

Cardiff West Community High School Educational Visits Policy 2018-19

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Foreword – Martin Hulland, Headteacher

The Governing Body of Cardiff West CHS are fully committed to the promotion of educational visits recognising the benefits they can bring to learning. Our core values of ART can be promoted through educational visits. In particular visits linked to our creative partners add much to the wider life of our students. We are committed to ensuring that the organisation of all visits is thorough and based on keeping our students safe as they learn outside of the traditional school environment. Governors will be central to checking systems linked to student safety. Finally, CWCHS will work very closely with the LA following all relevant procedures to ensure that all educational visits are organised appropriately.

Summary of policy

This school/establishment follows the LA procedures for educational visit planning, approval and monitoring by using the EVOLVE on line visit planning and approval system <u>www.cardiffvisits.org</u> for all visits run by school/establishment staff or volunteers.

Staff planning an educational visit must ensure that they plan their visit using the EVOLVE system <u>www.cardiffvisits.org</u> and follow the procedures set out in this policy.

This policy is reviewed (and updated as necessary) annually or following any accident / incident on an educational visit.

Queries relating to this policy should be directed to Joanne Howell, Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC).

Section A

CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF Schools & Lifelong Learning Service

Planning and approval procedures for Educational Visits

This document sets out the Cardiff County Council planning and approval procedures for Educational visits.

Anyone organising an off-site visit for young people from Cardiff County Council should also refer as necessary to the National Guidance for Educational Visits endorsed by the Welsh Government. The Guidance can be viewed in the 'Guidance and resources/guidance' section of Evolve www.cardiffvisits.org

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Foreword

The Schools and Lifelong Learning Service welcomes the move to an all-Wales approach to the organisation of educational visits.

There is evidence that traditional *"school trips"* went into decline around the start of the last decade. The most recent research, however, indicates that they are as popular as ever and are an integral part of the curriculum in all our schools.

When, as adults, we look back on our formative years, the most vivid memory we have of our school days is often that of a residential experience spent in the company of friends. Such is the impact of the experience that it remains with us for the rest of our lives.

The introduction of our Foundation Phase in Wales means that increasing numbers of children spend time outside the classroom, not only in constructive play, but also witnessing with awe and wonder the natural world. Other key stages of the curriculum are also undergoing change, requiring young people to experience activities away from the school. Our new procedures are designed to assist all those who are charged with delivery at this exciting time.

As a Council we recognise the vital role that teachers, youth leaders and others play in providing children and young people with these life-enhancing experiences. For my part I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who dedicate so much of their time to this valuable work.

Nick Batchelar Chief Officer Schools and Lifelong Learning

Summary of procedures

This document sets out the procedures by which Cardiff County Council and its educational establishments meet the standards set out in the *National Guidance for Educational Visits* endorsed by the Welsh Government.

EVC queries relating to these procedures should be directed to the appropriate officer as follows:

Local Authority (LA) leader approval, LA approval or notification for visits, EVC training and general advice about off site visits and adventure activities

Dave Golding Strategic Adviser Outdoor Education Central South Consortium Ty Dysgu, Cefn Coed Parc Nantgarw Cardiff CF15 7QQ

e-mail: Dave.golding@cscjes.org.uk Telephone: 01443 827546 Mobile: 07880 044407

Accidents, incidents and general advice relating to Health and Safety

Janet Lewis Health & Safety Adviser Room 413 County Hall Atlantic Wharf Cardiff CF10 4UW

e-mail: JaLewis@cardiff.gov.uk Telephone: 029 2087 3967 Fax: 029 2087 2360 Table 1 Visit approval/notification required for different types of visit

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Table 1 - Visit approval/notification required for different types of visit

Important note - LA approval is **not** required for:

- Visits to, or run by, the LA's own Outdoor Education Centres (The Storey Arms OEC, Cardiff Sailing Centre, Cardiff White Water Centre, Learning Outdoors, Cardiff Outdoor Activity Team, The Harbour Authority and the Flatholm Project).
- Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) Outdoor Learning Card activities run in non-demanding environments by teachers / youth workers / other employees who have attended an OEAP Outdoor Learning Card training course.

Residential	
Visits abroad	Visit planned and approved using the EVOLVE
Demanding	system www.cardiffvisits.org at least 28 days before
Environments (see Table 2)	visit
Adventure activities(see table 3)	
Overseas expedition organised through an independent provider (<i>i.e.</i> <i>expedition to a developing country involving</i> <i>trekking or</i> <i>other adventure activities</i>)	 Visit planned and approved using the EVOLVE system www.cardiffvisits.org before booking the visit. LA Approval is in two stages: Initial approval before booking Final approval at least 8 weeks before the visit
Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition	Visit planned and approved using the EVOLVE system www.cardiffvisits.org at least 28 days before visit plus information required by DofE development officer
All other visits	All other visits must be approved by the Head or EVC and a record of the visit kept as set out in 'Record keeping' section of this policy. Schools/establishments can determine their own planning and approval requirements but are strongly advised to use the EVOLVE system www.cardiffvisits.org. This system guides the visit leader through the visit planning and approval system required by the Local Authority (in line with WG guidance). The EVOLVE system allows regular, repeated visits to be planned and approved.

Table 2. Definition of demanding environments.

Important note: classification of locations is subjective. Visit leaders who are unsure of whether or not a location requires LA approval can seek clarification from their Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC).

Location	Definition	Level of approval required
Normal	Areas;	Visits here do not
countryside	 which are close to vehicle access (i.e. less than 30 minutes walking time for any group member to the nearest road from which the group could be evacuated by vehicle) and where the environment does not have any of the features of a 'demanding environment' listed below. 	require LA approval
	Areas where there is significant risk to the group from one or more of the following factors;	Visits here do require
Demanding	 hazardous terrain (e.g. cliffs, very steep slopes etc.); 	LA approval
environments		

Table 3. Adventure activities

Important note: This list is not exhaustive. Any visit leader unsure of whether or not an activity should be classified as an adventure activity should seek the advice of their Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC).

Land Based Activities	Water Based Activities
Rock climbing/abseiling including	Kayaking and canoeing
climbing walls	
Mountaineering	Sailing and windsurfing
Hill walking	White water rafting
Ice climbing	Waterskiing
Gorge or coastal scrambling/sea cliff	Snorkel and aqualung diving
traversing/coasteering	
Underground exploration – cave or mine	All forms of boating (excluding commercial
	transport)
Skiing (snow/dry slope)	Improvised rafting
Air activities (except commercial flights)	Kite surfing
Horse riding and pony trekking	Surfing and body boarding
High ropes courses	Dragon boating
Quad biking/ATV's	Wave skiing
Orienteering	Jet skiing/personal water craft
Mountain biking	
Any activity (including camping, fieldwork and non-adventure activities) taking place in demanding environments as defined in Table 2 above	

1 Approval and notification system for all visits

All visits must be approved by the Head or EVC and a record of the visit kept as set out in 'Record keeping' section of this policy.

Schools/establishments can determine their own planning and approval requirements but are strongly advised to use the EVOLVE system <u>www.cardiffvisits.org</u>

This system guides the visit leader through the visit planning and approval system required by the Local Authority (in line with WG guidance).

The EVOLE system allows regular, repeated visits to be planned and approved (see 2 below).

2 Blanket approval

Blanket approval may be given:

- by Heads/EVCs for routine visits
- by the LA for those staff who have gained LA leader approval (see 3 below)

For visits that have been given blanket approval, the visit leader and EVC must ensure that relevant information is left with the school/establishment emergency contact including details of the venue, activity, group, transport, start/finish times and other relevant information for **each** visit.

3 Parent/carer consent

Informed parent/carer consent must be obtained for all visits. For routine visits (those listed on form 1), blanket consent is obtained on an annual basis.

For non-routine visits (not listed on form 1) consent is obtained for each visit (or series of repeated visits) using form 2.

If parents/carers withhold their consent absolutely the young person must not be taken on the visit but the curricular aims of the visit should be delivered to the young person in some other way wherever possible. If the parents/carers give a conditional consent the Head will need to consider whether the young person may be taken on the visit or not.

4 Using an independent provider – pre-booking checks

For **any** off-site visit, the visit leader should check that the location and activities offered are educationally suitable for the group and will meet the aims of the visit. Check that any provider offers good value for money by comparing with other similar providers. Remember that there is no substitute for firsthand, up to date information. This level of pre-booking check is sufficient for visitor attractions and public access venues such as zoos, historical/cultural sites, museums, sports stadia, theatres, cinemas, hotels, bowling alleys, ice rinks, theme parks, public access (lifeguarded) swimming pools or similar. This level of check is also sufficient for the Local Authority's own Outdoor Education Centres.

When using a specialist venue or activity provider e.g. outdoor activity provider (other than the LA's own Outdoor Education Centres), farm visit or similar please apply the following guidance **before signing any booking form or contract**:

Ask the provider to complete the independent providers' questionnaire (which can be downloaded from the EVOLVE system's Guidance and Resources/Forms section <u>www.cardiffvisits.org</u>) and check that this has been satisfactorily completed by the provider <u>before you book</u>. This requires them to confirm that they have risk assessments in place for all activities/services that they provide and that these are available to view at the premises on request. Please note that there is no need to obtain copies of the provider's risk assessments. Seek specialist advice on any concerns arising from the provider's responses by contacting your LA Outdoor Education Adviser.

Special arrangements for Overseas expeditions (*i.e. expeditions to developing countries involving trekking or other adventure activities*)

Initial LA approval must be obtained before booking. Initial LA approval can be sought by completing and sending form OE1 (along with attachments listed on Form OE1) to the Outdoor Education Adviser at the address listed on Form OE1. Form OE1 can be downloaded from the EVOLVE system's Guidance and Resources/Forms section <u>www.cardiffvisits.org</u> Final LA approval for the expedition must be obtained at least 8 weeks before the expedition start date by completing and sending form OE2, along with attachments listed on Form OE2, to the Outdoor Education Adviser.

5 Local Authority (LA) leader approval

Who needs LA leader approval?

LA or school employees or volunteers who wish to lead in any of the demanding environments or adventurous activities for which LA approval is required must first be confirmed as technically competent to lead by the Outdoor Education Adviser.

Prospective leaders must seek LA leader approval through their own Evolve log-in via the '*My details/awards*' section. In order to be granted approval the applicant must have all of the following:

- Either a) the relevant National Governing Body (NGB) leadership award for the terrain/activity (NGB leadership awards are set out in the National Guidance for Educational Visits <u>www.wales.gov.uk/healthandsafety_or</u> b) have a written and signed statement of competence by an appropriate technical adviser verifying that the leader has the relevant technical and group management skills for the terrain/activity (see below for how to arrange technical adviser approval).
- Recent and relevant experience
- A current first aid certificate or qualification
- Support of the Head

[To arrange technical adviser approval the EVC must identify an appropriate technical adviser who is willing to make a signed statement of competence for the visit leader. Technical adviser approval is normally given only if the following conditions are met:

- The leader has completed a training course in the relevant NGB leadership award where one exists (or has undergone other appropriate training)
- The technical adviser has made a practical assessment of the leader and can confirm that they are operating at the standard of the relevant NGB leadership award or at a suitable level for a site-specific approval to be given.

Appropriate levels of technical adviser for different activities and levels of activity are given in the *National Guidance for Educational Visits*. If the intended activity is not listed in Annex 3, the Outdoor Education Adviser may be able to advise on appropriate level of technical adviser.]

Depending on depth of experience and technical skill, leaders may be given approval to lead either:

- the activity/activities at specific, named venue(s) at any time for the duration of the approval period;
- or:
- the activity/activities at all venues that are within the remit of their competence at any time for the duration of the approval period.

The Outdoor Education Adviser will notify the individual and their EVC of their LA leader approval decision and this will be recorded in the individual's '*My details*' section of the EVOLVE system. This can be viewed at any time by the individual, their EVC or Head.

6 Special arrangements for DofE Award groups

Anyone planning a DofE Award expedition/ activity must first contact the LA DofE Development Officer before starting any planning for the activity to ensure that the Expedition meets the requirements of the DofE and Local Authority.

7 LA approval decisions for visits

Confirmation of the approval decision for a visit will be given via the EVOLVE system. Visits that require LA approval must not proceed until this approval has been given.

Where further information or elements of the *National Guidance for Educational Visits* have not been met, approval will be withheld until these conditions are met. Confirmation of this decision will be sent to the EVC/Head via the EVOLVE system.

8 Record keeping

The EVOLVE system acts as a record for any visit planned and approved on the system. Schools/establishments therefore only need to retain the following details for any particular visit:

- List of participants
- Parental consent forms (these can be destroyed 3 months after the visit if no accidents or incidents have been reported)
- Where an accident or incident has been reported the school/establishment should retain the parental consent form for the pupil(s)/young person(s) involved.
- If there has been an accident/incident on a visit, schools/establishments must ensure that the LA is notified according to LA procedures. The LA will keep accident/incident records until the young person reaches age 21 (or for 3 years in the case of an adult). Schools/ establishments therefore <u>do not</u> need to retain records of accident/incidents reported to the LA unless they wish to do so for their own purposes. If a visit leader or school/ establishment receives notification of a claim they should not respond directly but should pass the details to the LA claims manager/insurance section.

In addition, schools/establishments should archive in the school/ establishment records a copy of their:

- Educational visits policy dated so that the version current at the time of any visit can be traced;
- standard risk management procedures dated as current at the time of the visit;

- records of staff competence and training (perhaps as part of the appraisal/performance management records).

This information should be kept for 5 years after which it may be destroyed.

9 Monitoring

Internal monitoring by the Head/EVC

The Head/EVC must monitor visit leaders from time to time to ensure compliance with school/establishment policy.

Monitoring by the Head/EVC should include:

- scrutiny of standards of visit planning and organisation as part of the visit approval process
- occasional observation of visit leadership

Following any observation of visit leadership it is good practice to provide the visit leader with verbal and written feedback and recommendations for further training if necessary. A copy of the observation report should be given to the visit leader and another copy kept on file by the school/establishment.

Monitoring by the LA

The LA will monitor schools/establishments on a 5 year cycle to ensure compliance with LA guidance. The LA will contact EVCs to notify them of an upcoming monitoring visit.

10 Review

Feedback from monitoring will be used to review procedures in order to ensure that they meet the standards expected for off site visit organisation and leadership and to identify further training needs for visit leaders and/or EVCs.

Planning forms

Form 1:	Parent/carer consent form: routine visits
Form 2:	Parent/carer consent form: non-routine visits
Form 3:	Summary of information about participants
Form 4 :	Emergency action flowchart for visit leaders
Form 5:	Emergency action flowchart for base (emergency) contacts
Form 6:	Incident record form

Parent/carer consent Routine visits

School/establishment:	Cardiff West Community High School

Your child's name:

I hereby agree to my child participating in routine visits off the school/establishment site. These visits might include the following, or similar, activities: Trips to museums, local universities/colleges, sports venues etc

These visits will normally take place at the following, or similar, local locations: St Fagans, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff Bay etc

I understand that:

- such visits will normally take place within the school/establishment normal hours, but that if, occasionally, they are likely to extend beyond this, adequate advance notice will be given so that I may make appropriate arrangements for my child's return home;
- my specific permission will be sought for any visits outside the local area or which could involve commitment to extended journeys, times or expense;
- all reasonable care will be taken of my child during the visit;
- my child will be under an obligation to obey all directions given and to observe all rules and regulations governing the visit and will be subject to all normal school/establishment discipline procedures during the visit;
- I must inform the school/establishment of any medical or behavioural condition or physical disabilities that may affect them during the visit;
- all young people are covered by the Local Authority's third party public liability insurance in respect of any claim arising from an accident caused by a defect in the school/establishment premises or equipment or attributable to negligence by the Council or one of its employees. Please note that this insurance policy does not include personal accident or personal belongings cover for your child.

Full name of parent/carer:		
Signature of parent/carer:	Date:	
Address:		
	Tel:	

Form 1

Form	2
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Parent/carer consent

Non-routine visits

To be distributed with an information sheet/letter giving full details of the visit

School/establishment: Cardiff West Community High School

Visit/act	ivity:			
Venue:		Date(s):		
Your child's name: Form/Class:		Form/Class:		
Medical	and dietary			
a)	Does your child have any during the visit? YES/NO	y physical or behavioural condition that may affect him/her		
lf YES, p	lease give details:			
b) Please	e give details of any allergie	s:		
c) Please	e give details of any special	dietary requirements of your child:		

d) Please detail any recent illness or accident suffered by your child that staff should be aware of?

e) Please list any type types of non-prescription medication or lotions your child <u>may not</u> be given:

infectious diseases or suff		er been in contact with any contagious or t four weeks that may be contagious or
If YES, please give details	:	
h) When did your son/da	ughter last have a tetanus in	jection?
Water confidence/swim	ming ability	
Please indicate your child	I's swimming ability:	
Cannot swim		
Able to swim a little	e in a swimming pool	
Able to swim confic	lently in a swimming pool	
Able to swim confid	lently outdoors (e.g. lake, ri	ver or sea)
Your contact details		
Telephone: Home:	Work:	Mobile:
Home address:		
Alternative emergency c	ontact	
Name:	т	elephone:
Address:		
Family doctor		
Name:		Telephone:
Address:		

Declaration

Having read the information about the visit, and having understood the level of supervision to be provided, I agree to my child taking part in the visit and activities described.

I understand that all reasonable care will be taken of my child during the visit/activity and that he/she will be under an obligation to obey all directions and instructions given and observe all rules and regulations governing the visit/activity.

I understand the code of conduct for the visit and the sanctions that may be used if my child breaks this code of conduct. I have discussed the code of conduct and sanctions with my child.

I understand that if my child seriously misbehaves or is a cause of danger to him/herself or to others, then I may be asked to collect him/her or he/she may be brought home early from the visit/activity. In such a situation there will be no obligation on the school/establishment to refund any money.

In an emergency I agree to my son/daughter receiving medication and any emergency dental, medical or surgical treatment, including anaesthetic or blood transfusion, as considered necessary by the medical authorities present.

I understand that the school/establishment may use activity images for promotional or publicity purposes

I understand the extent and limitations of the insurance cover provided.

FULL NAME OF PARENT OR CARER (print please):

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARTICIPANT:

I understand that for the safety of the group and myself I will undertake to obey the rules and instructions of members of staff.

FULL NAME OF STUDENT (print please):_____

SIGNED: DATE:

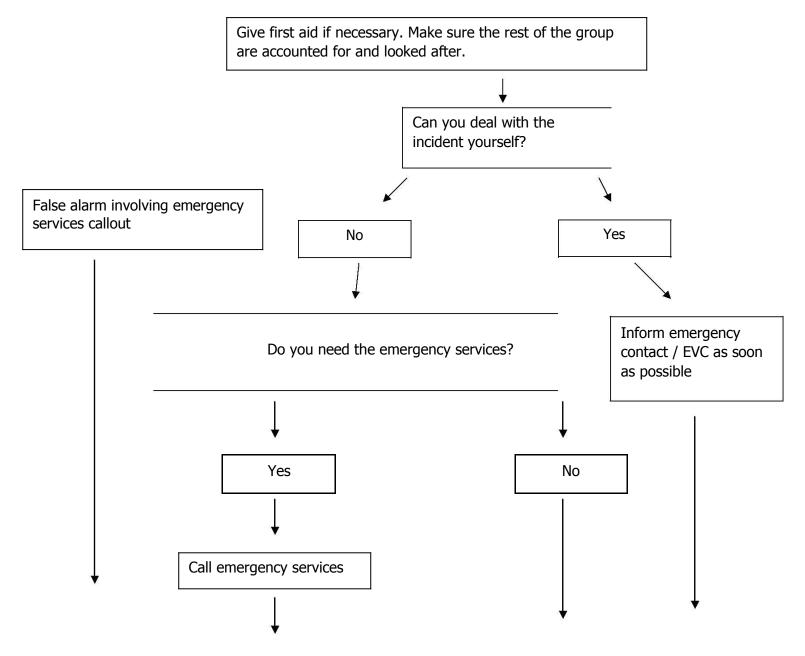
Relevant special Next of kin Surname Forename(s) Date of Address Contact number(s) needs/medical birth information

Summary of information about participants (young people and adults)

Emergency action flowchart for visit leaders

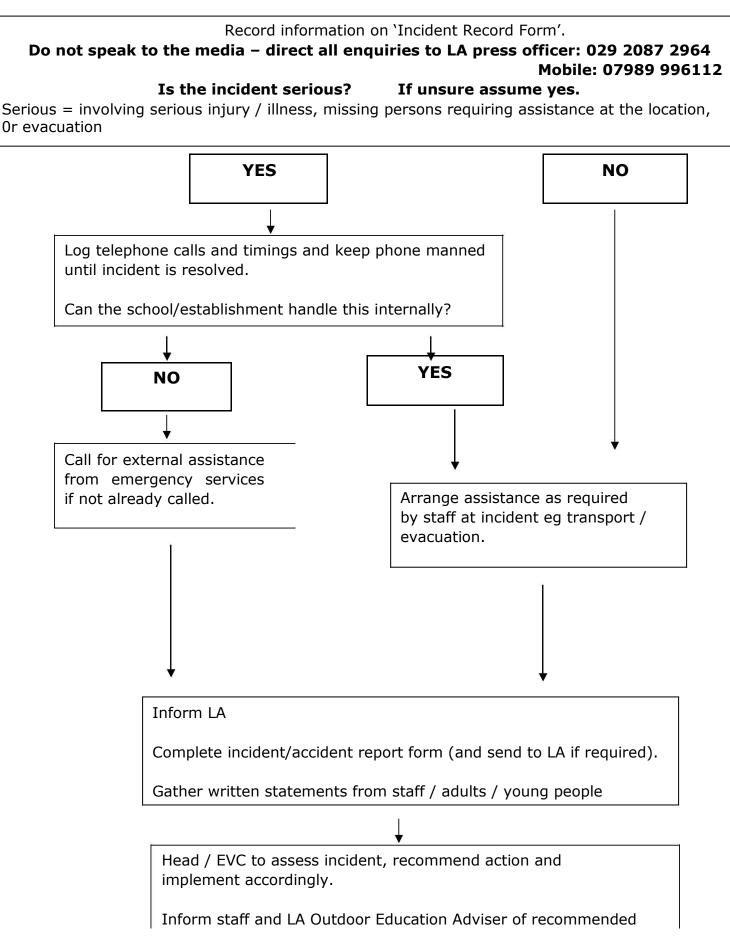
Do not speak to the media – direct all enquiries to LA press officer: 029 2087 2964

Mobile: 07989 996112



Call school/establishment emergency contact 02920 672700 (school/establishment hours) (out of school/establishment hours contact your nominated SLT Emergency Contact on the number provided by them). Emergency contact will follow emergency action flowchart

Emergency action flowchart for base (emergency) contacts



Incident record form

NB This form is to be used by an emergency contact during the period that they are handling an emergency call. The EVC should ensure that LA incident reporting procedures are followed as soon as possible after the incident.

ABOUT THE INCIDENT

Name(s) of any individual(s) affected by the incident:

Time and date of incident:

Location of incident:_____

Activity taking place:(if applicable)_____

Name(s) of staff leading the activity: (if applicable)_____

Contact number for visit leader:_____

Name(s) of key witness(es):_____

Description of incident and action taken: (continue on separate sheets if necessary)

Form completed By:_____Date:_____

ACTION TAKEN TO AVOID A REPEAT INCIDENT (To be completed by Head or EVC following a review of the incident – continue on separate sheets if necessary).

Signed (Head or EVC):______Date:_____Date:_____

Section B Standard risk management procedures

This section sets out the standard risk management procedures that are followed by staff of this school when leading off site visits.

Significant hazards and harm which may	Who might be	Safety measures:
occur	harmed?	Measures that are in place and/or will be taken to reduce the risk to a tolerable
		level
	Pupils	Brief children of conduct expected of them when walking/crossing roads
Crossing roads/walking along pavements		Ensure staff are placed at front, middle and rear of children.
		Pupils to walk in pairs or single file.
		Members of staff to choose safe place to cross roads (if not using recognised
		pedestrian crossing)
		2 members of staff to stand in road with children walking between.
Transport to and from venues	Pupils/staff	Ensure school minibus or recognised LA bus company is used
		Ensure seat belts are worn at all times and are checked by visit leader
		Ensure that drop off is in a safe location with students and staff exiting on to a
		pathway and never in to traffic
Stranger danger	Pupils	Ensure children are made aware not to walk off with an unknown adult unless
		given specific instruction by visit leader.
		Regular head counts
		Supervised at all times
Accident/emergency	Staff pupils	Follow emergency procedure guidelines carried by visit leader
		Ensure suitable staff helper (in addition to visit leader) understands emergency
		procedure
		Brief children of what to do in an emergency and how to summon help

Getting lost/separated from group	Staff	Regular headcounts
		Ensure pupils are to stay in small groups
		Ensure staff accompany pupils at all times
		Brief pupils to stay at venue if lost or separated never to leave the premises
		Brief children to make their way to reception or another nominated meeting
		point
		Ensure all pupils know name of visit leader, staff and school/establishment
		name
		Where students are allowed to leave the direct supervision of accompanying
		staff (e.g. at a theme park) students must be instructed to stay in small groups
		so that no one is alone. Students must be informed of a suitable meeting point
		and members of staff must be available at that point for the duration of the trip.
		Students must be clearly informed of any areas where they are not allowed.
Medical Conditions	Pupils	Ensure medical conditions are disclosed prior to visit
		Ensure consent is given for staff member to administer medicine if required
		Ensure medicines, epi-pens, inhalers, etc. are carried by visit leader
		Ensure at least one staff member/adult volunteer knows how to administer
		medicine if required.
Weather conditions – risk of getting caught	Pupils/staff	Check weather forecast prior to visit
in inclement weather		Brief pupils/parents of possible weather conditions prior to visit
		Ensure appropriate clothing/footwear is worn or taken bearing in mind Summer
		and Winter conditions
		Advise parents to provide sun cream
		Ensure emergency shelter is taken if in demanding environment
Beach/coastal visits - washed into sea	Staff and pupils	Check tide times before embarking on trip
caught by rising tide, cut-off by tide		Check weather forecast for day of visit
		Brief pupils and staff not to go near waters edge

Walking up/down steep hills / mountains Farm Visits Machinery, vehicles, risk of allergy, contamination, bites, kicks, etc	Pupils Pupils and staff	Brief pupils and helpers of proposed route Brief pupils of appropriate behaviour Ensure member of staff at front, middle and rear of pupils Ensure correct clothing and footwear is used Brief pupils to stay out of way of machinery/vehicles and to follow supervision by farm staff Ensure parents have informed staff prior to visit of possible allergies Brief children not to touch animals unless safe to do so Ensure pupils/staff are made aware of farm rules, reinforced by farm staff Ensure all eating is done in hygienic locations Ensure children wash hands before eating
Castle visits High walls – falls Steep, dark stairs - falls	Pupils and staff	Visit leader knows venue and specific areas of risk in the castle (following recce) Brief other staff Supervise pupils appropriately

Additional notes: Standard risk management procedures are reviewed and updated annually. Old versions are kept on file.