

**EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY
FOR
THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE**



NAMED PERSON:

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ATTACHED COMMITTEE:

FINANCE & RESOURCES

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The Buckingham School Educational Visits Policy & Procedure 19/20

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SECTION 1 - POLICY

Vision Statement

The Buckingham School aims to offer a broad and balanced range of exciting and stimulating educational visits. The opportunities have a positive impact on raising standards, being a valuable and important part of the learning process for people of all ages.

They serve to:

- Bring breadth to the learning experience
- Stimulate enquiry and curiosity
- Encourage respect, empathy and quality in relationships between all involved
- Extend, enlighten and enrich the curriculum and the student's learning experience

Residential courses should further self-discipline, organisation, empathy and recognition of our interdependence.

The Buckingham School has a growing reputation for the extra-curricular and residential opportunities offered and all students are encouraged to take advantage of these enriching experiences. All members of the school community (students, staff, parents and governors) have a right to be informed of the many and varied opportunities available and should anticipate a broad, balanced and exciting offer. Students will not be barred on financial grounds from any courses/visits considered a necessary part of the curriculum. When additional funding is necessary, the school will endeavour to source appropriate funds.

Visits should be consistent with the aims of the school and be fully researched, approved, clearly targeted and reviewed.

Visits can lead to pressure (on parents' purses) and stress (on staff and students). All visits should follow an agreed pattern, to be part of the overall academic planning cycle. The scope of this policy covers a very wide range of potential activities, whether a short trip to a local museum or travelling long distances for a specific activity at a specially selected location. The same principles will also be applied to those types of visits that are purely for enjoyment and enhancement of life experiences, such as swimming and sporting activities. The benefit for students visiting venues and gaining first-hand experience and/or partaking in activities is absolutely invaluable in their educational and personal development.

We also recognise that the selection of appropriate venues that can enhance the experience and enjoyment without compromising the health and safety of those who are involved, are crucial to the success of the visit. Equally crucial in the success of educational visits is the need to involve parents and to gain from their support and enthusiasm.

The purpose of this policy is to therefore ensure that all educational visits, irrespective of their nature and duration, are well planned and co-ordinated and take into account the health and safety issues that may foreseeably arise during any visit. Only competent persons and organisations will therefore be selected for the purpose of planning and organising any visits and all and any venues visited will be carefully assessed beforehand.

Responsible Person

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator

1. The primary functions of the above named person are to co-ordinate and oversee all issues and controls regarding educational visits and to liaise between all appropriate parties during the planning and organisation.
2. This includes the need to ensure that the requirements of this policy are carried out and that any problems or difficulties in meeting these requirements are reported.
3. In particular, the above named person has responsibility for ensuring that any systems and procedures laid down for dealing with educational visits and the selection of suitable persons and organisations involved, follow the principal requirements of this policy and are fully in place prior to the commencement of any educational visit.
4. In addition, the above named person is responsible for ensuring that feedback is obtained from all educational visits and utilised, where practicable, to both enhance and improve any future arrangements and selection processes.
5. The above person can delegate specific tasks to other staff members and is responsible for ensuring that such delegation is appropriate and clearly understood.

Practicalities

The Policy

- To ensure that the purpose of any educational visit is clearly understood and is the focal point for any arrangements made.
- To ensure that all visits have prior approval before going ahead.
- To not exclude any student with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act (2010).
- To ensure adequate provisions and arrangements have been included for all students with special needs during educational visits.
- To categorise each educational visit and to plan and organise accordingly. (Note: visit categories are summarised at the end of this policy document.).
- To co-ordinate all educational visits through our appointed Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (EVC).
- To ensure a suitable Trip Leader is appointed for each type of visit, irrespective of the nature and duration.
- To ensure that any selected Trip Leader has the relevant qualifications (where appropriate), skills, experience and abilities suitable for the responsibilities placed upon them.
- To select only appropriate venues and locations that are well-known and/or have been adequately assessed beforehand.

- To select only competent persons for supervisory roles and to ensure they have been suitably vetted and cleared in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.
- To select only competent and assessed travel and/or tour operators for means of transportation to and from venues and locations.
- To arrange educational visits only where the risks have been assessed and reduced to as low as reasonably practicable beforehand.
- To provide effective levels of supervision at all times appropriate to the numbers and age group(s) of the students.
- To ensure that all parents are fully informed of any plan to organise an educational visit and that formal consent has been obtained beforehand. To assist, wherever possible, those parents who may have difficulties in meeting all the costs of any specific visit.
- To exclude those whose behaviour represents a threat to the health and safety of themselves and those around them.
- To ensure that trips have compulsory trips/fieldwork as a statutory part of the course have staff cover costs supported by whole school.

The Arrangements

The following arrangements and activities are in place in order to meet the above policy requirements:

- A comprehensive risk assessment system and procedure to identify risks to the health and safety of all those who attend an educational visit and to determine the necessary precautions required to adequately control the risks.
- A set of procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency or any unpredicted event that may threaten the health and safety of anyone during the visit (see end of this document).
- A reporting procedure for any accidents or incidents that may occur on the educational visit and for observed conditions that may lead to such incidents.
- A system for providing feedback on the experiences of all educational visits that enables improvements and enhancements of future visits to be considered.
- First aid provision and trained first aiders appropriate to the assessed needs of any educational visit (all trips must have first aid cover).
- Adequate insurance arrangements appropriate to the nature of the visit covering (where appropriate):
 - Luggage and equipment
 - Accident and medical cover
 - Cancellation
- Provision of relevant, more detailed and updated internal guidelines, checklists and procedures to ensure a safe and successful visit (in this policy).

- Checklist systems to ensure the following are accounted for:
 - Names of all students on the visit and accountability during the visit
 - Emergency contact details of parents
 - A list of provisions and equipment required for the visit, including specific medical and first aid provisions
 - Itineraries and schedules for all proposed travel and activities
 - Appropriate and adequate provision of information and instruction to all those who require them
 - Appropriate mobile communication methods, systems and equipment
 - Additional specific requirements based on the nature and location of the visit
- The assessment and provision of a licensed transport provider and adequately maintained transport vehicles wherever and whenever required.
- The assessment of appropriate modes of travel and provisions for alternative arrangements in the event of an emergency

Responsibilities

Trip Leader

1. Where so instructed and delegated by the responsible person named in this policy, to plan the proposed visit taking into account the health and safety risks that may arise before, during and after the visit.
2. To appoint, where considered appropriate, any competent deputy or deputies in support of any visit.
3. To ensure that as much relevant information is obtained on any proposed visit, venue and location to enable an appropriate risk assessment to be carried out. This may include an exploratory visit beforehand. Staff cannot be responsible and not liable for a known historical medical condition if information is withheld from the trip leader prior to the visit.
4. To ensure that the needs of all those included on the visit are assessed and provided for.
5. To ensure that the risk assessment(s) also determine the appropriate level of supervision, first aiders and any other specifically trained and/or experienced personnel.
6. Ensuring that all equipment and materials required for the visit are adequate and arrangements are made to store them safely and correctly.
7. To ensure parents are provided with all the necessary information about the educational visit, any equipment etc. they need to provide and the standards of conduct expected of their child(ren).
8. Where appropriate, invite parents/carers to any briefing sessions. This should take account of any difficulties that parents may have if they have disabilities, if English is their second language etc.
9. To brief all group members, including students and parents, on the main elements of the visit, the standards expected and the roles and responsibilities of all prior to commencing the visit.
10. To finalise all details and arrangements with the responsible person named in this policy.

11. To explore school Code of Conduct and any other relevant rules related to that activity.

Teaching staff involved with educational visits

1. Support the Trip Leader in all requirements and follow instructions.
2. Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them and for whom they also have appointed responsibility.
3. Assist in general control and discipline requirements.
4. Inform the Trip Leader of any concerns, observed or otherwise.
5. Do not to force students to partake in any activities during the visit that they may not wish to do.

Parents/Carers

1. Must provide emergency contact details prior to the educational visit.
2. Sign and return a consent form.
3. Provide any relevant information known to them regarding the (current) health of their child and if necessary, complete an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) and/or Administration of Medicine Form.
4. To disclose any specific details of concerns for their child that may be appropriate to the nature of the visit and any activities planned.

Students

Must follow the guidelines as set out in the code of conduct.

Training

The following training will be undertaken by the organisation:

- All staff will be made fully aware of this policy and the requirements and arrangements laid down within it.
- All staff will be trained in understanding the health and safety requirements of educational visits, particularly in relation to those identified in the relevant risk assessments.
- Key staff, as identified by the responsible person named at the head of this policy document, will be trained in any specific role they are required to take in support of this policy.

Summary of educational visit categories:

There are three categories of visit:

Visits/activities within the 'School Learning Area' that are part of the normal curriculum and take place during the normal school day. These are local trips to the school (within walking distance) where a register of students is left with the school office and a first aid kit is taken by the trip leader.

Other non-residential visits within the UK that do not involve an adventurous activity.

These are entered on EVOLVE by the visit leader (the educational visits administrator can be used for support here) and submitted to the EVC for checking. The EVC then submits to the Head for approval.

Visits that are overseas, residential, or involve an adventurous activity.

As above, but the Head authorises and then submits to the LA for approval.

SECTION 2 - ACCOUNTABILITY

The Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC)

The EVC ensures that educational visits follow National, Local Authority (LA) and School policies ensuring that all aspects of the 2010 guidelines (section 3.4j) are complied with and that the Trip Leader and accompanying adults are suitably competent to run the visit.

Trip and Activity Leaders

Those formally appointing a designated Trip or Activity Leader should take account of the following:

- Trip/Activity Leader should be formally approved for the event-specific activity
- Trip/Activity Leader **must** be formally assessed as being competent
- Ensure that those leading visits have appropriate understanding of employer guidance. It is good practice for employers to provide formally accredited Trip Leader training.

New Staff will be required to attend Trip Leader training/arrange formal induction with the EVC before they can lead a visit.

- The officially approved and designated Trip/Activity Leader should be: Accountable (being accountable implies being an employee, or legally contracted - and thus part of a chain of specified roles and responsibilities).
- Competent/Confident (a leader who is not confident may not be effective). Competence requires that the leader can **demonstrate the ability to operate to current standards of recognised good practice** and the following indicators of competence should be in place:

Appropriate knowledge and understanding of:

- LA guidance reinforced by formal training
- School procedures reinforced by the Educational Visits Policy
- The group, the staff, the activity and the venue; recent and relevant experience; in some cases, a formally accredited qualification e.g. first aid, adventure activities leadership/coaching award

Where a Trip Leader or Assistant Leader plans to provide their own **adventurous activities** to young people or vulnerable adults, it is recommended that competence is externally and credibly verified.

This can be achieved by:

- holding a current NGB leadership award (or equivalent)
- **or**, if working in an outdoor centre, through a “signing off” process by an Employer-approved technical adviser
- A Trip/Activity Leader **must** follow Employer guidance and school policy and procedures
- A Trip /Activity Leader **must** ensure that the activity is properly planned and that the plan includes appropriate risk management procedures based on a risk-benefit analysis
- A Trip/Activity Leader **must** ensure that the roles and responsibilities of other staff (and young people) are properly defined and communicated, ensuring effective supervision. To access a full explanation of the expectations and responsibilities attached to the role of Trip or Activity Leader.

Common Law Duty of Care and Effective Supervision

When one person takes on responsibility for another, they take on a legal “Duty of Care” to ensure that those being looked after are kept safe from harm. Where a non-specialist or non-professional adult (the person traditionally described in Common Law as “the man on the Clapham omnibus”) takes on responsibility for young people, the legal expectation of the standard of care is described as that of a “reasonably prudent parent”. However, when the adult taking on the duty of care has specialist knowledge and/or is working in a professional or employment context, then the law expects a higher standard of care, usually described as the over-arching “Higher Duty of Care”.

To exercise the Higher Duty of Care, Common Law expectation is that Trip and Activity Leaders ensure that young people are supervised in accordance with the principles of “Effective Supervision”, requiring them to take account of:

- The nature of the activity (including its duration)
- The location and environment in which the activity is to take place
- The age and gender (including developmental age) of the young people to be supervised
- The ability of the young people (including their behavioural, medical, emotional and educational needs) **NB Staff cannot be responsible for a known historical medical condition if information is withheld from the trip leader prior to the visit.**

Staff competence and experience requirements

This means that every group should be considered in relation to its individual, component parts and effective supervision of any given group has to reflect the group chemistry. It is therefore of critical importance that when planning a repeat or on-going series of activities, the previous plan (no matter how well it worked) is reviewed to ensure it meets current group needs.

Use of third party providers on trips (eg instructors, facilities hired, drivers)

When using a third party provider the trip leader is responsible for checking Risk Assessments, DBS/insurances (including Public Liability), Fire Procedures, Leadership Qualifications and experience.

Providers that hold LOTC/AAL/Adventure Mark badges are pre-validated by Governing Bodies and therefore do not need checks done.

SECTION 3 – TRIP APPROVAL CRITERIA

A decision on whether or not a visit may go ahead will be made on the basis of:

- Cost to school and parents – the school reserves the right to cancel visits in the event of inadequate funding being available
- Availability of cover staff on the dates selected
- Educational value
- Inclusiveness of all students
- Timing
- Adequate leadership arrangements and suitability of qualifications
- Health and safety considerations as a result of a completed risk assessments
- Whether or not it includes all students
- Financial security
- Evidence of appropriate planning
- Evidence that minimum disruption to the normal curriculum has been considered

There must be a briefing meeting for parents before **all** residential, overseas visits or visits involving adventure activities. Parents must be informed before the visit if any form of remote supervision is to take place.

Procedures

Before applying for approval for the visit, the following information (where possible) should be sought by the organiser:

- Full cost of the visit, including options where possible, for students and staff e.g. activity/entrance fees, transport
- Cost of teaching cover, resources needed, cost/payment of part-time staff (particularly if not in school on those days)
- An appropriate and detailed **Action Plan** should be submitted for all large trips e.g. World Challenge, Barbados, to include 'how' individuals who wish to participate can be supported through appropriate fundraising/sponsorship to enable them to participate.
Inclusiveness of all students is a key factor in these trips

- Within the Action Plan an agreed payment schedule with a long lead in time is essential to spread the cost to students and parents
- Accommodation details where appropriate
- Insurance details where appropriate
- Experience/qualifications of staff/instructors involved
- First Aid provision

NB An exploratory visit should be made, whenever possible, by any teacher who is to lead a group abroad or on a residential visit **or** who is to instruct or lead the group in an outdoor activity in a location that is not familiar to him/her. If, in the last resort, an exploratory visit is not feasible, the Group Leader will need to consider how to complete an adequate assessment of the risks.

Planning a Visit/Trip

In order to allow for sufficient time for a visit to be organised, the following should be submitted to the EVC at least **a term in advance** (remembering that we are a 6 term school). Approval for the visit will be based on the information given and should therefore be as detailed as possible and include:

1. An Initial Proposal (Green form)
2. A Budget Form Compulsory field trips will not charge for cover
3. Appropriate Risk Assessments (attached after approval/ Specific RA must be done as well as Generic)
4. Names submitted to Finance – permission to go, medical information, contact details & payments

A Typical Trip plan would be:

1. Submit a Trip Proposal Form (Green form) to DFO
2. Submit a Budget Form DJO (school business manager)
3. After approval, send letter to DFO
4. Arrange with ZWI for trip to be entered on Evolve
5. Submit trip group names to ZWI
6. ZWI will also collect contact details/permission/medical information for the trip leader
7. ZWI can be used to send reminders to parents/carers
8. Submit transport/venue/other Risk Assessments to ZWI to input into Evolve

NB For trips over 24 hours/residential, please contact DFO for latest advice on relevant forms.

Careful thought should be given to the following points in particular:

- The leadership, staffing support and relevant qualifications held
- The arrangements for student welfare/pastoral care during the visit
- If applicable, how students will be selected for the visit. It is not acceptable to select on the basis of 'first come, first served.' There should be an educational rationale for the selection of students and this must be made clear on the Proposal Form and in letters to parents/carers. The Head of Year for the year group must always be consulted about selection. If no rationale exists and the trip is oversubscribed, students should be selected through a randomised process to ensure fairness

- First Aid arrangements
- Health and Safety considerations

Communications

Information should be given to students/parents only **AFTER** approval has been given. An initial letter to parents should:

- ensure that the specific wording is correct. All trip letters must be processed by school admin staff and be proof-read
- state the aim of the visit
- give times and details of venue and provider e.g. Travel Company
- provide a provisional itinerary, where appropriate
- state student/staff ratio and qualifications or experience of accompanying staff where appropriate
- give type of accommodation/transport where appropriate
- state types of any special clothing or equipment needed
- contain details of costs, whether the cost is compulsory or whether a voluntary contribution is being sought. It should also indicate, in cases of financial hardship which makes it difficult for parents to afford the costs, the means by which parents/carers can seek financial assistance to cover costs
- where appropriate, inform parents of the criteria to be used to select students as proposed above

For all visits over 24 hours, parents should be informed that, in instances of severely unacceptable behaviour, that the student concerned may be sent home and that the responsibility for accompaniment and any additional costs lies with the parents.

Future correspondence **must** include:

- a request for parental consent (for **all** off-site activities) (Form OA1)
- a request for medical and contact details (Form OA2). Staff cannot be responsible for a known historical medical condition if information is withheld from the trip leader prior to the visit.
- details of insurance

For overnight and all visits abroad correspondence must include:

- details of a briefing meeting for parents where the itinerary and standards of behaviour are explained

Before departure, the Base Manager, who has been appointed to act as the school contact between parents and the visiting group in the event of a query or an emergency, the EVC and all supervisors must be provided with all the necessary information about the visit, including emergency contact details for everyone in the group.

SECTION 4 – HEALTH AND SAFETY

At least **one** appropriate accompanying adult must be trained in First Aid and in the treatment of anaphylactic shock if appropriate. ***It is the Trip Leader's responsibility to check that all essential medications have been taken e.g. Epipens, asthma inhalers etc.*** It is the student's responsibility to bring labelled medication and present it to one of the adults supervising the visit e.g. travel sickness medication. If any medication is taken it should be recorded on an Administration of Medication Form. If an accompanying adult considers that medical treatment necessary, s/he may contact parents/carers for advice and consent in minor cases. If in doubt the student should be referred to a doctor.

Administration of Controlled Substances e.g. Ritalin

Trip leaders are responsible for keeping all controlled substances in a locked container and then within another locked/secure area e.g. cupboard or glove box. All medication administered on the visit should be recorded on the Administration of Medication Form and returned to the relevant Student Reception.

On residential visits, students and staff must be familiar with fire and emergency procedures.

During a visit the Trip Leader retains a 'Higher Duty of Care' for the group at all times. In delegating supervisory roles to other adults, it is good practice for the Trip Leader to:

- allocate supervisory responsibility to each adult for named young people
- arrange the party into smaller and more easily managed sub-groups
- ensure that each adult knows which sub group and which young people they are responsible for
- ensure that each young person knows which adult is responsible for them
- ensure that all adults understand that they are responsible to the Trip Leader for the supervision of the young people assigned to them
- ensure that all adults and young people are aware of the expected standards of behaviour
- ensure the visit is as safe as practicable
- curtail the visit **or** stop the activity if the risk to the health and safety of any participant reaches an unacceptable level
- ensure that participants are aware of the need to be involved in the process of ongoing risk assessment, including the reporting of hazards and potential risks

It is good practice for each Assistant Leader to:

- have a reasonable, prior knowledge of the young people, including any special educational needs, medical needs or disabilities
- carry a list/register of all group members
- directly supervise the young people (except during remote supervision). This is particularly important when they are mingling with the public and may not be easily identifiable
- regularly check that the entire group is present
- have a clear idea of the activity to be undertaken, including its aims, objectives and targeted learning outcomes
- have the means to contact the Trip Leader/other adult supervisors if needing help
- have prior knowledge of the venue from the Trip Leader

- recognise unforeseen hazards and respond accordingly
- monitor the activity, including the physical and mental condition and abilities of the group members and the suitability of the prevailing conditions
- be competent in the techniques of group management
- ensure that young people abide by the agreed standards of behaviour clearly understand the emergency procedures and be able to carry them out; know how to access First Aid

Each young person should:

- know who his/her supervisor is at any given time and know how to contact him or her
- make sure that they have understood instructions
- make sure they are not isolated from the group
- know who their fellow sub group members are
- alert the supervisor if someone is missing or in difficulties
- make sure they are aware of any designated meeting place
- make sure they understand the action they should take if they become lost or separated

During a visit ALL participants will:

- ensure that they co-operate with the Trip Leader and follow the instructions given to them in order to maintain the lowest acceptable risks to the Health and Safety of all participants
- develop their knowledge and understanding related to responsible participation in risk reduction

After the visit the Trip Leader will:

- ensure that the visit is evaluated and a report is made to the EVC within 14 days of return. It should focus on what has been achieved and the extent to which the intended educational benefits were achieved. The report will include the result of all investigations into particular incidents as necessary.
- ensure that pertinent information acquired from or about the visit or about the visit or activity is drawn to the attention of the EVC and shared with colleagues for consideration in the planning of future educational visits and activities
- When necessary, ensure an accident/incident form is completed and sent to the EVC

NB Students will not be granted time off school on the day after the visit in any circumstance

Supervision

The following are recommended staff/student ratios for visits:

Destination	Year Group	Minimum Adult: Student ratio
Abroad	7-11	1:11
	12-13	1:15
UK Residential	7-9	1:11
	10-11	1:15
	12-13	1:15
UK Non-Residential Requiring transport	7-11	1:15
	12-13	1:20
Buckingham, or within walking distance	7-9	1:15
	10-11	1:20
	12-13	N/A

Ratios may change according to the proposed activity and environment and during the course of the visit. Apart from sports fixtures and alternative arrangements agreed by the headteacher, there must always be a minimum of 2 staff per visit and, where possible, one member of each sex for visits involving boys and girls unless the EVC has agreed to an alternative arrangement.

Students must understand key safety information including expected standards of behaviour, what to do if they become separated or if there is an emergency. Where there is going to be remote supervision, e.g. free time, students must:

- be judged competent in remote supervision
- be in groups of no less than 4 who must remain together
- be given a specific return time and meeting point
- be told how and where a member of staff can be contacted at all times in case of emergency
- 'Report in' regularly for a head count if remote supervision is likely to be for a prolonged period

Before the visit, parents/carers must be informed of and have agreed to any form of remote supervision and be made aware of the above measures to monitor the students.

School Trips, Exchanges and Overnight Stays (Information regarding Trans students)

Learning about different cultures and taking part in activities, may lead to overnight stays, both at home and abroad. Issues may arise for transgender students but this must not mean that they cannot be included on the trip. Consideration should be given well in advance to any additional needs which may include having a parent/carer (as a member of staff) accompany the trip to ensure that the student is fully included.

The sleeping arrangements will need to be thought about before a trip is undertaken; it is possible that the student would prefer to have a separate room etc. Each individual case and trip

needs to be thought of separately and in depth discussions should happen well in advance with any and all appropriate bodies.

The school should consider, just as anyone can be searched, transgender students may be searched at borders or other places. Different countries will have policies and procedures that they will follow. Contracting the relevant border control or agency in advance will ensure that any policy or risk assessment completed by the school is accurate for that visit or trip.

There are countries that are not as legally and culturally open as the UK. In fact, some have laws that make it illegal to be part of the transgender community, therefore if planning an overseas visit, you should consider and investigate the laws regarding transgender communities in the country you are visiting. The International Lesbian and Gay Association (LGA) have more information on their website about countries that pose a risk to transgender individuals. In relation to passports the passport office has a confidential service for people that are transgender (0800 448 8484) and more advice can be found here:

<http://www.ukdps.co.uk/AdviceForTranssexuals.html>

Recommendations

- A risk assessment for the school or college visit/trip should be conducted to include transgender students
- Any risks identified from the assessment should be managed so that any reasonable adjustments can be considered to facilitate the participation of the transgender student.

SECTION 5 – EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Where extra-curricular activities regularly take place off-site, e.g. sports fixtures, the organising staff at the start of each school year should obtain from parents of those students likely to be selected for teams:

- Consent to participate
- Appropriate medical information
- Emergency contact details

Details of other students selected during the year may be collected as necessary. Prior to departure for the fixture, the Faculty should ensure the office staff on the relevant site have details of the students involved, in case they need to make contact with parents.

A single member of staff may supervise a sports team. Adults other than teachers (AOTTs) may act as additional supervisors. However, a DBS check must be completed if staff anticipate that supervisors will be left alone with students or will be supporting events on a regular basis.

The Trip Leader for each fixture visit should take:

- a school mobile phone
- medical information
- copies of Consent Forms and emergency contact details for each student
- a First Aid Kit, ensuring that an approved adult is available to administer First Aid

SECTION 6 - TRANSPORT, including mini-buses and private cars

The Trip Leader is responsible for ensuring that transport is hired from a reputable company; that there is adequate supervision; that seat belts are worn and that staff and students are aware of what to do in an emergency, e.g. evacuation routes, assembly points.

All drivers of school mini-buses, including parent volunteers, must have a LA permit, which expires after 5 years. All drivers must be over 21. Drivers aged 21-24 may require additional insurance. All persons in the mini-bus must wear a seatbelt. Drivers must check the bus before departure and they must ensure that their total working day, including driving time, does not exceed 10 hours. Drivers must not drive for more than 1 hour 40 minutes in any period of 2 hours.

Teachers, and others who drive students in their own cars, must have the appropriate licence and insurance cover for carrying students and must therefore contact their insurance companies to make suitable arrangements.

Volunteer drivers, e.g. parents, not employed by the school, must complete a volunteer driver declaration to be passed to the EVC and headteacher for approval. For regular volunteers, this must be done annually to check for endorsements. Supervising adults should not be put in a position where they are alone with a student. Any volunteer driver, who might be left with a student at any time, must have also had a DBS check completed. Volunteer Risk Assessments must be completed for all volunteers and must be sent to, and approved by, the school business manager, alongside the EVC and headteacher.

Parents' permission must be sought for their children to be carried in other parents' cars. Furthermore, the LA recommends that school transport of students does not use Sixth Form drivers.

The Trip Leader should arrange a central dropping off point for all students rather than individual drops home.

Staff on residential trips should liaise with the Site Team if parking their vehicle on the school site for the duration of the visit.

SECTION 7 – CHECKLIST FOR TAKING A SCHOOL TRIP

Allow plenty of time for planning. Allow at least a term for most day visits. Same day visits e.g. to the theatre, may need less time than this.

1. Discuss the idea for the visit with your Curriculum Leader and/or Head of Year. Contact Learning Support regarding potential issues for SEN students
2. Make initial enquires with the company/venue re:

Day Trips	Residential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of venue • Nature of activity on offer • If Outdoor Activity / Education Centre, has it been checked for suitability? • Available dates, including alternatives, times (must not return late (10:00) without SLT consent • Insurance • Are staff qualified to lead activities? • Costs, e.g. entrance fees, transport, activities, meals, hiring equipment • Cover requirements and costs • Suitability for those with physical disabilities e.g. lifts, toilets • First Aid provision. Are suitably qualified staff available to meet the needs of students? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation details • Nature of activity on offer • If Outdoor Activity/Education Centre, has it been checked for suitability? • If accommodation other than above, e.g. hotel abroad, have premises been vetted, e.g. by Travel Company? • Available dates, including alternatives • Insurance • Are staff qualified to lead activities? • Costs, e.g. entrance fees, transport, activities, meals, hiring equipment • Cover requirements and cost • Suitability for those with physical disabilities e.g. lifts, toilets • First Aid provision. Are suitably qualified staff available to meet the needs of students e.g. diabetic students?

- A provisional booking at this stage may be advisable (ensure no monies are exchanged until trip is agreed)
3. Complete and submit to EVC/business manager copies of:
 - Trip Proposal form (Green form)
 - a Budget Form (in discussion with business manager)
 - Risk Assessments
 - Draft letter to parents/carers
 4. If approved, inform students and parents/carers of the visit, asking for reply slips from those interested. Please then liaise with ZWI who will advise of documents needed, inform cover supervisor regarding need and arrange for parentmail/parentpay to be set up.
 5. Arrange which students are going (see Visits Policy) and send out letters confirming places, asking for deposits/payment in full where applicable, and asking for consent forms to be completed and returned to the school office. The educational visits administrator should photocopy these and the base manager and Trip Leader should receive a copy. For visits abroad this is also a good time to ask for details necessary for a Collective Passport and to remind parents to acquire NHS card EHIC. NB It is suggested that you also keep a copy of the passport details and cross check names with any tickets.
 6. Arrange a briefing for parents/carers if required.

7. Request balance of payment if applicable.
8. Arrange necessary First Aid provision and any necessary medication, e.g. EpiPens, extra inhalers, controlled medication with administration form.
9. Ensure that students and parents are fully aware of the itinerary, equipment required and expected standards of behaviour if this has not already happened at the briefing meeting, e.g.
 - Use of meeting points
 - Out-of-bound areas
 - What to do in an emergency
 - Dress code
 - Responsibility for own property
 - Water/sunscreen/hat for outdoor summer activities
10. Parents/Carers should also be provided with the addresses and contact numbers of the accommodation, group mobile phone number, the Base Manager and the Travel Company if applicable. If the visit involves a large number of students, you may wish to create a 'telephone tree' to be used to pass non-emergency information to parents/carers quickly e.g. a significant delay anticipated returning. Please ensure that parents/carers provide a number, which they agree to have made public.
11. Arrange for a list of participants names to go to the attendance officer and submitted to the staff weekly update to provide staff with an explanation for absence from lessons.
12. For visits abroad, make a photocopy of each student's passport and EHIC before departure.
13. For all visits involving an element of remote supervision, students should carry emergency contact names and numbers, e.g. Trip Leader and School mobile number. A laminated card is a good idea for this purpose.
14. Prior to departure provide the Base Manager, EVC, office staff and all supervising staff with a list of all participants, addresses and telephone numbers of contact persons, a copy of the risk assessments and an itinerary.

After the Visit

1. Where necessary, an Accident/Incident Form should be completed and a copy sent to the EVC
2. In every case, an evaluation of each visit should be carried out through Evolve within 14 days of return. A full and thorough evaluation of all trips should include: planning, finance (value for money), travel, accommodation, food, risk assessments and health and safety, student behaviour, student learning, recommendations for future trips and follow up evaluation e.g. presentation to Governors, assembly feedback, article/photos in the school bulletin and the local press etc.
3. Ensure that students and staff depart from late trips quietly without causing inconvenience to school neighbours. Please ensure that students attend school the next morning!

SECTION 8 – MONITORING VISITS

- The EVC is responsible for ensuring that all visits comply with the LA/Lord Williams's guidelines
- Each visit will be subject to monitoring through the process from the application for a visit through to the final delivery. Trip Leaders may be required to meet the EVC to discuss the visit, risk management and arrangements
- Each year the EVC will observe a sample of visits and monitor in accordance with LA guidelines, requiring that the Trip Leader can demonstrate the ability to operate to current standards of recognised good practice and the following indicators of competence should be in place:

Appropriate knowledge and understanding of:

1. employer guidance, reinforced by employer-approved training i.e. EVC training
2. establishment procedure (reinforced by a formal induction)
3. The group, the staff, the activity and the venue; recent and relevant experience; in some cases, a formally accredited qualification e.g. First Aid

SECTION 9 – BUDGETS

Management of the Trips Budget is extremely important. We aim to ensure that trips are financially sustainable. Guidance for planning/collecting funds should be sought from the school business manager as part of the trip proposal process.

We are lucky to be able to use administrative support at The Buckingham School and our finance team will be able to set up the financial implications of the trip/visit. The following outlines what is needed to be put in place to ensure parents/carers are able to pay with the maximum amount of time available.

Working with Parentpay:

- (i) Send out letters for expression of interest on Parentmail
- (ii) Assemble list of students for trip
- (iii) Send list with payment plan to Finance
- (iv) Finance will add to students' details
- (v) Send confirmation letters requesting deposits/payments
- (vi) Transactions for which receipts are collected, must be provided to Finance upon return.

SECTION 10 – CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Definition of a Critical Incident

When a group undertaking an off-site activity and any member of the group has been involved in an incident where a group member has:

- either suffered a life threatening injury or fatality
- is at serious risk;
- or has gone missing for a significant and unacceptable period.

In such a case, the incident should be treated as a “critical incident” and this guidance and procedures should be implemented.

Principles and Priorities

- to meet the needs of the group in crisis
- to meet and support the needs of the establishment, its community, parents/carers, relatives and friends
- to respond to the needs of other agencies
- to respond to media demands

Alerting and Activating the Plan

The plan should be sufficiently flexible to enable alerting the system for incidents occurring during normal school hours and those incidents that take place outside of normal school hours on a 24/7 basis. This will usually be by allocating a landline telephone number that is certain to be staffed during normal office hours (Usually Reception), and an alternative mobile phone number that is staffed on a 24/7 basis outside normal office hours (Base Manager). The numbers should be available to all those that may be required to use them, including:

- designated members of the Senior Leadership Team
- employer's Lead Manager for Critical Incident Management (if required)
- members of the Critical Incident Management Team and Travelling Team
- EVC
- Trip Leader
- Assistant Leaders who may take sole charge of a sub-group

Trip Leaders, and those in sole charge of a sub-group, should be advised to carry these numbers at all times during off-site activities, along with an Emergency Plan crib-card (preferably laminated to ensure that it can be used in difficult environmental conditions). However, in all but the most serious of circumstances, they should only use them after consultation with the establishments nominated Emergency Contact(s). Under normal circumstances, it should be the establishment's Emergency Contact that alerts the employer to initiate the Plan.

For the planned telephone communications to remain effective, it is strongly recommended that under no circumstances should Trip Leaders, EVCs, Establishment Emergency Contacts, Heads or Managers, make these telephone numbers available to parents – who might otherwise over-burden and compromise the system.

SECTION 11 – EMERGENCY PROCEDURE PROTOCOLS

The immediate course of action should be to:

1. assess the situation, establishing the nature and extent of the emergency but ensuring that the Trip Leader does not put his/herself at further risk
2. make sure all other members of the party are: • accounted for and safe • briefed to ensure that they understand what to do to remain safe
3. follow the emergency procedures appropriate to the activity
4. if there are injuries, take action to establish their extent and administer appropriate First Aid

It is vital to keep an accurate, real-time record of all actions as they occur. Under no circumstances should Trip Leaders make the telephone numbers that activate the Critical Incident Management Plan communication available to parents. Direct contact with a parent/carer of a group member from the scene of the incident should be avoided. This task should be carried out from the establishment home base by senior staff.

When summoning help:

1. Contact the appropriate emergency service(s) providing:
 - name of group and Trip Leader
 - location
 - nature of emergency and number of injured persons
 - action so farThen follow the advice given by the emergency services
2. Contact and advise the establishment Emergency Contact of the incident and action taken
3. Contact and advise any local base being used by the group The Trip Leader at the location of the incident (in conjunction with the local base support) should:
 - ensure that an appropriate adult attends the receiving hospital, taking the parental consent forms and appropriate medical information for the injured persons
 - ensure that the remainder of the party:
 - are adequately supervised throughout
 - are returned as early as possible to base - receive appropriate support and reassurance
 - ensure that an adult continues to liaise with the emergency services until the incident is over

Essentials:

- Monitor – record all events, times and details – establish witness contact details
- Treat for shock – reassure and keep warm
- Remember the rest of the group – safety, comfort, shock
- Avoid splitting the group – unless it is the only way to get help – leave nobody on their own
- Control indiscriminate use of mobile phones/email/Social Networking by the rest of the group
- Ensure that a leader accompanies any casualties to hospital
- Continue to monitor the situation and respond accordingly

Recording an incident:

Make an accurate record of all details as soon as possible – do not leave this until later when your memory of details may be confused.

Record the following:

- Time, date and nature of the incident
- Accurate incident location
- Names of casualties
- Details of injuries
- Names of others involved but not injured
- Locations of all involved when moved from the site
- Names and contact details of witnesses
- Action taken
- Action still to be taken
- An agreed plan for further action

Establishment Emergency Contact Protocols

The designated establishment Emergency Contact should initiate the planned cascade of information and action as set out in the Establishment's own Critical Incident/Emergency Plan.

They should ensure that they:

1. Make every effort to seek alternative and additional telephone lines
2. Restrict access to telephones, including mobile phones, and to other outside contacts, including the media and press
3. Contact the employer's designated Lead Manager contact point, giving details as above and also the current emergency contact telephone number at the location
4. Ensure that an appropriate adult is accessible by telephone

SECTION 12 – BASE MANAGER'S GUIDANCE WHEN RESPONDING TO A CRITICAL INCIDENT

- Establish group safety
- Trip Leader should contact his/her designated establishment Emergency Contact. TBS Emergency Contact should alert the Employer's Lead Manager point of contact
- TBS Emergency Contact should initiate the Establishment's own Critical Incident Plan
- School SLT point of contact should initiate the School's Critical Incident Management Plan for supporting off-site activities and visits. The first Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) staff member alerted should:
 - take on the responsibilities of the CIMT Lead Manager (LM) until such time as the CIMT decides otherwise
 - establish communication with other members of the CIMT
- Maintain communication with the establishment and the group
- Ensure that essential information is obtained, recorded and relayed to the CIMT to assess the situation correctly.

Forms, Information and Guidance

- Intimated Proposal – a trip proposal pack can be obtained from ZWI on school reception
- Advice and guidance from Bucks CC and national guidance can be found here: <https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/evco10/docs.asp>
- Budgeting Form – must be completed as part of the trip proposal and submitted to the school business manager
- Individual Risk Assessment – this is for medical/SEN/behavioural needs – Trip Leaders should be aware of all students' eduKey passports before event (NB It is essential that contact is made with parents/carers in completing this risk assessment)


THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY

ADOPTED:	MARCH 2012
REVIEWED:	OCTOBER 2019
REVIEW CYCLE:	1 YEAR
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	OCTOBER 2020

Mr Matthew Watkins
Chairman
Governing Body

Signed: 

Date: October 2019