



# **Educational Visits Procedure**

Partner school

John Taylor Multi Academy Trust



## 1. Underlying principals

Educational visits are an important part of the curriculum, enriching students' experience and contributing to their personal and social development. The guidance below aims to:

- Ensure the health and safety of all participants.
- Facilitate efficient planning and organisation.
- Comply with statutory regulation and recommended best practice.
- Protect colleagues from litigation over "duty of care".
- Enable access to educational visits commensurate with our responsibilities under the nine protected characteristics of the Equality Act, 2010.

## 2. Types of off-site experience

We recognise that all off-site experiences carry value, however there is an established hierarchy of visits that the school considers prior to giving approval. They are as outlined below:

- **Category 1:** A *crucial* educational activity that is required to be undertaken by students in order to meet external examination assessment criteria. This is categorised as an Educational Visit. See Charging and Remissions Policy.
- **Category 2:** An *important* educational activity that is embedded in curriculum and course delivery, whereby students' learning is significantly disadvantaged through non-attendance. This is categorised as an Educational Visit. See Charging and Remissions Policy.
- **Category 3:** A *valuable* educational activity that relates closely to curricular content. This is categorised as a 'trip'.
- **Category 4:** A *desirable* experience that promotes social and personal development, or an appreciation of the wider world. This is categorised as a 'trip'.

## 3. Supplementary guidance on Educational Visits

Chase Terrace Academy operates its educational visits within a framework of quality assurance and documentation provided by Staffordshire County Council (via 'Entrust') through a contractual arrangement.

It is important that the procedure outlined in the visit's procedure is followed. All educational visits and trips must have approval from the Headteacher. The very first step in the process is to receive provisional approval and confirmation of the visits or trip's categorisation (see above). Once this has been given by the Headteacher, calendar arrangements and staffing should be approved by the Headteacher.

The next important step is to speak to the Business Manager to discuss visit/trip finance and administration. This should be done at least six months in advance for non-residential visits/trips and for residential visits/trips, 18 months where possible.

A draft letter to parents/carers to accurately cost and confirm arrangements for the proposed visit/trip should be agreed with the Business Manager and then approved by the Headteacher. The agreed letter should then be handed to the Education Visits Co-ordinator (Cover Manager) alongside a request for cover form for each member of staff going on the trip to record in the cover diary. The Business Assistant is provided with a copy of the final letter for the payment account to be set up for each parent/carer. **Any unforeseen costs may have to be funded from department's capitation budget so you must include a contingency fund within your calculation to accommodate this.**

When sorting out the staffing arrangements, it is important to speak to the Business Manager about the Trip Helpers we bring in to help to supervise educational visits/trips. Trip Helpers are paid hourly and must be covered in the cost of the educational visit/trip. For foreign

visits, the rate is daily. The level of remuneration should be made clear to any potential Trip Helpers, and any queries resolved, prior to the trip being staffed.

Letters then go out to students with a deadline for return of permission slip/initial payment. Places are not to be given on a "first come first served" basis. Once the deadline has elapsed, it is important that names of students interested in going on the visit/trip should be reviewed by the visit/trip leader who can then assess if there are any concerns regarding the behaviour/attendance of specific students and their attendance on the visit/trip.

In the event of over-subscription, names can then be drawn out of a hat by the visit/trip leader in the presence of the Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) and students informed that they have been successful or otherwise. Particularly for Category 3 and 4 foreign trips, the Trip Leader keeps a list of all students who are unsuccessful in gaining a place. They are given priority to be selected on the next available visit/trip that they express an interest in and are eligible to attend.

Disadvantaged students and those in receipt of Post-16 Bursaries should be supported financially to ensure their participation in Category 1 and 2 educational visits. There may be scope to extend this to other categories (on a case-by-case basis), and other forms of support may also be considered. We would look to ensure that disadvantaged students are represented on the trip in proportion to the % of disadvantaged within their year group.

#### **4. Evolve**

Once initial approval has been given, the online EVOLVE form must then be completed for every trip by the Education Visits Co-ordinator (Cover Manager). This can be accessed via <https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk>

If you go into the resources section under establishment documents you will find some very useful guidance documents especially the Trips Procedure flow chart and the supplementary Guidance on Educational Visits document.

When the EVOLVE form asks if the place where your going has public liability insurance you do need to check this, and it should be at least £5,000 000. **The form asks if you use the county insurance, and the answer is no.** Our insurance is the EFA Risk Protection Arrangement with the government. If your trip is residential then this would be with Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) Overseas Travel Membership No. 143899.

The Trip Leader is responsible for doing a risk assessment for the trip and again a risk assessment template is available in the resource section in EVOLVE. If unsure about this speak to the Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager).

The Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager) is the named Emergency Contact for all trips and visits and can be contacted through the school reception on 01543 682286 or through a dedicated school mobile or personal mobile number.

Upon occasions the named Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager) may not be available to be the Emergency Contact in which case they will advise of another member of the Senior Leadership Team who can act as the Emergency Contact if required.

#### **4. Adventurous Activities**

The 'Activity Providers Checklist' form must be completed by the providers of any activities that involve an element of risk (e.g., rock climbing). Essentially this will involve sending an electronic copy of the form to them to complete and return. An 'Activity Providers Checklist'

(previously EVC1) does not need to be completed if the provider has Learning Outside the Classroom Certification (LOtC).

If you need clarification as to whether an activity requires an 'Activity Providers Checklist' to be completed, contact the school Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager). The 'Activity Providers Checklist' form will need to be attached onto EVOLVE.

Educational visits that are classed as 'Adventurous Activities' will need approval from Staffordshire County Council. EVOLVE for these activities must be submitted as least one month before the date of the planned activity.

Adventurous Activities include but are not limited to:

- Climbing - for example rock climbing, abseiling, ice climbing, gorge walking, ghyll scrambling, sea level traversing, high- and low-level ropes courses
- Watersports - for example canoeing, kayaking, dragon boating, wave skiing, white-water rafting, improvised rafting, sailing, sailboarding, windsurfing
- Trekking - for example hill-walking, mountaineering, fell-running, orienteering, pony trekking, off road cycling, off-piste skiing
- Caving - for example caving, pot-holing, mine exploration
- Challenges and skills - for example archery, quad bikes, assault courses, mountain boarding, initiative exercises.

## **6. Residential activities**

Planning an educational visit that is residential then an 'Accommodation Providers Checklist' (previously EVC2 form) must be completed and attached onto your EVOLVE application. If the provider, you are using has Learning Outside the Classroom Certification (LOtC) then they do not have to complete an 'Accommodation Providers Checklist'.

If an 'Accommodation Providers Checklist' needs to be completed, then the educational visit leader will need to send the form to the provider for them to complete.

Educational visits that are residential will need approval from Staffordshire County Council and the EVOLVE application for these visits must be submitted at least six months before the date of the planned activity.

'Activity Providers Checklist' and 'Accommodation Providers Checklist' forms can be downloaded from the visit forms section of the resource area on EVOLVE. When EVOLVE has been completed press submit and the system will then request the Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager) to check and send on for final approval.

If you are working on EVOLVE it will automatically save it as a draft copy. If you have any queries whilst you are at the draft stage, please contact the school Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager) for assistance.

When the educational visit has been given final approval, you will receive an email confirming it has been approved. If you have not received this again contact the school Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager) who can chase this up.

**If in any doubt whatsoever on how to proceed with any of the above guidelines and procedures, consult the Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (Cover Manager) before taking any further action.**

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Equality Policy and Safeguarding Policy which seeks to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across all aspects of school life.

**Reviewed by Governing Body:** September 2022

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**Next Review:** September 2024