



Snowflake School

‘Improving the quality of family life’

Educational Visits Policy

Contents

1. Aims and scope.....	3
2. Legislation and guidance	3
3. Roles and responsibilities	3
3.1 Head teacher	3
3.2 The Educational visits co-ordinator (EVC).....	4
3.3 Staff.....	4
3.4 Parents and carers	5
3.5 Volunteers.....	5
3.6 Pupils	5
4. Planning and preparation	5
4.1. Inclusion.....	6
5. Risk assessment.....	6
5.1 Staff ratios and first aid.....	7
5.2 Transport.....	7
5.3 Use of external organisations	7
6. Volunteers.....	7
7. Communication and consent.....	8
8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting	8
9. Charging and insurance	9
10. Residential visits	9
11. Review	10
12. Links with other policies	10

Appendix 1: Proposed visit planning information	11
Appendix 2: Risk assessment template	13
Appendix 3: Volunteer behaviour and code of conduct.....	16
Appendix 4: template letter for parents/carers and consent form	17
Revision.....	19

1. Aims and scope

Educational visits are activities arranged by, or on behalf of our school, which require pupils to leave the school premises, having been authorised to do so by the Head teacher or other designated members of staff. Educational visits are a valuable way to supplement and enhance the curriculum, expand pupils' education and provide enriching social and cultural experiences. They also teach life skills and promote independent learning and form an integral part of our approach to furthering our pupils' education and personal growth.

This policy sets out our approach to planning and operating educational visits, to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff, and to make sure that our visits are available to all pupils. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff, pupils and volunteers in regard to visits.

This policy applies to activities taking place within and outside of normal school hours, including weekends and holiday periods. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Visits to places of interest in the local area
- Day visits to places such as museums and other cultural and educational institutions
- Sporting activities
- Adventurous and recreational activities
- Residential educational visits organised by the school

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on [Health and safety on educational visits](#), and the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)

Sections of this policy are also based on the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for:

- Approving staff requests for educational visits, including having final authority to approve any educational visit of less than 24 hours
- Making sure staff, including the educational visits co-ordinator, have received any necessary training
- Working with the Trustees to approve residential educational visits of more than 24 hours

3.2 The Educational visits co-ordinator (EVC)

Assistant Head Teachers are the appointed EVCs at our school. Their role is to:

- Oversee and guide other staff to arrange and organise educational visits
- Assess the ability of other staff to lead visits and a designate suitable Educational Visit lead for each visit
- Assess outside activity providers
- Advise the Head teacher and Trustees when they're approving trips
- Access the necessary training, advice and guidance
- Evaluate all visits once complete, from planning to the visit itself, and use this to improve future arrangements

Educational Visit lead

Every educational visit will have 1 member of staff designated as the Educational Visit lead.

The Educational Visit lead will:

- Plan the proposed visit, taking into account the health and safety risks to pupils, staff and volunteers
- Assign staff and volunteer roles, as needed
- Make sure the school has accurate and up-to-date information about the Educational Visit destination, to be used in risk assessments
- Make sure the needs of everyone taking part are considered, including co-ordinating any additional support needed
- Make sure parents and carers are given accurate information about educational visits, including any costs or necessary equipment not supplied by the school or a third party
- Communicate key details about the visit and all locations to staff, pupils and parents/carers, including roles and responsibilities and expected behaviour
- Make sure staff are capable and able to fulfil their roles at all times while responsible for pupils and others

3.3 Staff

Staff have a responsibility to make sure all pupils and staff who take part in visits are kept safe and understand the proper way to prepare for trips, as well as how to act while taking part. Staff will:

- Seek and obtain approval for all educational visits from the Head teacher
- Carry out any required risk assessments and work with the Educational Visit lead
- Communicate with parents and carers and make sure educational visits are inclusive of all pupils' needs
- Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them
- Help manage pupil behaviour and discipline as required while on the visit
- Share any concerns or worries with the Educational Visit lead and others, as appropriate

3.4 Parents and carers

By agreeing that pupils can take part in educational visits, parents/carers agree that they will:

- Provide all information required, such as emergency contact details and health/medicine information if applicable
- Sign and return consent forms and any other documentation required in a timely manner
- Share any concerns or information about the pupil that may affect or impact their ability to safely take part in the trip

3.5 Volunteers

Volunteers attending school trips, including parent volunteers, agree to:

- Follow the directions of staff and act accordingly
- Behave appropriately and model good behaviour for pupils
- Report any concerns to the Educational Visit lead or other staff present as soon as possible
- Make sure pupils under their supervision are acting safely and appropriately, and raise any issues with staff as soon as possible

3.6 Pupils

Our school behaviour policy also applies to all educational visits. This includes the expectation that pupils will:

- Follow instructions given to them while on the trip
- Dress and behave as expected for the length of the trip
- Be supervised at all times.

4. Planning and preparation

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by the EVCs and based on factors including:

- Cost (including any potential cost to parents/carers)
- Timing in the school year and any potential clashes
- Educational purpose and value
- Disruption to the normal running of the school
- Health and safety considerations
- Staff-to-pupil ratio
- The needs of the individual pupils

As part of the planning stage, information will be gathered by staff proposing the visit, including:

- Location and travel distance
- Travel plans or options
- Full cost breakdown, including multiple options where available
- Resources, including staffing, volunteer, and physical supplies

- Accommodation options, where needed
- Insurance detailed, where needed
- Risk assessment plans and first aid provision
- What safety measures can be put in place in order to reduce any risks?

See appendix 1 for our Educational Visit information form for the planning and approval of a visit. In cases where an Educational Visit involves activities for more than 24 hours, an overnight stay and/or travel overseas, the Head teacher will seek approval of the Trustees.

Once the risk assessment has been approved by the head teacher, and the Trustees where relevant, staff will communicate with parents/carers and provide Educational Visit information. Written parental consent will be required for educational visits that take place outside of normal school hours, and for any educational visits requiring a higher-than-normal level of risk assessment. Snowflake school will evaluate each visit after its conclusion, from the planning through to the visit itself, to continually improve the planning and experience of our future visits.

4.1. Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of background or abilities, should be able to take part in every aspect of our school life, including visits.

As our pupils each have an education health and care (EHC) plan and/or any additional specific needs (e.g., medical conditions including allergies) they will have the same support that is available to them during the school day. All our pupils would be 1:1.

We will adjust the Educational Visit programme where necessary, working with parents/carers to provide additional support, making reasonable adjustments to itineraries, providing additional support staff, and other adjustments as appropriate.

Additional risk assessments may be carried out to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils.

5. Risk assessment

We will carry out a full risk assessment at least 2 weeks before the start of all trips.

This will be completed using the school's risk assessment template (appendix 2) and approved by the EVC. Existing risk assessments [Risk Assessments](#) saved on the OneDrive or those provided by the destination itself might also be used to support this process.

The risk assessment will include any specific medical issues and allergies (for staff and pupils), the role of additional support on the visit, specified activities to be carried out, as well as risks associated with transport to and from the destination.

Where practical, staff may make a preliminary visit to the Educational Visit destination as part of the planning and risk assessment process, but this is not mandatory.

Educational Visit leads will raise any concerns or questions about potential risks and safety measures with the Head teacher.

Every risk assessment will be approved by the Head teacher, and a copy taken on the visit and another copy retained by the EVC.

5.1 Staff ratios and first aid

Risk assessments for each visit will ascertain the safe level of supervision required. On all educational visits, we will make sure:

- At least 1 supervising adult able to administer first aid is present on all trips.
- At least 1 qualified paediatric first aider is present on all educational visits when nursery-aged children are attending.
- Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the school's first aid and health and safety policies. These can also be found in the medical room.
- All supervising adults will be made aware of any medical issues or allergies before and at the start of the trip
- Adults without a DBS check will not be left alone with pupils at any time
- The Educational Visit lead will take regular headcounts and/or rollcalls

5.2 Transport

Transportation for educational visits will be organised by the school in line with our safety procedures. We will make sure pupils, staff and volunteers are transported safely and efficiently, with the required first aid provision.

Unless previously agreed with parents, transport for visits will leave from, and return to the school site.

5.3 Use of external organisations

As part of the risk assessment process, we will check that any external organisations providing an activity have appropriate safety standards and liability insurance.

This includes checking that organisations hold the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge. Where an organisation does not, we will check additional details as outlined in the DfE's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#) to make sure it's an appropriate organisation to use.

We will have a written agreement in place with each external organisation outlining what everyone is responsible for during the activity.

6. Volunteers

Where appropriate, parents and carers may be asked to volunteer to attend and supervise pupils alongside staff members on trips. Where more parents/carers volunteer than required on the visit, those invited to attend will be selected as fairly and transparently as possible, whilst taking into consideration:

- The needs of the pupils going on the trip
- The setting and circumstances of the trip
- Volunteers' skills, attitude and past behaviour, including previous volunteer experience

Parents/carers selected to volunteer will be informed at least 2 weeks ahead of the visit and asked to confirm their attendance in writing. They will also be asked to confirm they agree with the expected behaviour. See appendix 3 for our volunteer code of conduct for educational visits. Volunteers will receive a full induction from staff members on the day of the visit, prior to departure, including on their responsibilities, expected behaviour, the process for raising concerns, emergency procedures and contact details, and the expected timetable of the trip.

Where practical and as required by the nature of visits (for example when volunteers may be left with children without staff members present), volunteers may be asked or required to undergo safeguarding checks, including DBS checks.

At no point will volunteers where no safeguarding checks have been carried out be left alone with pupils or given sole responsibility for the care of a pupil.

7. Communication and consent

We will contact the parents and carers of pupils invited to take part in an educational visit at least 1 month before the proposed date of the trip. Communication will be via letter and/or email, and information provided will include the date, travel times, destination, purpose of the visit and the size of the group attending.

We will also communicate:

- Times and details of travel, including drop-off and pick-up times and location
- Pupil-to-staff ratios and staff qualifications, where relevant
- Clothing and equipment required, and whether this is provided by the school
- Expected behaviour and consequences of pupils' failure to meet these standards

Where required, parents/carers will be asked to provide written consent for educational visits by signing and dating a form to be returned to the school.

As most visits during the school day will be part of the curriculum, we will not always need written consent. However, we will always inform parents/carers as above about any off-site visits and give an opportunity for any pupils to be withdrawn.

Parents/carers will also be asked to provide current and relevant medical information and dietary requirements, as well as emergency contact numbers so they can be reached.

In the case of overseas trips, parents will be asked to provide passport information and European Health Insurance Card or UK Global Health Insurance Card information if available.

8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting

Generally, emergency planning will be defined as planning for:

- Serious and unexpected risk
- Serious and life-threatening injury

- Individuals going missing
- A serious breach of safeguarding expectations

The Educational Visit leader will be familiar with the plans for each visit.

In the case of an emergency, the Educational Visit leader or other supervising adult will contact the school office. The school office will then contact parents/carers as required and inform them of changes to plans or cancellations of educational visits and/or alternative travel plans. This will form part of a wider communication plan that covers how routine communications should be handled in such situations. 1 member of staff will always accompany a pupil seeking medical treatment. All pupils should be 1:1 at all times.

In a case of a pupil being unaccounted for, the Educational Visit leader will search the area while another member of staff remains in charge of other pupils. In the unlikely event that a pupil cannot be found within 30 minutes, the Educational Visit leader will contact the school office who will notify the parents/carers. The Educational Visit leader will then contact the police and provide them with the relevant information so they can take over the search, staying with them to comfort the pupil when found. The remaining staff and adults will return to the school with the rest of the pupils.

All incidents and accidents will be reported in line with our Health and safety policy, including required reporting to Ofsted and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Smaller incidents, accidents or near misses that do not require external reporting will still be covered by an internal report, to include steps that can be taken in the future to avoid similar incidents.

There will also be a clear process for evaluating all visits/ educational visits once they have been concluded from the planning through to the visit itself. This will help with evaluating whether planning worked and to learn from any incidents that took place.

9. Charging and insurance

Parents/carers may be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place during school hours. They also may be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place outside of school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or Religious Education.

We will make sure adequate insurance is in place for all trips, including, but not limited to: cancellation insurance for contracts with external providers, travel insurance, accident and medical cover, and loss of luggage and other personal items.

10. Residential visits

The Head teacher, together with the Trustee Board, will approve all residential educational visits longer than 24 hours.

The planning and preparation laid out in this policy will apply to residential visits as well as 1-day visits. In addition, the Educational Visit lead will make sure:

- Staff have received any necessary training

- All necessary permissions and medical forms are obtained at least 1 month before the start of the trip
- All adults, including volunteers, have had adequate safeguarding checks. Where appropriate – e.g. if the volunteer will be in direct unsupervised contact with pupils this will include relevant DBS checks
- Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission at least 2 months before the first day of the visit. Information shared with parents will include:
 - The dates and time of departure and return to school
 - The full address and contact details of the destination
 - Planned activities and options
 - Meal provision
 - Costs and optional charges, including deposits and the date by which this must be received, in line with our charging and remissions policy (this will include information about exemptions)
 - Clothing and equipment provided including a list of what pupils must bring themselves
 - Public health requirements, including any required vaccinations
 - Accommodation options and arrangements
 - The names of staff attending

For visits abroad, we will make sure that any organisation providing activities hold the LOtC Quality badge or similar local accreditation. We will follow the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas travel guidance](#) and [foreign travel advice](#) when organising these visits.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Head teacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full trustee board.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Behaviour policy
- Child protection policy
- First aid policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special educational needs (SEN) policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan

Appendix 1: Proposed visit planning information

To be completed by the staff member proposing the educational visit and submitted to the Assistant Head Teacher.

Name of staff member proposing the visit:

Date of request:

Response required by (date):

Proposed Educational Visit information

	EDUCATIONAL VISIT INFORMATION	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Destination		
Educational Visit date		
Travel distance		
Length of stay		
Purpose of visit / educational		
	EDUCATIONAL VISIT INFORMATION	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Benefits		
Number and age of pupils		
Transportation options		
Cost breakdown, including multiple options where available		

Resources required, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Volunteers • Physical supplies • Transportation 		
Accommodation options, where needed		
Insurance needed, where applicable		
Risk assessment plans and first aid provision		

Appendix 2: Risk assessment template

EDUCATIONAL VISIT RISK ASSESSMENT SNOWFLAKE SCHOOL

Destination:	Carried out by:	Date written:	EVC signature/date:
	Risk Rating (before Control Measures)	How to manage the risk <i>What procedures (control measures) will be in place?</i>	

Issue	L	M	H	
Safe				
Understanding				
Patient				
Enthusiastic				
Respectful				

<p>List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people. Consider venue, activity, group, transport and a plan</p> <p>'B'</p>				

Please sign and date below to indicate that you have read and understood this risk assessment **BEFORE going OFF SITE:**

Read by:

Signed:

Date:

Read by:

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 3: Volunteer behaviour and code of conduct

This code of conduct sets out the expected behaviour for volunteers attending school trips. Volunteers should read and sign this form, showing that they understand and agree to follow this code while acting on behalf of the school. If you feel you cannot agree with this code, please speak to **the Class Lead** at the earliest opportunity and withdraw from the trip.

A copy of this form will be kept in the school office, and you may ask for a photocopy to keep for yourself.

Volunteers agree to:

- Remain professional and respectful with staff and pupils at all times
- Listen to and act on instructions from staff
- Dress appropriately for the trip
- Arrive at the agreed time and remain until the Educational Visit is concluded and they are told they may leave by staff
- Pay attention to potential dangers and raise concerns with staff
- Act responsibly and demonstrate good behaviour to pupils
- Report any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a pupil to staff as soon as possible

Volunteers agree **not** to:

- Exchange contact details with parents unless told to by a member of staff
- Engage in physical contact with pupils unless appropriate or required
- Share inappropriate personal information (i.e. personal beliefs, religious views, relationship status)
- Use demeaning, offensive, abusive or insensitive language
- Smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) for the duration of the visit
- Allow themselves to be left alone with a pupil unless previously agreed with staff
- Take photographs or record pupils without the permission of pupils and staff

As a volunteer, I have read and agree to this code of conduct and will follow the rules set out above.

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 4: template letter for parents/carers and consent form

This form is based on the Department for Education's [consent form for school educational visits and other off-site activities](#).

Parents and carers should sign and date the form and return it to their child's Class Lead/Supervisor.

Educational Visit destination:

Educational Visit date(s):

I _____ confirm that I am happy for my child _____ to take part in Snowflake schools' educational visit to _____

I understand that it is my responsibility to make sure my child is dressed appropriately for the Educational Visit and has everything they need with them.

Contact information

I can be contacted using the following details:

Work telephone:

Home telephone:

E-mail address:

Alternatively, please contact _____. Their relationship with the pupil is _____

Work telephone:

Home telephone:

E-mail address:

The name(s) and contact details of our family doctor are:

Medical information

Please provide information about medical conditions/allergies your child has, including any medication they take and/or will need to bring with them.

I agree to my child receiving medication and medical treatment as required and instructed by medical authorities.

Signed:

Date:

Revision

Version Update	January 2025
Review due	January 2026
Reviewed By	Sumen Starr
Approved by Board of Trustees on	February 2025