



High March

EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

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This policy applies to the Early Year Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Useful Websites that will aid in planning for Educational Visits

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-advice-for-schools
http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/school-trips.pdf
https://edufocus.co.uk/pages/kaddi.asp Use this to look for Quality badge on listed venues for trips.
https://www.lotc.org.uk/resources/education-resources/ The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom is a registered charity existing to champion learning outside the classroom (LOtC).
https://oeapng.info/about-national-guidance/#1629973180682-ed60ecab-c93e The OEAP is the lead body for guidance, advice and training related to outdoor learning and educational visits in England and Wales.

HIGH MARCH EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

Rationale

Well planned and executed educational visits develop knowledge and skills that enrich classroom learning and are an essential element of good primary practice. The educational visits we provide are integral to our pupils learning and development. We arrange day trips to a wide range of venues as well as residential trips within the UK and abroad.

Purposes

Educational visits provide a wide range of outcomes – including improvements to academic achievement, personal development and behaviour. They enable pupils to achieve a fuller understanding of the world around them through direct experience. The purpose of an educational visit can be as a stimulus to further study, to support and enhance the work being covered as part of the school curriculum and provide outdoor and adventurous activities.

We aim to provide opportunities to:

- a) Build self-confidence
- b) Develop resilience
- c) Promote health and well being
- d) Contribute to social and emotional awareness
- e) Deepen their understanding of the environment
- f) Broaden horizons
- g) Extend cultural knowledge
- h) Develop new physical and mental skills
- i) Highlight personal qualities
- j) Provide opportunities to learn life skills
- k) Be enjoyable!

All planned visits should ensure educational benefits are maximised.

1. Responsibilities

a) Headmistress

The Headmistress has overall responsibility for the Educational Visits at the School. The Headmistress oversees the work of the Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC).

b) Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC)

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC), Assistant Head Co-Curriculum is responsible for ensuring that:

- a) Training needs of all staff involved in Educational Visits have been met.
- b) All staff have access to the Educational Visits planning documents on Teams.
- c) A Group Leader with appropriate experience, organisational skills and qualifications, if they are an instructor, has been appointed.
- d) All necessary planning steps have been completed in advance of visits taking place.
- e) All planning documents have been completed in the appropriate shared Educational Visits folder on Teams.
- f) The visit planning has been checked and signed off as safe to go ahead.
- g) All supervisors on the visit are appropriate people to supervise children and have appropriate clearance.
- h) The governing body has approved the visit if necessary.
- i) Parents have given written consent either for the specific visit or within a blanket permission given in the pupil's Parental Consent and Contact Details Form.

- j) Arrangements have been made for all the medical needs and special educational needs of all the children.
- k) The mode of travel is appropriate.
- l) There is adequate and relevant insurance cover.
- m) The school office has a copy of the Trips Itinerary which includes the address and phone number of the visit's venue and have a contact name.
- n) The school office has the names of all the adults and pupils in the travelling group, and the contact details of parents and the staff's and next of kin.
- o) The visit's venue has confirmed that it is GDPR compliant.

c) Group Leader

One teacher, the Group Leader, is responsible overall for the supervision and conduct of the visit. For visits involving EYFS children a paediatric first aider will be in attendance. The Group Leader should:

- a. Appoint a deputy
- b. Be able to control and lead pupils of the relevant age range
- c. Be suitably qualified if instructing an activity and be conversant in the good practice for that activity if not
- d. Undertake and complete the planning and preparation of the visit including the briefing of group members and parents
- e. Undertake and complete a comprehensive risk assessment using the Risk Assessment template [Risk Assessment Template](#)
- f. Have regard to the health and safety of the group at all times, including having full details of any individual pupil requirements and be responsible for ensuring any required medication is carried safely and instructions on use are understood. E.g. adrenaline pens, inhalers etc.
- g. Know all the pupils proposed for the visit to assess their suitability
- h. Observe the guidance set out for teachers and other adults below
- i. Ensure that pupils understand their responsibilities (see responsibilities of pupils below)

d) Other teachers and adults involved in a visit

Teachers on school-led visits act as ambassadors of the school. They will therefore be acting in the course of their normal employment during their normal hours. If some of their time on the visit falls outside normal hours they will continue to represent the school and will be working with the express and implied agreement of the Headmistress on behalf of the school.

Teachers and other adults on the visit must:

- a. Do their best to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the group
- b. Care for each individual pupil following School policy
- c. Follow the instructions of the leader and help with control and discipline.
- d. Non-school staff may not have sole charge of a group of pupils.
- e. Consider stopping the visit or the activity if they reasonably consider the risk to the health or safety of the pupils in their charge is unacceptable

e) Responsibilities of pupils and pupils' behaviour

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

- a) Not take unnecessary risks
- b) Follow the instructions of the leader and other adults
- c) Dress and behave sensibly and responsibly
- d) Look out for anything that might hurt or threaten anyone in the group and tell the Group

Leader about it

- e) Should not undertake any task that they fear or that they think will be dangerous

Any 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 should be fulfilled in other ways.

f) Parents

The Group Leader should ensure that parents are given information about the purpose and details of the visit and are invited to any briefing sessions for residential visits.

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

Special arrangements will be made to ensure this information is accessible for all parents including those with sight or hearing impairment or for whom English is a second language.

2. Types of Educational Visits

Any of the following types of visits requires careful planning to take place.

- a) **Local off-site visits.** These include short local trips such as visits to a local supermarket another local school, a walk around local street for mapping activity.
- b) **One day, within curriculum hours visits.** These include trips where transport is needed to visit the venue and will take part away from school for most of the school day.
- c) **Visits beyond normal curriculum hours.** These include visits such as theatre trips, competitions with other schools, musical activities that may take place at the weekend or after school hours.
- d) **Residential visits.** These include any trip that involves using accommodation overnight.
- e) **Sporting Fixtures.** These include visits to other schools for sports competitions which can take place in and out of normal curriculum hours.

3. Planning off-site visits

A system has been implemented to ensure all educational visits follow a consistent planning procedure. The Group Leader must agree all plans with the Educational Visits Co-ordinator. Staff can find the following in the Educational Visits Team area [here](#). Group leaders are provided with the following template documents to assist them with the planning of their Educational Visit.

- a) Planning Checklists,
Educational Visits Checklist
Residential trip checklist
Sports Fixture, Competition, Festival or Concert Check lists

A Checklist is provided to ensure important steps are completed and deadlines for completion are followed.

- b) Booking Form template
- c) Risk Assessment templates
- d) Parental letter template

- e) Itinerary templates

a) Risk Assessments

A Risk Assessment must always be carried out before setting off on a visit. All group leaders should use the School's Risk Assessment Template. The Risk Assessment will decide the adult: child ratio for each visit. (See Guidance under 'Supervision').

the Group leaders should also obtain Risk Assessment from venues for specific activities and add these to the planning document folders.

The Group Leader and other supervisors should continually reassess the risks throughout the visit and take appropriate action if pupils are in danger.

The Group Leader should take the following factors into consideration when assessing the risks:

- a) The type of activity and the level at which it is being undertaken
- b) The location
- c) The competence, experience and qualifications of supervisory staff
- d) The group members' age, competence, fitness and temperament
- e) Pupils with special educational or medical needs
- f) The quality and suitability of available equipment
- g) Seasonal conditions, weather and timing
- h) If pupils are taken to an activity centre, then the Group Leader must check the provider holds the required licenses from The Adventure Licensing Regulations 2004 prior to the visit. Activities covered under these regulations include caving, trekking, climbing and water sports.

b) Exploratory visit

Wherever possible and particularly for new venues the Group Leader should undertake an exploratory visit to:

- a) Ensure that the venue is suitable to meet the aims and objectives of the school visit.
- b) Assess potential areas and levels of risk.
- c) Ensure that the venue can cater for the needs of the staff and pupils in the group.
- d) Ensure that the Group Leader is familiar with the area before taking a party of young people.

If it is not feasible to carry out an exploratory visit, a minimum measure should be to contact the venue, seeking assurances about the venue's appropriateness for the visiting group. In addition, it may be worth seeking views from other schools who have recently visited the venue. In some cases, such as when taking walking parties to remote areas, it may be appropriate to obtain local information from the Tourist Boards.

c) First Aid

First Aid provision should be considered when assessing the risks of the visit.

The Group Leader will know what the first aid provision is at a venue and where it is located prior to the visit and this information is shared with all staff on the trip, including for overnight stays the address and telephone number of the nearest hospital.

For adventurous activities, visits which involve overnight stays, or visits abroad. it is essential to have at least one trained first aider in the group, and that the provider has suitable access to full first aid facilities. The Group Leader should have a working knowledge of first aid and

all adults in the group should know how to contact emergency services.

The minimum first-aid provision is:

- a) A fully qualified first aider amongst the school staff attending the visit who will be in charge of first aid arrangements.
- b) In the case of visits involving EYFS children, a paediatric first aider must be in attendance.
- c) A High March trips first-aid kit. These kits are checked and restocked before and after each trip by the school Medical and Welfare Officer.
- d) Group Leaders should check the names of all pupils participating with the Medical and Welfare Officer to discuss any medical needs there might be. Where a pupil has specific medical needs, it may be deemed necessary for a member of the welfare team trained to support the pupil or their parent to accompany the visit.

First-aid should be available and accessible at all times. If a first aider is attending to one member of the group, there should be adequate first-aid cover for the other pupils. The Group Leader should take this into account when assessing what level of first-aid facilities will be needed. The contents of the first-aid kit will depend on what activities are planned.

4. Supervision

It is important to have a sufficient ratio of adult supervisors to pupils for any off-site visit.

The factors to take into consideration include:

- a) Sex, age and ability of group
- b) Special needs pupils
- c) Nature of activities
- d) Experience of adults in off-site supervision
- e) Duration and nature of the journey
- f) Type of any accommodation
- g) Competence of staff, both general and on specific activities

There should always be enough supervisors to cope effectively with an emergency. When visits are to remote areas or involved hazardous activities, the risks may be greater and supervision levels should be set accordingly.

a) Ratios

Regardless of these suggested ratios, each visit will be assessed individually through the school's risk assessment procedure for educational visits.

The following ratios should be regarded as starting points for consideration rather than being definitive, as they may only be appropriate where the activity is relatively straightforward, and the group has no special requirements.

(The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (2017) updated 2021 no longer sets out different requirements for minimum ratios during outings from those required on site. The appropriate ratio on an outing is always likely to be better than the legal minimum that applies otherwise (either 1:8 or 1:13 in early years settings and 1:30 in infant classes in maintained schools).

The following "starting point" ratios are suggested:

- EYFS: may be as low as: 1:2
- School Years 1 – 3: 1:5 – 1: 8
- School Years 4 – 6: 1:10/15
- Residential Trips: 1:8

Where a high adult: pupil ratio is required, it is not always feasible to use school staff alone. Parents or other adults with appropriate clearance may be used to supplement the supervision ratio. They should be carefully selected and ideally, they should be well known to the school and the pupil group.

b) Vetting Checks

The Group Leader must check with the venue and indicate on the Outings Form and the Risk Assessment whether the staff that will be working with the children at the venue have been DBS checked.

The Group Leader must list the names of all parent and volunteer helpers on the Risk Assessment Form for the outing and the itinerary.

If undertaking regulated activity, parent and volunteer helpers, for residential trips, or trips involving an overnight stay must have a valid enhanced DBS disclosure certificate and should also have completed safeguarding training.

In visits within curriculum hours helpers will be supervised at all times and are not involved in personal care. The Group Leader must risk assess to ensure there will not be any unsupervised access to any of the children on the trip by the parent or volunteer. Teaching staff retain responsibility for the group at all times.

All adult supervisors, including School staff and parent / volunteer helpers must understand their roles and responsibilities at all times.

c) Taking of photographs on school outings and use of mobile phones:

The Group Leader must ask all parent and volunteer helpers, kindly to adhere to the following guidance regarding the taking of photographs on school outings:

- a) Do not distribute or publish photographs and videos if they include any children other than your own.
- b) Do not post any images or videos on social networking websites
- c) Do observe the terms of the School's Mobile Phone and Images Policy
- d) All communication with parents about the trip e.g. social media, delayed return will be done through school comms.

d) Qualifications

If the School is leading an adventure activity, such as canoeing, the group leader must ensure that the Activity Leader and other supervisors are suitably qualified to lead and instruct the activity before they agree that the visit can take place. Qualifications can be checked with the National Governing Body of each sporting activity.

Group leaders should also gather information from venues about the qualifications of those leading adventurous activity, this is part of the risk assessment.

e) Safety

Whatever the length and nature of the visit, regular head counting of pupils should take place. The Group Leader should establish rendezvous points and tell pupils what to do if they become separated from the party.

5. Preparing Pupils

Providing information and guidance to pupils is an important part of preparing for a school visit. Pupils should have a clear understanding about what is expected of them and what the visit will entail. Pupils must understand what standard of behaviour is expected of them and why rules must be followed. The lack of control and discipline can be a major contributory factor when accidents occur. Pupils should also be told about any potential dangers and how they should act to ensure their own and other's safety.

Pupils should be involved in planning, implementing and evaluating their own curricular work and have opportunities to take different roles within an activity. This could include considering any health and safety issues.

a) Participation

Pupils should be assessed to ensure that they are capable of undertaking the proposed activities. During the visit they should not be coerced into activities they fear.

Pupils whose behaviour is such that the Group Leader is concerned for their, or others' safety, should be withdrawn from the activity. On residential visits the Group Leader should consider whether such pupils will return home early.

b) Information to pupils

It is for the Group Leader to decide how to provide information, but they should be satisfied that the pupils understand key safety information. Pupils should understand:

- a) The aims and objectives of the visit / activity
- b) Background information about the place to be visited
- c) How to avoid specific dangers and why they should follow rules
- d) Why safety precautions are in place
- e) Why special safety precautions are in place for anyone with disabilities
- f) What standard of behaviour is expected from pupils
- g) Who is responsible for the group?
- h) What to do if approached by a stranger
- i) What to do if separated from the group
- j) EYFS and KS1 pupils will be given a sticky label (under their collar) with the group leaders contact details, in case of separation.
- k) Emergency procedures
- l) Rendezvous procedures

c) Transport, travel and pupils

Pupils using transport on a visit should be made aware of basic safety rules outlined in the Risk Assessment. These should include:

- a) Arrive on time and wait for the transport away from the road, track, etc.
- b) Do not rush towards the transport when it arrives
- c) Wear your seatbelt and stay seated while travelling on transport
- d) Make sure your bags do not block aisles on the transport
- e) Never attempt to get on or off the moving transport

- f) Never throw things out of the transport vehicle's windows
- g) Never get off a vehicle held up by traffic lights or in traffic
- h) Never run about while transport is moving or pass someone on steps or stairs
- i) Never kneel or stand on seats or otherwise impede the driver's vision
- j) Never distract or disturb the driver
- k) Stay clear of automatic doors / manual doors after boarding or leaving the transport
- l) After leaving the vehicle, always wait for it to move off before crossing the road
- m) If you have to crossroads to get to the transport, always use the Green Cross Code
- n) If you feel unwell while travelling, tell a teacher or the person who is otherwise responsible for the group
- o) If a large group of pupils is involved in walking any distance, there should be an adult at the front and rear of the group. The adults should stop at all road crossings. Generally, it is best to walk in "crocodile" unless older pupils and small numbers are involved.
- p) According to circumstances the Group Leader will decide whether singing and/or eating may be permitted.
- q) In all cases the Group Leader should be provided with a litter bag in which to collect rubbish at the end of a trip and be provided with a "sick" bag.
- r) Suitable toilet and refreshments stops should be arranged.
- s) Rush hour travel should be avoided and reservations made in advance, where possible.

d) Pupils with special educational and medical needs

The Headmistress will not exclude pupils with special educational or medical needs from school visits. Every effort should be made to accommodate them whilst maintaining the safety of everyone on the visit. Special attention should be given to appropriate supervision ratios and additional safety measures may need to be addressed at the planning stage.

6. Communicating with Parents / Guardians

Parents need to be aware that the teachers on the visit will be acting in their place – 'in loco parentis' – and will be exercising the same care that a prudent parent would. The following information on matters that might affect pupils' health and safety is useful to parents and will be included in a letter to parents / guardians prior to a visit: as outlines on letter to parents.

- a. Dates of the visit
- b. Times of departure and return
- c. Mode(s) of travel
- d. Visit's objectives
- e. Details of the activities planned
- f. Clothing and equipment to be taken
- g. Amount and currency of any money to be taken

Residential trips have additional details to include.

- a) Mode(s) of travel including the name of any travel company
- b) Names of leader, or other staff and of other accompanying adults
- c) Details of accommodation with security and supervisory arrangements on site
- d) Details of the activities planned and of how the assessed risks will be managed
- e) Insurance taken out for the group as a whole in respect of luggage, accident, cancellation and medical cover. Any cover should be arranged by the parents, if appropriate, will be requested.
- f) The information to be given by parents and what they will be asked to consent to

Parental consent

A blanket consent permission is signed on enrolment to the school for visits within School hours for Reception to Year 6 for the duration of their tenure at High March.

Parents are always informed in writing about off site visits which are not weekly activities. e.g. walking to sports venues. Parents are referred to the terms of the Parental Consent and The Emergency Contact Details Form and to the School's Privacy Notices for Pupils and Parents.

For visits involving Nursery children, parents must be informed in writing about the visit and invited to give parental consent. Parental consent must be sought for all nursery off-site visits. This is not covered by the Emergency Contact forms.

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

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

7. Planning Transport

The Bursar, in conjunction with the EVC, is responsible for ensuring that coaches and buses are hired from a reputable company. Professional operators of buses and coaches are legally required to be licensed. Schools using operators to transport pupils should ensure that the operators have the appropriate public service vehicle (PSV) operators' licence. When booking transport, the Bursar should ensure that seat belts are available for pupils. Whilst seat belts must be fitted on coaches which carry groups of children, they are not legally required on buses. Coaches fitted with 3-point seatbelts are to be requested for all trips.

If any of the group use a wheelchair, the Group Leader should ensure that transport used has appropriate access and securing facilities. It may be appropriate to use portable ramps.

Drivers of any vehicle must ensure that they have the correct entitlement on their licence.

The Group Leader, with reference as necessary to the EVC must give careful thought to planning transport. The main factors to consider include:

- a) Passenger safety
- b) Type of journey - will the visit take place locally or will it include long distance driving i.e. motorways?
- c) Traffic conditions
- d) Contingency funds and arrangements in case of breakdown/emergency
- e) Appropriate insurance cover
- f) Weather
- g) Journey time and distance
- h) Stopping points on long journeys for toilet and refreshments
- i) Supervision
- j) The driver is responsible for the vehicle during the visit

Seat belts

All minibuses and coaches which carry groups of three or more children aged between 3 and 15 years inclusive must be fitted with a seat belt for each child. The seats must face forward and seat restraints must comply with legal requirements. The Group Leader or another delegated supervisor should check that all pupil seat belts are fastened.

Supervision on transport

The level of supervision necessary should be considered as part of the risk assessment for the journey. The Group Leader is responsible for the party at all times including maintaining good discipline.

The driver should never be responsible for supervision. All group members should be made aware of the position of the emergency and first aid and anti-fire equipment on transport. A Staff member should be sat near to the emergency door to man this in an emergency. The Group Leader should also be aware of alternative routes or means of travel in the event of delay or cancellation.

The Group Leader should consider the following when planning supervision on transport:

- a. Level of supervision that will be necessary on double-decker buses/coaches - one supervisor on each deck should be appropriate in normal circumstances.
- b. Safety when crossing roads as part of the journey.
- c. The Group Leader should ensure that pupils know how to observe the safety rules set out in the Highway Code and the Green Cross Code.
- d. Pedestrian crossings and traffic lights or footbridges should be used to cross roads, whenever possible.
- e. Safety on buses, trains, ferries and boats – the Group Leader should make clear to pupils how much or little freedom they have to ‘roam’.
- f. Appropriate supervision and discipline should be maintained at all times. Pupils should also be made aware of what to do in an emergency and where emergency procedures are displayed.
- g. Safety of pupils whilst waiting at pick-up and drop-off points and when getting on or off transport, particularly when using UK vehicles abroad.
- h. Pupils should be made aware of safety rules and expected standards of behaviour.
- i. Safety of the group in the event of an accident or breakdown the group should remain under the direct supervision of the Group Leader or other teachers wherever possible.
- j. Head counts, by the Group Leader or another delegated teacher or supervisor, should always be carried out when the group is getting off or onto transport pupils should be made aware that they are not allowed access to the driving area at any time.
- k. Group members should be made aware that travel sickness tablets should only be administered to a pupil with previous authorisation from the parents.

Private cars

Any member of staff transporting a pupil in their own vehicle must have a valid driving licence for the vehicle concerned, be duly insured by their insurance company for Business Use, and the vehicle must have a valid MoT certificate (All of which the School has copies of).

We do not permit parents to transport any pupil to events for the school.

Parents may arrange between themselves the transportation of children and inform the school of the arrangements and they do so at their own risk.

School minibus driver

The minibus driver is responsible for the vehicle during the visit and must be competent to drive a minibus and have the appropriate valid driving licence.

The Driver should only be responsible for driving. A second staff member should be on the minibus responsible for supervision.

The minibus driver must:

- a) Undertake a visual inspection of the vehicle before driving to identify any potential faults
- b) Not drive when taking medication or undergoing treatment that might affect their ability or judgement
- c) Know what to do in an emergency
- d) Know how to use firefighting and first-aid equipment
- e) Avoid driving for long periods and ensure that rests are taken when needed
- f) Clarify and comply with transport regulations and the requirements of the vehicle's insurance cover
- g) Take into consideration the effects of teaching and the working day
- h) Have regular, full medical checks.

Maintenance and checks of the School Minibuses

The Bursar, on delegation from the Headmistress will be responsible for the school minibuses and reports to the Headmistress, EVC and Directors as appropriate any issues arising in connection with the school minibuses. The Bursar will arrange for regular maintenance checks to be carried out on the minibuses. A formal termly maintenance check is recorded prior to the commencement of each term. Periodic checks on the vehicles' condition are also carried out during the course of the term.

The Bursar should:

- a) Check the vehicles condition on a regular basis
- b) Ensure proper servicing by a reputable garage
- c) Maintain the service history, insurance and other relevant documents
- d) Check with the Headmistress before allowing anyone not so authorised to drive the vehicles
- e) Ensure that any member of staff driving the minibuses are competent and have undertaken suitable training as required
- f) Always be informed before staff use the school minibuses.

Breakdown Policy

In the event of a breakdown or mechanical problem with the minibuses whilst being used away from School, and recovery or assistance is required, the following procedure should be adopted:

- a. Call 020 3564 4444 Ford Assistance.
- b. Provide the registration number of the minibus.
- c. Advise the operator of the location of the minibus and the nature of the fault.
- d. If there are pupils in the minibus, let the operator know this too, as it should
- e. elicit a quicker response.
- f. Assistance and/or recovery will be provided.
- g. Call the School Office

A laminated copy of these procedures is kept in the driver's door compartment of the minibuses should it be required.

Travel Guidelines and Types of travel

refer to section 5c.

Groups should always be checked and a roll taken before the coach/train/boat/plane departs.

Air Travel

Taking a school group on an aircraft requires careful planning and preparation. The airline/travel agent will be able to advise on particular requirements.

If the group includes any members with disabilities, it is advisable to check that the airline has a wheelchair service and lifting facility etc, if appropriate. The Group Leader should resist any attempt by the airline to split the group between different aircraft.

Rail Travel

Accident prevention instructions should be given to the children in advance and strictly enforced on the journey:

- Keep well away from the edges of platforms.
- Do not interfere with platform trolleys: they can cause injury and, if they run on to the line, a serious accident.
- Keep away from lifts not intended for passengers.
- Never attempt to get on or off a moving train.
- Stow rack luggage with care: heavy luggage must be put in the luggage van, not in corridors.
- Do not touch door catches when the train is in motion.
- Do not lean out of windows or throw anything from them.
- Do not run along corridors or climb on seats.
- Use the handrail when walking along corridors: trains can lurch and sway.
- Do not carry hot liquids from the buffet car to compartments.
- Do not drink water from taps on trains unless labelled "drinking water".
- Never open doors before the train stops: they are heavy and could seriously injure or kill people on the platform.
- In some areas stations have no recognisable platforms be careful when alighting, and only cross the lines at authorised points.

Coach Travel

The following accident prevention instructions for coach travel apply equally to travel by local public bus services:

- Never attempt to get on or off a moving vehicle
- Use handrails, especially when carrying luggage
- Stow rack luggage carefully: heavy articles must be put in the boot or on the floor
- Do not put your head or arms out through a bus window
- Do not throw anything from windows
- Do not stand and never run about in a moving bus or coach: a sudden stop or swerve may cause a heavy fall

- Do not talk to the driver - except in an emergency
- Do not pass on steps or stairs
- Fasten belts or coats that might get caught in seats as you get off
- Never get off a vehicle held up by traffic lights
- After leaving the coach or bus, wait for it to move off before you cross the road
- Make sure that all litter is removed from the coach at the end of the visit
- Always wear the seatbelt provided

Other Tips

- Ensure pupils/staff know the precise location of the coach, its colour and the carrier's name.
- Pupils are never to go away from the public areas - whether invited or not - unless accompanied by a member of staff.
- Pupils are never to wander alone.
- Pupils are never to carry anything for anyone else through customs.
- Staff should be available at an easily identified location.
- Pupils should return promptly to the coach (if appropriate) as soon as instructed to do so.
- If, on foot, pupils should be registered before disembarkation at a pre- arranged point. This will prevent them from being swallowed up in the general stampede to be first off.
- Pupils should be warned not to touch or tamper with a ship's equipment - it may be there for safety reasons and could be dangerous.
- Possessions should be packed away from gangways to avoid obstruction and should NOT be left unattended.

Insurance

The school holds a Commercial Combined Insurance Policy with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The school's insurance brokers AIG have confirmed that the liability cover provided under the policy extends to include school trips subject to appropriate risks assessments being completed, recorded and retained. In some instances, insurers would look to rely on third party Public Liability insurance, for example, in respect of trips involving adventure activities.

8.Types of Visits

a) Residential Visits

Hostels and Hotels

- The Group Leader should ideally have adjoining rooms with staff quarters next to the young people's – we will endeavour to obtain a floor plan of the rooms reserved for the group's use in advance.
- If pupils' rooms are on more than one floor, we will aim to have a member of staff on each floor.
- The immediate accommodation area should be exclusively for the use of the group.
- Access by staff to student rooms must be available at all times.
- Separate male and female sleeping areas for pupils and adults.
- Ensure that the whole party are aware of the lay-out of the accommodation, its fire precautions / exits, its regulations and routing, and that everyone can identify key personnel.

- Security arrangements – where the reception is not staffed 24 hours a day, security arrangements should be in force to stop unauthorised visitors.
- Ensure that locks / shutters etc. work on all the rooms used by the group.
- Storage of clothes, luggage, equipment etc., particularly safekeeping of valuables.
- Adequate lighting – it is advisable to bring a torch.
- Provision for sick, disabled pupils or those with special needs.
- Safety in rooms (electrical connections, secure balconies).
- Recreational accommodation / facilities for the group.

b) Coastal Visits

Group Leaders and other teachers should be aware that many of the incidents affecting school children have occurred by or in the sea. There are dangers on the coast quite apart from those incurred in swimming. The Group Leader should bear the following points in mind in the risk assessment of a coastal activity:

- Tides and sandbanks are potential hazards so timings and exit routes should be checked.
- Ensure group members are aware of warning signs and flags.
- Establish a base on the beach to which members of the group may return if separated.
- If the group is split into smaller groups, the Group Leader must be kept informed where each group is going.
- Pupils must never go off alone or if in groups, without a supervising adult.
- Look out for hazards such as glass, barbed wire and sewage outflows etc.
- Some of a group's time on a beach may be recreational. Group Leaders should consider which areas of the terrain and sea are out of bounds.
- Cliff tops can be highly dangerous for school groups even during daylight. The group should keep to the path at all times. Group Leaders should consider whether it is safe for pupils to ride mountain bikes on coastal paths.

c) Swimming

Swimming and paddling in the sea or other natural waters are potentially dangerous activities for a school group. Swimming in the sea on a coastal visit, will **not** be allowed for High March children unless it is part of a supervised activity led by qualified staff.

Paddling will only be allowed as part of a supervised activity, preferably in recognised bathing areas which have official surveillance.

Pupils should always be in sight of their teachers. One teacher should always stay out of the water for better surveillance.

Where paddling is to be allowed on a visit, an adult to child ratio of 1:4 is a minimum.

d) Farm and Zoo Visits

The school recognises that farms and Zoos can be dangerous even for the people who work there.

Taking children to a farm or Zoo will be very carefully planned.

Risks to be assessed should include those arising from the misuse of farm machinery.

Risks to be assessed should include the hazards associated with E-coli 0157 food poisoning and other infections.

The proposed farm or Zoo will be checked to ensure that it is well managed; that it has a good reputation for safety standards and animal welfare; and that it maintains good washing facilities and clean grounds and public areas. An exploratory visit should be carried out.

The basic rules for a farm or Zoo visit will be:

Never let pupils:

- Place their faces against the animals or their hands in their mouths after feeding them.
- Eat until they have washed their hands.
- Sample any animal foodstuffs.
- Drink from farm taps (other than in designated public facilities).
- Ride on working tractors or other machines.

For further details refer to Appendix 1 – HSE Information Sheet – Avoiding ill health at open farms – Agriculture Information Sheet 23 Supplement (revised)

- Advice to Teachers.

e) Mountain Walking

- All pupils should have boots or shoes which support the foot and have ridged soles (i.e. not trainers, loafers or Wellington boots with smooth soles).
- Rainproof clothing, including a hood, should always be taken on a walk.
- The leader should carry a first aid kit, emergency rations and a groundsheet. One adult should be at the head of each group of walkers and another should bring up the rear.
- The leader should check the weather report for the day to make sure that conditions are suitable and leave details of the route and expected time of return with a responsible adult who is not going on the expedition and who would act if the party did not return within a reasonable time. The leader and deputy leader should both carry ordinance survey maps of the area, a compass, a torch and a spare battery and bulb, spare warm clothing, an exposure bag and a whistle.

The Party Leader should have a Mountain Leadership Certificate if rough country is involved.

f) Visits Abroad

Travelling abroad can be hugely rewarding for pupils and adults alike, but it is important that careful preparation takes place.

Two residential trips abroad are usually arranged, namely a Ski Trip, and a trip to France. Specialist companies are used for these visits.

Briefing meeting for parents

Parents are given the opportunity to meet the teachers and others who will be taking the pupils on any residential trip whether within the UK or abroad.

Vaccinations

The Group Leader should find out whether vaccination is necessary and ensure that all members of the group have received it in good time and also check whether the country to be visited requires proof of vaccination.

Insurance

The Group Leader must ensure that the group has comprehensive travel insurance.

Travel Documents

The Group Leader should ensure that all members of the group have valid passports and visas (if appropriate) in the early stages of planning the trip.

Photocopies of the group's passports should be taken for emergency use. Otherwise, there can be problems if someone other than the designated leader has to accompany an injured pupil back to the UK.

The Group Leader should ensure that they obtain and take with them:

- Travel tickets, passports and visas. It is also advisable to carry a separate list of the numbers of any travel documents/passports, and photocopies of all the group's documents in a sealed waterproof bag.
- A copy of the contract with the centre/hotel etc, if appropriate.
- Medical papers e.g. GHIC/EHIC card, significant medical histories plus any medication.
- Parental consent forms and permission for Group Leader to authorise emergency treatment on parental behalf.
- The phone numbers and addresses, at home and in school, of the Headmistress and of the school contact.
- The names of parents and the addresses and telephone numbers at which they can be contacted (home and workplace), plus the pupil's emergency contacts if the parents cannot be contacted.
- Copies of a list of group members and their details.
- Details of insurance arrangements and the company's telephone number.
- The name, address and telephone number of the group's accommodation.
- Location of local hospital/medical services.

The Group Leader will have access to photographs of the pupils attending the trip for use in the event of an emergency. It might be useful to have photographs of the adults in the group as well.

Information retained at the school

Full details of the visit will be stored on the Educational Visits section in Teams.

This should include:

- The itinerary and contact telephone number/address of the group.
- A list of group members and their details.
- Contact names, addresses, telephone numbers of the parents and next of kin.
- Copies of parental consent forms.
- Copies of travel documents, insurance documents, medical papers.
- A copy of the contract with the centre/hotel etc, if appropriate.
- All relevant risk assessments for the duration of the trip.

It is the Headmistresses and SLT and EVC's responsibility to ensure this information is available at all times.

This is particularly important if the visit takes place when the school is closed. All this information is processed in accordance with the principles of GDPR and data protection legislation as amended from time to time.

It is advisable to have a member of staff 'on call' with a valid passport, who could go to the area being visited to provide support to the group in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Procedures

a) Accidents and Emergencies

All teaching staff on a visit should carry the Emergency and Critical incident leaflet which gives staff a quick reference protocol if they encounter a critical incident.

General

Members of staff in charge of pupils during a trip or visit have a duty of care to make sure that the pupils are safe and healthy. They also have a common law duty to act as a reasonably prudent parent would. Members of staff should not hesitate to act in an emergency and to take life-saving action in an extreme situation.

Emergency procedures are an essential part of planning a school visit. If an accident happens, the priorities are to:

- Assess the situation
- Safeguard the uninjured members of the group
- Attend to the casualty
- Inform the emergency services and everyone who needs to know of the incident

b) Who should take charge in an emergency?

The Group Leader should usually take immediate charge in an emergency and should ensure that emergency procedures are put in place and that back up cover is arranged. If a tour operator is being used, then the Group Leader should liaise with its representative.

The nominated senior member of staff must be contacted as soon as possible. The nominated senior member of staff provides the link between the Group Leader and the School in an emergency and must have previously been given all necessary information about the trip. The nominated senior member of staff will, depending on the scale and severity of the emergency, establish an emergency incident team at the school and will usually handle communications with parents, other concerned parties. Any media contacts should be referred to the Head and the Bursar's Office.

c) Emergency procedures framework for school-based activities

The nominated senior member of staff will be aware of the School's Critical Incident Plan and will act accordingly.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Checklist for emergency procedures on residential activities

The school office will have a full itinerary available to them on Teams.

Details of pupils, essential information form, telephone number of venue, copies of insurance forms to be readily available on Teams.

Allocate a designated “off-site” telephone number as if a serious incident arose the media / parents may swamp school number.

PRE-VISIT

- Briefing meetings for parents and pupils to include details of expected safe behaviour of pupils, activities to be undertaken, accommodation and mode of transport.
- Essential information form to be completed and returned - medication and allergies to be discussed with parents where possible and note of identification signed.
- First aider to be identified for each trip.
- Parents informed that any medication must be clearly labelled with pupil’s name and dosage and given to a named member of staff prior to boarding transport.
- First Aid kit to be checked and loaded.
- Written details of venue, activities and timings to be given to parents.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

All teaching staff on a visit should carry the Emergency and Critical incident leaflet which gives staff a quick reference protocol, if they encounter a critical incident.

[Emergency and Critical Incident Leaflet](#)

Give full details of incident:

- Name: Nature, date and time of incident, location, details of injuries. Names and telephone numbers of those involved. Action taken.
- Designated members of staff to alert Headmistress and / or Bursar’s Office if serious incident.

Contingency plans should be made if one or more member(s) of staff has / have to accompany injured to hospital.

- One member of staff must be left to supervise pupils.
- Control access to telephone.
- Adventurous activities not to be used if adequate supervision cannot be provided.

Appendix 1 – HSE Information Sheet – Avoiding ill health at open farms – Agriculture Information Sheet 23 Supplement (revised) - Advice to Teachers



Avoiding ill health at open farms - Advice to teachers

HSE information sheet

AIS23 Supplement (revised)

This supplement to AIS23 *Avoiding ill health at open farms - Advice to farmers* advises teachers and others who organise visits for children to farms on controlling the risk of infections from the animals the children may contact during their visit.

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, where they may cause ill health. Some infections which may be contracted on farms, such as the bacterium *Escherichia coli* O157 (*E coli* O157), present a serious hazard and potentially cause severe disease which may be particularly acute in young children.

While the hazard from infection resulting from a farm visit is real, the risks are readily controlled by everyday measures. The following sensible steps will help make your visit even more safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Before your visit:

- read and understand the advice in the main AIS23 information sheet, and discuss visit arrangements with the farm management. Assure yourself that the facilities provided match the recommendations in AIS23;
- decide what the ratio of pupils to teachers/assistants/parents should be, using advice from the Registration and Inspection Unit of your local authority social services department. As a general rule, the ratio of supervisors to children should be 1:1 for children under 1 year old, 1:2 for children between 1 and 2 years old, 1:3 for children between 2 and 3 years old, 1:4 for children between 3 and 5 years old, and 1:8 for those between 5 and 8 years old. If supervision levels are less than this, you should not allow direct contact with the animals for children under eight;
- discuss with the supervisors, who may be parents or staff of the school, creche etc, their role during the visit. They must understand the need to make sure that the children wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly after contacting animals, and follow the other rules suggested below;
- discuss with pupils the rules for the visit, stressing that they must not eat or chew outside the areas in which you permit them to do so;
- make sure that pupils wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy outdoor shoes (not sandals) or wellington boots if possible;
- check that cuts, grazes etc on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.

During and after the visit, make sure that the children:

- do not kiss animals;
- always wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating, after any contact with animals and again before leaving the farm;
- eat only food that they have brought with them, or food for human consumption they have bought on the farm, in designated areas, and never eat food which has fallen to the ground, or taste animal foods;
- do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons etc in mouths;
- clean or change their footwear before leaving, remembering to wash their hands after any contact with animal faeces on their footwear.

Check that the children stay in their allocated groups during the visit, and that they:

- do not use or pick up tools (eg spades and forks) unless permitted to do so by farm staff;
- do not climb on to walls or animal pens etc;
- listen carefully and follow the instructions and information given by the farm staff;
- approach and handle animals quietly and gently;
- do not chase, frighten or torment the animals.

Remember:

- the children are your responsibility during the visit;
- you should supervise them during the visit, especially during hand washing to make sure that each child washes thoroughly. Farm staff may be able to help with this supervision;
- allow plenty of time before eating or leaving so that the children do not have to rush.

If a member of your group shows signs of illness (eg sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.

Further information

Extra copies of this information sheet and supplement are available free from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA. Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995. Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk

High March Minibus Policy

Scope

This guidance considers the areas to address when using a minibus as part of activities undertaken by the School.

Objectives

- To ensure that there is a suitable vehicle in a satisfactory condition for use.
- To ensure that those using the vehicle are competent to do so.

Guidance

The Bursar is responsible for the co-ordination of the use of the minibus. He will maintain a list of those eligible to drive the minibus.

The driver of the minibus must have an appropriate and valid driving licence. For any non-staff "voluntary" drivers, e.g. governors, parents, checks should be made with the insurance company for specific requirements.

Suitable insurance must be in place.

The vehicle must be in a satisfactory condition, details to be checked are included at Appendix 2.

Consideration should be given to planning the journey, including:

- route (and availability of map / satnav)
- length of journey and travelling time
- driving time and driver rest breaks
- weather conditions
- if more than one driver required.

Supervision needs must be assessed and the rules for any passengers, e.g. wearing of seatbelts, driver not to be distracted.

An emergency plan should be in place to include:

- means of communication
- dealing with road accidents
- dealing with illness of a passenger / driver
- arrangements for dealing with mechanical incidents, e.g. breakdowns & punctures

The driver of the vehicle must report any defects on completion of the journey to the bursar.

Minibuses

The School has two minibuses. One can transport 16 people including the driver, and the other, 9 people including the driver. These vehicles may be used for School related activities and School business.

Maintenance

Regular servicing and MOT testing will be carried out at the appropriate times and in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. The Head of Maintenance or Bursar will ensure that servicing is carried out at the correct mileage and that the service books are available for inspection. If a fault is found with a minibus, it must be reported to the Bursar immediately. All drivers should ensure that they carry out a basic pre-journey check on a minibus before taking it out as the driver has ultimate responsibility for the vehicle once on the road. There is a comprehensive weekly check carried out on the minibuses and the completed sheets are kept in the file in each vehicle. Appendix 2

Insurance

The minibuses are comprehensively insured when driven on School business.

Drivers

All drivers drive a minibus as a volunteer, there is no remuneration within any staff contract for driver duties.

All new drivers must produce a valid driving license to the Bursar and undergo basic familiarisation instruction with the Facilities Manager/Bursar. No driver under the age of 21 and over the age of 71 (see need for medical under Driving Licences) may be authorised to drive a School minibus. The licence must have been held for at least two years. Before a journey, the driver should assess the journey to ascertain whether the journey is within their capabilities and whether more than one driver is required. The driver is responsible for the vehicle and their passengers and consequently should assess his/her state of fatigue and ability to drive. If a member of staff is overcome with fatigue, they should immediately pull over and, where possible, have another member of staff take over the driving. If this is not possible, they should find the first safe point to stop and take a break. The break should involve getting out of the vehicle and taking a walk.

Driving Licences

Any member of staff, or person authorised by the Directors, having held a Category B drivers' licence for at least two years may drive the 9-seater minibus.

A full category D1 licence without the 101 restriction is required for any member of staff, or person authorised by the Directors, to drive the 16-seater minibus.

Loading of Buses

Minibuses should be evenly loaded with passengers and luggage, and in a way to keep all escape routes clear.

Speed Limits

National speed limits or any localised speed restrictions must be observed. Care should be taken that drivers do not exceed a speed at which they feel comfortable and in control.

Fuel

The Facilities Manager or Bursar will ensure that the minibuses are kept supplied with sufficient fuel.

Seat Belts

Both minibuses are fitted with 3-point seat belts. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that all passengers (plus the driver) wear their seat belts at all times when the vehicle is in motion. There is an adjuster fitted to the seat belt making it suitable and safe for use by children of all ages in the 16-seat minibus.

Booster seats are provided in the 9-seat minibus for use by children shorter than 125cm and weighing less than 22kg.

Minibus Booking

Bookings for the use of the minibuses should be made with the Bursar's office.

Mobile Phones

It is important to have a mobile phone available to call for help in the event of an accident or breakdown, and to contact the School Office if necessary. The vehicle must obviously be safely parked if the driver is to take or make any call.

Accidents

In the event of an accident, firstly evaluate the situation and whether there are any casualties; if necessary, call the emergency services. The driver should evacuate all passengers to a safe location. Where a third party is involved, the insurance company insist that staff do not accept liability and write down all details including location of the accident, time of the accident, vehicles involved, registration numbers, addresses and witness third party details. If the vehicle is deemed to be safe to drive, the trip is to continue. If the vehicle has been damaged and is unsafe to drive he/she should call the recovery company (details in vehicle). The driver must be aware that, by law, the safe condition of the vehicle is his/her responsibility. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure the vehicle is safe to drive. Any damage must be reported to the Bursar as soon as possible after the vehicle is returned to School.

Breakdowns

In the event of a breakdown or mechanical problem with one of the minibuses whilst it being used away from School, and recovery or assistance is required, the following procedure should be adopted:

- Call 020 3564 4444 Ford Assistance.
- Provide the registration number of the minibus.
- Advise the operator of the location of the minibus and the nature of the fault.
- If there are pupils in the minibus, let the operator know this too, as it should elicit a quicker

response.

- Assistance and/or recovery will be provided.
- Call the School Office

A laminated copy of these procedures is kept in the driver's door compartment of the minibus should it be required.

Broken Window

If a window becomes damaged or broken which prevents the vehicle from being safely used, follow the "Breakdowns" procedure as described above.

First Aid

Each minibus is equipped with a basic first aid kit. The kits are checked regularly by the Medical and Welfare Officer and she should be advised if the kits need to be replenished.

Luggage

Only hand luggage or small items should be carried in the bus. If larger items of luggage such as sports bags are carried in the minibus they should be placed on the floor of the minibus and should not be a hazard to passengers. The driver is responsible for the security of all luggage carried and is to ensure that access is maintained to the normal and emergency exits.

Cleanliness

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that the vehicle is returned in the same condition as it left the School. All litter should be removed and any spillage cleaned up. **The driver should not allow any food to be eaten in the vehicle.** The vehicle will be cleaned inside and outside as arranged by the Bursar at the end of each term.

Behaviour

Children travelling in the minibuses should be made aware that they are representing the school and must behave in an appropriate manner. There must be no noisy or unruly behaviour which is likely to distract the driver or cause offense to other road users. The driver is responsible for driving only and supervision of children must be done by another member of staff.

Appendix 2

PRE - JOURNEY CHECK LIST

Before driving a minibus from the School premises, drivers should check the following:

Please remember that by law staff members are responsible for the school vehicle they are driving once off school premises.

			Comments
1	Lights		
2	Horn		
3	Wing mirrors		
4	Indicators		
5	Stop lights		
6	Reflectors		
7	Brakes		
8	Tyre pressures and condition		
9	Engine oil level		
10	Water level		
11	Fuel levels		
12	No vehicle body damage likely to cause injury		



Minibus

Pre-Drive Safety Checklist

To be carried out by the **driver** before any trip is undertaken involving pupils or members of staff.

Date:

Driver's Name:

	Pass:	Concern:	Action:
Exterior Checks			
Windscreen washer fluid level			
Windscreen & windows clean and undamaged			
Wiper blades are clean and undamaged			
Lights including brake lights and indicators are clean and working.			
Tyre pressures			
Tyre tread At least 3 mm across centre ¾ is recommended. Any cuts and bulges?			
Doors open and close properly			
Interior Checks			
Mirrors correctly adjusted, clean and unobstructed			
Position & function of all dashboard controls			
Position of driving seat so all pedals can be operated comfortably			
Pressure on brake pedal			
Lights & indicators are working			
Wipers & washers working properly			
Fuel level (and type of fuel)			
Seat belts are undamaged and working properly			
Location and contents of first aid kit & fire extinguisher(s)			
Breakdown and Accident Procedure card present			