.

12. Action in the case of emergency

The Headteacher/EVC will ensure that emergency arrangements are in place before approving visits. The Visit Leader will identify these arrangements via a process of risk assessment as described in section 8 above. Where necessary, this assessment must include the identification of contingency plans. It will also include the identification of sufficient First Aiders, as well as emergency contact details which must include a school contact for outside normal hours if necessary. Any accidents and incidents that occur during off-site visits and activities will be reported and recorded in accordance with the school health and safety policy. Accidents and incidents will subsequently be reviewed within the school to identify any learning points.

13. Monitoring and review

The Governing Board will monitor the application of this policy in operational practice by receiving reports at Resources Committee and seek further clarification if needed.

The Governors will review this policy:

- Every two years
- After any significant changes to the management of outdoor education locally
- After any significant changes to the OEVOSA document
- After an incident

Guidelines for off-site activities involving overseas travel, Year 7 and 10 residential visits or financial commitment from parents above £100

Once approval has been sought and gained for activities in the above named category the following guidelines must be followed:

1. Visit leaders must set out a specific time frame for payments in a letter with clear statements about non-refundable deposits as soon as pupils are given a place on the trip.
THIS MUST HAPPEN BEFORE ANY PAYMENTS ARE MADE.
AT THIS STAGE PUPILS ARE REGISTERING AN INTEREST ONLY.
2. Financial arrangements must be set out on a costings sheet and submitted to the Finance team and to the Educational Visits Coordinator with the Off Site Activities pack. The Finance team will then add the trip to the Wise Pay account.
3. Staff must have a clear ratio of 1:10 staffing or whatever is demanded by the receiving establishment. Any other staffing ratio must be approved by the Headteacher.
4. All staffing on year group residentials must be negotiated with the Educational Visits coordinator prior to publication of staffing. No member of staff should be promised a place on residential visits until that time as this may depend upon:
 - Gender balance of staff and students.
 - Balance of experience of accompanying adults.
 - Medical conditions/ Special Educational Needs of specific students.
 - Willingness of current tutors and attached Teaching Assistants of the year group in question to accompany their tutor group. Priority will be given to these staff.
5. No staff should be accompanying trips as a “private individual” unless they are prepared to take their fair share of responsibility and supervise pupils and **MUST** pay the full rate for whatever they participate in. Students cannot fund a private individual style placement under any circumstances.
6. If student numbers begin to reduce during the lead up to the trip and no other students take up spare places, the EVC must be informed as soon as the staffing ratio and/or financial arrangements are compromised.
7. The trip leader **MUST** alert the EVC as soon as parents default on payment schedules.
8. A guidance document is prepared for staff irrespective of their past experience in accompanying visits by the leader of the visit.
9. For trips costing under £100, where there is likely to be a large over- subscription of students, then no money must be collected until a firm offer of place has been given and the Finance team has set up the Wise Pay account.

June 2019

