

Educational Visits Policy

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Vision

We put children first, pioneering excellence and championing each and every child.

Overview

The Pioneer Academy (TPA) aims to ensure every child has the chance to try things out, to get a taste of the world around them, to see and do things that they wouldn't normally do, or go to places they wouldn't normally go. School visits and inspiring visitors are an entitlement to every child who attends a school within The Pioneer Academy. This is part of each school's role to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development and prepares our pupils for the opportunities and experiences of adult life.

The Pioneer Pupil Passport sets out a promise to each child;

'... we want you to benefit from important opportunities and life experiences. Your Pioneer Pupil Passport will help you track different cultural, sporting, natural and skill based experiences. We hope these opportunities will leave you enriched for the future and provide you with fond memories as well.'

All leaders, managers and governors within TPA understand that visits and trips can be effective ways of motivating pupils, and they can often offer unique educational experiences. The school aims to ensure that pupils are engaged in their learning and are given opportunities to explore this in a more practical setting.

Each year, each school will arrange a number of activities that take place off the school site and/or out of school hours, which support the aim of providing opportunities that enrich the curriculum, enabling the children to have first-hand experience of a wide range of topics and activities.

When planning and implementing a programme of varied visits, visitors and trips, TPA expects each school to undertake robust risk assessments. TPA takes the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and pupils very seriously. This policy has been designed in line with DfE and HSE guidance and details our responsibilities for pupils and staff members while out on educational visits and school trips.

This policy applies to all staff, governors and trustees.

Legal framework

This policy has been created with regard to relevant legislation including, but not limited to:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

This policy has also been created with due regard to the following guidance:

- DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'
- DfE (2013) 'Driving school minibuses'

Definitions

'In loco parentis' means that the group leader of any school trip or educational visit has a duty of care over the pupils in place of a parent.

'School trip' means any educational visit, away-day or residential holiday organised by the school which takes pupils and staff members off-site.

'Residential' means any school trip which includes an overnight stay.

Activities of an **'adventurous nature'** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Trekking
- Caving
- Skiing
- Water sports
- Climbing

Key roles and responsibilities

The **Trust Board** is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.
- Ensuring educational trips and visits positively impact on pupils' lives, teaching them new life skills and providing new experiences.
- Promoting good safeguarding practices to ensure the safety of pupils when partaking in extra-curricular trips and activities.

The **Head Teacher** is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- Appointing an educational visits coordinator, liaising with the Trust Board as necessary to ensure the correct appointment is made.
- Liaising with the educational visits coordinator and communicating information regarding any planned trips to parents.
- Liaising with the governing board regarding the organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities, including settling any disputes.

- Being part of the approval process for extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring the educational visits coordinator is competent to oversee the coordination of off-site education, and arranging for training to be undertaken as necessary.
- Completing relevant paperwork, including risk assessments, for extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring suitable safety measures are in place prior to each trip or activity.
- Overseeing the work of the educational visits coordinator, ensuring a whole-school approach is adopted when planning and coordinating extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring there are contingency plans in place in the event of a member of staff being absent on the day of the trip or activity.

During any periods when the school does not have an educational visits coordinator, the Head Teacher should undertake their duties until one can be appointed.

The **educational visits coordinator** has overall responsibility for:

- Overseeing all issues and controls regarding extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Liaising between all appropriate parties, including the local outdoor education adviser, during the planning and organising of extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Liaising with the local outdoor education adviser to help staff assess and manage risks.
- Ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy.
- Conducting risk assessments prior to school trips and educational visits to ensure pupil and staff safety.
- Creating an itinerary prior to an educational visit or school trip and distributing it to parents and staff to ensure the day is well organised and safe.
- Appointing an appropriate member of staff to be the designated leader of the trip.
- Ensuring that the requirements of this policy are carried out across all schools.
- Ensuring that any problems are raised in a meeting with the governor with special interest in parents, pupils and the community and where appropriate the School board.

The **designated leader** in charge of the trip is 'in loco parentis' and has a duty of care to all pupils on the trip. They are also responsible for:

- Checking the schedule is free on the school calendar prior to planning an educational visit.
- Identifying the educational purpose of the extra-curricular trip or activity and presenting its benefits to the Head Teacher.
- Completing all essential documentation for the trip, including a risk assessment, with the Head Teacher.
- Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity **as far in advance as possible** of the trip
- Organising a permission slip/form to be sent to parents and organising follow up actions if permission has not been granted/not been completed at least 1 week prior to trip
- Understanding and operating safeguarding measures throughout the planning, organisation and delivery of the extra-curricular trip or activity.
- Delegating responsibilities to other staff members on the school trip.

- Ensuring all adults on the trip are aware of their responsibilities and that the necessary checks have been carried out on volunteers in line with the DBS Policy*. They should ensure that volunteers sign the Volunteer Agreement. *If no DBS these volunteers would not lead groups unsupervised; would always be paired with a member of staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities.
- Ensuring the safety of the pupils is maximised throughout any educational visit or activity.
- Liaising with the designated leader to understand personal responsibilities and ensuring the smooth running of the school trip or activity.
- Ensuring that any outdoor space visited, e.g. a park and playing field, is kept clean and free from litter during the trip.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Following instructions from staff while on school trips.
- Keeping pride in their presentation, understanding that they are representing the school whilst on an education trip.
- Ensuring that, during visits to outdoor spaces, they keep the area tidy and free from litter.
- Behaving in a manner which matches the ethos of the school, and for following the behaviour rules set out in the school's **Behaviour Policy** with regards to this policy.

Training of staff

- Staff will receive training on this policy as part of their induction.
- Staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

Planning school trips

Prior to planning a school trip, the following guidance will be read by the organisers:

- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'

A thorough risk assessment will be conducted by the designated leader during the planning of the trip, to ensure pupil and staff safety, to be signed off by the educational visits co-ordinator.

Adventure activities will always be identified at the planning stage and never added during the trip.

When planning water sport activities, the need for instructors and lifeguards will be taken into account, particularly when using facilities which may not have a trained lifeguard present.

The school will do everything in its power to ensure that all pupils are given an opportunity to participate in school trips, for example, organising two trips with a smaller group size or finding a venue which can cater for all pupils. When planning an educational trip or activity, the School Board will ensure the trip does not discriminate against a particular individual, group of pupils or single school.

Residential School trips will be agreed upon at School Board level before any formal plans have been implemented. Any disputes relating to pre-planned educational trips or activities will be discussed and resolved at School Board level.

Risk assessment process

Our risk assessment process is designed to manage risks when planning trips, while ensuring that learning opportunities are experienced to the fullest extent.

The individual carrying out the risk assessment process will have the skills, status and competence needed for the role, understand the risks involved, and be familiar with the activity.

The process is as follows:

- Identify the hazards
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- Record findings and implement them
- Review assessment and update if necessary

Vetting providers

When considering external providers for activities, the **educational visits coordinator** will check whether they hold the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge' to indicate they meet nationally recognised standards.

If a provider does not hold the badge, the **educational visits coordinator** will check the following to ensure they are a suitable organisation to work with:

- Their insurance arrangements
- Their adherence to legal requirements
- Their control measures
- Their use of vehicles
- Staff competency levels
- Safeguarding policies
- The suitability of their accommodation
- Any sub-contracting arrangements in place
- The presence of necessary licences

If it is deemed appropriate to engage with an external provider, a written agreement will be created outlining what each party is responsible for.

If an organisation does not meet the school's standards, they will not be considered.

Equal opportunities

The school promotes values of equality and does not discriminate against any individual or group of pupils when organising a trip.

The extra-curricular trips and activities offered to pupils will provide new experiences and develop life skills.

Extra-curricular trips and activities are organised, managed and conducted in accordance with the school's **Equality Policy**.

Due to the popularity of some extra-curricular trips and activities, the school will usually offer places through random selection, provided any deadlines have been met by the parent/carer. Information about this should be given in the initial correspondence about the trip/activity/visit.

Any individual, staff or otherwise, shown to be taking preference over one pupil or a group of pupils will be subject to formal disciplinary action.

Where possible, pupils will be given the opportunity to contribute to the planning and organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities.

For school trips that require additional payment, the fee will be reasonable and help will be provided where possible for pupils who cannot afford the initial fee.

Parental consent

Parental consent is always required for off-site activities that take place during school hours. This is established through a permission form on Google Forms, or on ParentPay in some cases. Parents will have the opportunity to withdraw their children from taking part, but if the visit or trip occurs during school hours, their child will still be expected to attend school on this day. Written consent should also be obtained for activities that take place either on or off-site outside of school hours.

Staffing ratios

There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Our minimum staff to pupil ratios are as follows:

	Local Trips or Trips using Coaches		Trips using Public Transport	
Pupil Age	Adult/Pupil Ratio	<i>Example – for a class of 30 pupils</i>	Adult/Pupil Ratio	<i>Example – for a class of 30 pupils</i>
Nursery	1:2 - 3	10 to 15 adults	1:2	15 adults
Reception	1:3 - 4	8 – 10 adults	1:3	10 adults

KS1	1:8	4 adults	1:6	5 adults
KS2	1:10	3 adults	1:8	4 adults

The Visit Leader may or not be counted within the above ratios, depending on the nature of the trip- this should be agreed with the educational visits coordinator. Any adults working 1:1 to support a pupil should not be included in these ratios.

Insurance and licensing

When planning activities of an adventurous nature in the UK, the educational visits coordinator will check that the provider of the activity holds a current licence. Insurance will be organised for every trip, no matter how short, to ensure adequate protection and medical cover is in place. Parents will be informed of the limits of any insurance cover. Where a crime is committed against a member of the party, it will be reported to local police as soon as possible. Medical expenses will be recorded and stored in the school office.

Accidents and incidents

In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip in the UK, the school's accident reporting process will begin, as detailed in the **Health and Safety Policy**.

In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip abroad:

- Organisers will cooperate fully with local emergency services and understand that any injury or death of a member of staff or pupil outside of Great Britain may be subject to the law of the land where the accident occurred.
- The first point of contact within the UK will be the Head Teacher who will contact the family of the injured person.
- Pupils will be asked not to contact friends or parents in the UK until the family of the injured person can be contacted.
- The British Embassy/Consulate will be informed.
- The insurer will be notified.

The **Head Teacher** will keep written records of any incidents, accidents and near misses. Media enquiries will be referred to the **Head Teacher** or, if they are not available, the **Deputy Headteacher**

Staff will use guidance as set out in the **Critical Incident Policy**, in particular the 'after a critical incident' section, to ensure the safety of pupils and staff should anything happen, e.g. a terrorist attack.

Staff will be briefed on how to react and respond should an emergency situation occur, e.g. a terrorist attack.

Relevant risk assessments will be undertaken before the trip, including for points of interests such as museums and hotels.

Pupils and staff are informed of an evacuation plan before entering trip venues; this should include an agreed rendezvous point, to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

To ensure pupils are easily identifiable, they must wear school uniform and where appropriate (e.g. travel on public transport) a high-visibility jacket.

Missing person procedure

The school places pupil and staff safety as its top priority when participating in school trips, either domestically or abroad.

Before embarking on the trip, extensive risk assessments are undertaken.

The **designated leader** will communicate with the venues of the school trips to ensure the correct group sizes are planned for each setting.

When travelling with a pupil with special educational needs and/or disabilities, the **educational visits coordinator** will ensure an appropriate adult is with them at all times and that the visit is adequately modified to suit the pupil's specific needs.

Everyone on the trip will be provided with a contact sheet for all members of staff, in the event they are unable to locate their group.

All staff members and volunteers will be required to carry mobile phones with them at all times. If a volunteer doesn't own a mobile phone, they will be paired up with an adult who has a mobile phone.

Upon arriving at every venue, the trip leader will identify a rendezvous point where pupils and adults should go if they become separated from the rest of the group.

Pupils will wear school uniform, and in most cases high visibility jackets in order to make them easily identifiable.

Regular head counts of all pupils and staff will take place throughout the day to ensure all persons are present at all times.

In the event someone goes missing whilst on a school trip domestically or abroad:

The trip leader will ensure the safety of the remaining pupils and staff by taking a register to identify who is missing. The trip leader will immediately identify at least one adult to start looking for the person and another adult to contact them via phone, these people will look for the person until, where necessary, the police arrive. Where possible, the venue will be notified of the missing person to help ensure the person is found quickly.

If the person cannot be contacted or located within **10 minutes**, the local police or relevant authorities, e.g. the British Embassy, will be contacted. If the police are called, the trip leader will

contact the **Head Teacher**, or other available person, back at the school and inform them of what has happened.

If the police, or another authority, is called to an incident where someone is missing, they will oversee locating the person and will advise on factors including, but not limited to, when to contact next of kin. If the missing person cannot be found, the group will return to school. If this is not possible, e.g. when a trip is taking place abroad, the **educational visits coordinator** will make arrangements to ensure the group's safety, e.g. by changing venues or cancelling visits.

If a member of the party has gone missing and is subsequently found, the trip leader will:

- Review the group sizes and staffing ratios to ensure no one becomes separated from their group.
- Review whether more registers should be conducted throughout the day.
- Assess which venues they attend to ensure they are suitable for the group.
- Make recommendations to the educational visits coordinator to ensure similar incidents can be avoided in the future.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Educational Visits should be available and accessible to all, irrespective of special educational or medical needs or protected characteristics.

When a visit or activity is being planned, all reasonably practicable measures must be taken to include all young people.

Every reasonable effort should be made to find a venue and activities that are both suitable and accessible and that enable the whole group to participate fully and be actively involved.

Finance

The financial procedures outlined in **TPA's Charging and Remission Policy** will always be followed when arranging trips.

The school will act in accordance with the DfE's guidance document 'Charging for school activities' (2018) and, therefore, will only charge for trips which are classed as an 'optional extra'. This is education provided outside of school time which is not:

- Part of the national curriculum.
- Part of religious education.

Money for school trips will always be paid directly to the school. Under no circumstances should school trip money be processed through personal accounts.

All letters to parents regarding school trips will include a clause explaining what will happen in the event that the trip is cancelled or a pupil cancels their place on the trip.

In the event that the trip is cancelled due to unforeseeable circumstances, it is at the **Head Teacher's** discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Head Teacher take into account the cost to the school, including alternative provision costs.

In the event that a pupil cancels their place on a trip, it is at the Head Teacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Head Teacher will take into account the pupil's reasons for cancelling their place, whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip, and whether the space on the trip can be offered to someone else.

The school will take a common-sense approach to refunds and cancellations, ensuring that all pupils are treated equally.

Any charge made in respect of pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the trip divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Once trip arrangements are booked and confirmed, if contributions to a trip exceed the total cost of the trip, a refund will be given where the **excess is greater than £1 per pupil**.

Any excess of expenditure will be subsidised by the school.

Foreign trips

When planning school trips abroad, the school will consider the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's guidance 'Safer adventure travel and volunteering overseas' (2015) and, where an activity poses significant risks, the school will also consult the British Standard for adventurous activities outside the UK.

Validity of passports and visa requirements will be dealt with within **three months** of the initial notification of the trip, to avoid problems when the trip is due to take place.

Staff and pupils will be taught about the culture and values of the country they are visiting, to ensure they understand and respect the values of the citizens.

Before the trip, staff are trained in spotting suspicious behaviour and remaining vigilant whilst abroad.

Before the trip, pupils will be taught how to remain vigilant in the country they are visiting, particularly about advances from strangers.

Registers will be taken at the start and end of each day, as well as before, during, and after events, and at regular intervals whilst on days out to ensure the whereabouts of pupils are known at all times.

Staff will check the town/city's local news at the start of each day of the trip, to ensure their planned activities are safe to go ahead.

A minimum of **two** members of staff attending the trip will have at least an intermediate understanding of the destination country's language.

At the start of the trip, all pupils and staff are provided with an emergency contact sheet, this includes the trip leader's mobile phone number, as well as emergency numbers and phrases for the country they are visiting.

When using external providers abroad, the school will check whether the provider holds an equivalent of the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge'. If no such equivalent can be ascertained, the school will make checks in the same manner.

Evaluating trips and visits

Following an educational trip/visit, the **educational visit coordinator** will meet with the designated Trip Leader* and Enrichment Leader for the trip to assess the success of the trip in respect of both educational value and safeguarding effectiveness. Based on this assessment, recommendations will be made to improve future trips and visits.