



As a church school, our vision is for each child to love learning and to have hope, confidence, wisdom and respect for all.

*'Life in all its fullness'* (John 10:10)

## St Peter's Brafferton CE (VA) Primary School

# Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities Policy

### **Aims**

This policy is to support, consolidate and enrich learning within the classroom by providing opportunities for pupils to learn outside the classroom, broadening their experience, knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

Learning beyond the classroom is the use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning. It is about getting children and young people out and about, providing them with challenging, exciting and different experiences to help them learn.

It is about raising achievement through an organised, powerful approach to learning in which direct experience is of prime importance. This is not only about what we learn but importantly how and where we learn. It is not an end in itself but rather a vehicle to develop the capacity to learn. Good quality learning beyond the classroom adds much value to classroom learning.

### **Introduction**

This policy sets out the establishment procedures within which all employees must operate. Further details can be gained by referring to the Employer Policy as detailed in Section 2. It has been written using national guidance on health and safety on educational visits which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits>

This policy has also been written to be read alongside the NYCC Policy for educational visits, outdoor learning and adventurous activities (2018)

### **1. Scope and Safeguarding responsibilities**

This policy applies to all educational visits, outdoor learning and adventurous activities carried out with young people. It does not apply to work-experience placements, work related learning or alternative provision.

As in school, safeguarding remains our highest priority, and the staff at St Peter's Brafferton CE VA Primary School will ensure they follow safeguarding policies and procedures as required.

The Headteacher retains the role of the Educational Visits Co-ordinator. They will have the training and experience to enable them to competently discharge their responsibilities as listed in The Employer Policy.

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator is: **Sarah Anderson**

Administrative tasks will be carried out by: the school administrator

## **2. Establishment policy and procedures**

The NYCC Policy for Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities (March 2018) has been adopted by the governing body as its policy. The governing body recognises that it is the employer and retains responsibilities for health and safety. It will discharge its duties through the adoption of the policy and retain competent advice, additional approval and monitoring through North Yorkshire Educational Visits Advisory Service. Specific local procedures will be in line with, but not duplicate this policy.

Where there is conflict with non-statutory guidance or advice from other sources the employer policy will take precedence with clarification sought from the Headteacher, and if required from North Yorkshire Educational Visits Advisory Service.

### **Consent**

Routine acknowledgement: Whilst it is not a legal requirement to gain parental consent for curriculum activities, written acknowledgement will be gained on enrolment for routine (in the school day and within the local learning area of school) local visits and activities which are a part of our normal educational provision during the school day and information regarding the nature of the types of visit will be included with the acknowledgment request. We will always aim to fully inform parents by letter or electronic message of the nature of each visit, activity or series of a similar nature, remind parents that they have acknowledged this, and give opportunity to update information and emergency contact details. On occasions a curriculum opportunity may become available at short notice and we will always aim to notify parents that their child will be offsite but this may not be possible.

Non-routine consent: Written consent which may be electronic via ParentPay will be gained on enrolment for those visits which are non-routine visits and activities and those visits which fall outside of normal hours. We will fully inform parents by letter or electronic message of the nature of each visit, activity or series of a similar nature.

Specific consent: Written consent which may be electronic via ParentPay will be gained for every individual visit, activity or series of a similar nature which involve a higher level of risk including but not limited to longer journeys, residential visits and adventurous activities. We will fully inform parents by letter or electronic message of the nature of each visit, activity or series of a similar nature.

Medical information: We will use the medical information on record in our Student Information Management system alongside any updated information which parents will be given the opportunity to provide for most visits and activities. Where visits or activities involve a higher level of risk it may be appropriate for separate medical information and consent forms to be completed.

### **Staff competence**

Records will be kept of induction, training, relevant qualifications and competence using the 'My Details' section of Evolve (an online North Yorkshire educational visits portal).

To ensure sustainability of important visits deputy leaders will be appointed in order that contingency plans can be put in place should a visit leader be indisposed.

Staff will ensure they visit the new destinations prior to any visit to carry out a robust risk assessment and planning will be discussed and schedules/arrangements agreed with the HT at every stage and also with the education visits provider.

### **EVC Training**

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator will attend appropriate training and revalidation as required by the employer.

### **Visit Leader Training**

Visit leaders will be approved by the Headteacher and will have attended appropriate training as required by the employer.

## **3. Planning and approval procedures**

Visit leaders should follow the employer policy, establishment policy, guidance, local procedures and standard assessments of risk.

Risk management is a vital part of planning and assessing benefits and risk associated with visits and activities. Sensible risk management relates to identifying significant hazards and mitigating against risk through appropriate control measures. It is not a paperwork exercise but a dynamic process before and during a visit or activity in order that young people can be kept safe from harm. Generic or event specific risk assessments will be used to record significant findings.

External providers: Wherever possible visit leaders will gain credible assurances of health & safety management systems and quality provision through a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. Alternatively assurances will be gained through a Provider Statement as detailed in the employer policy

## **4. Visit Planning and Management System**

A web-based system is used to facilitate the efficient planning, management, approval and evaluation of visits. All staff that lead or accompany visits can access their own account which is set up by the Educational Visits Co-ordinator.

The default option is a day visit within the United Kingdom. Visits can be further categorised as follows:

- On-site or local learning area
- Joint visit
- Overseas
- Residential
- Adventurous (provider led)
- Adventurous (self-led)

Refer to local procedures and guidance regarding the establishments' use of these categories.

Approval of visits will be made as detailed below. Initial approval in principal will also be gained as required in the employer policy.

### **Governing Body:**

The governing body has a strategic role to set the vision and direction of the school and has responsibility for its educational and financial performance. To enable this it will hold the Headteacher to account by oversight of learning beyond the classroom opportunities to ensure that the educational experiences are of high quality, that best value is obtained and financial regulations are adhered to.

Additionally as the employer, approval will be retained for visits abroad and all self-led adventurous activities in line with the employer policy. The governing body delegate the scrutiny of these visits to North Yorkshire Educational Visits Advisory Service.

**Adviser:** Visits abroad and all self-led adventurous activities regardless of location. (As detailed in guidance).

**Headteacher** All visits and activities – as they are also the EVC

## **5. Incident Management**

In the case of an incident during a visit all members of staff will follow the establishment's incident management plan as detailed in the appendix.

## **6. Monitoring of visits and procedures**

Governors will monitor the implementation of this policy by acting as a critical friend in monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the policy.

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator will ensure that there is a system in place for appropriate monitoring of visits and activities.

## **7. Charges for Off-site Activities and Visits**

Charges for educational off-site visits and adventurous activities, including charges for visits and transport, requests for voluntary contributions and remission of charges are made in line with DfE guidance. Reference should also be made to St Peter's Brafferton CE (VA) Primary School Charging and Remissions Policy (2017)

## **8. Inclusion & SEND**

We safeguard and plan for all pupils to access school visits to ensure inclusivity and meet their needs.

We acknowledge that it is unlawful to treat a young person with a protected characteristic less favourably or fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that young people with protected characteristics are not placed at a substantial disadvantage without justification.

We also acknowledge that expectations of staff must be reasonable, so that what is required of them (to include a young person) is within their competence and is reasonable. Reference should also be made to St Peter's Brafferton CE (VA) Primary School SEND Policy.

## **9. Safeguarding**

Safeguarding procedures should be considered as part of the planning process with additional consideration for residential visits. Visit Leadership Teams should:

- As part of planning, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and other staff to identify any relevant safeguarding issues
- Have access during a visit to the DSL (or trained deputy) either directly or through the Base Contact.

Any volunteers who accompany any visit or activity will be directly supervised by a member of staff. If they are to have significant unsupervised access to young people then an enhanced DBS disclosure will be obtained and they will undergo induction and training in their role and responsibilities as detailed in employer and school policies and local procedures. Reference should also be made to St Peter's Brafferton CE (VA) Primary School Child Protection Policy.

## 10. Insurance

Young people participating in visits and activities will have annual travel insurance provided under an annual Schools Journey Insurance policy. Any differences to this will be notified to parents/carers as appropriate before any consent or payment is made.

## 11. Transport

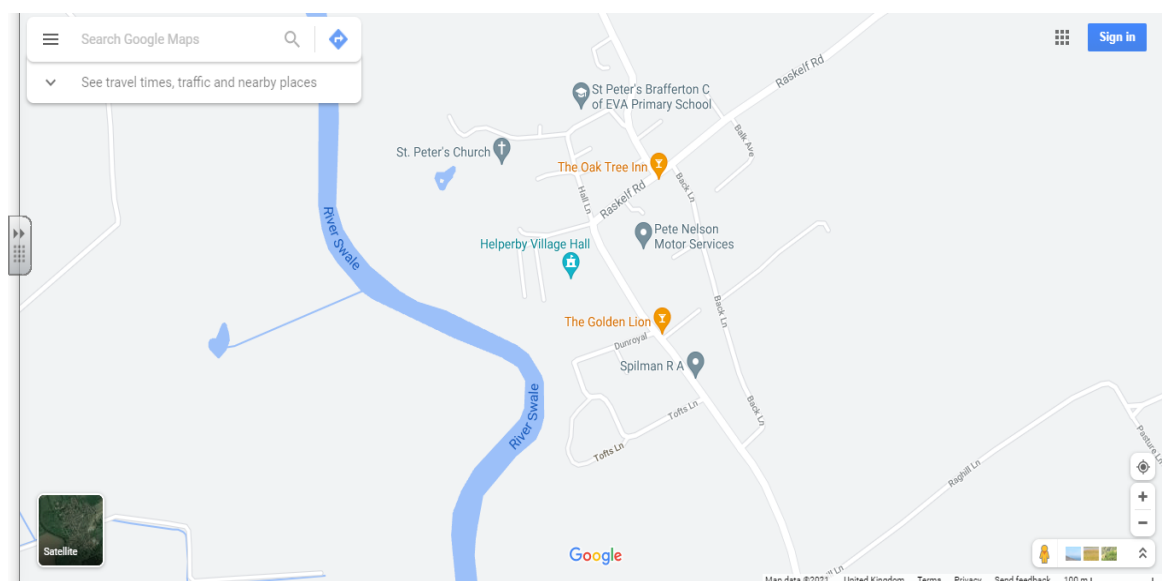
Careful thought must be given to planning transport to support off-site activities and visits. Statistics demonstrate that it is more hazardous to travel to an activity than to engage in it and staff must follow any specialist guidance provided by their employer.

## Appendix 1 - Local Learning Area

### Boundaries

The boundaries of the locality are shown in the map below. This area includes the following frequently used venues:

- St Peter's Church
- Helperby Village Hall
- Helperby Cricket Field
- Swing Bridge
- Addis Garden Nurseries



We use our Local Learning Area on a regular basis for a variety of learning activities, and visit leaders are allowed to operate in this area by inputting visits on EVOLVE using the Local Learning Area option, provided they follow the below Operating Procedure.

### **Operating Procedure for visits to the Local Learning Area**

The following are potentially significant issues/hazards within our extended locality:

- Road traffic.
- Other people / members of the public / animals.
- Losing a pupil.
- Uneven surfaces and slips, trips, and falls.
- Weather conditions.
- Activity specific issues when doing environmental fieldwork (nettles, brambles, rubbish, etc).

These are managed by a combination of the following:

- The Headteacher must give verbal approval before a group leaves.
- Only staff judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved. A current list of approved staff is maintained by the EVC and office.
- The concept and Operating Procedure of the 'Local Learning Area' is explained to all new parents when their child joins the school.
- There will normally be a minimum of two adults.
- Staff are familiar with the area, including any 'no go areas', and have practiced appropriate group management techniques.
- Pupils have been trained and have practiced standard techniques for road crossings in a group.
- Where appropriate, pupils are fully briefed on what to do if they become separated from the group.
- All remotely supervised work in the extended learning locality is done in 'buddy' pairs as a minimum.
- Pupils' clothing and footwear is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school.
- Staff are aware of any relevant pupil medical information and ensure that any required medication is available.
- Staff will deposit in the office a list of all pupils and staff, a proposed route, and an estimated time of return. This will be done using the 'Signing-Out sheet' in EVOLVE resources / forms.
- A school mobile is taken with each group and the office have a note of the number.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (eg gloves, goggles)

**Monitored by: Full Governing Body**

**Date adopted: July 2023**

**Next review: July 2024**

**Review Cycle: Annually**