

## **Introduction**

This policy template is written in accordance with Nottinghamshire County Council's Visits Policy and Guidance 2018. It is essential that Nominated Managers, Visits Coordinators and the Visit Leaders are familiar with the contents of this policy and Nottinghamshire County Council guidance before planning excursions.

## **Policy Statement**

The Nominated Managers of Sherwood Junior School accept their responsibility under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subordinate health and safety legislation and acknowledge the requirement to ensure that participants are kept safe whilst on visits and journeys away from their normal place of attendance.

## **Statement of Safety Policy**

The Nominated Manager recognises that the participation of children and young people in a wide range of visits, journeys and experiences is important in promoting learning and development. As part of their responsibilities the Nominated Manager will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of participants while travelling to, and engaged in, activities away from establishment whether provided by establishment or a contracted provider.

## **Statement of safety organisation**

### **Organisation and responsibilities**

Responsibility for all visits rests with the Nominated Manager within individual establishments. The respective roles of each are outlined within Nottinghamshire County Council's Visits Guidance for Children and Young People.

The person named will oversee and monitor this policy: Helen Simpson (Headteacher)

### **Nominated Manager**

The Nominated Manager will be responsible for ensuring that all visits and trips are planned, organised, controlled, monitored and reviewed in accordance to Nottinghamshire County Council guidance documents and relevant regulations.

Nominated Managers must authorise all visits and where applicable seek the approval of the Local Authority for Category C events.

The Nominated Manager will confirm the qualifications, training records and experience of the Group Leader who will lead the specific visit and the supervisory personnel, and will approve these people as suitable to lead/supervise the visit/s.

The Nominated Manager will agree, with a named Visit Coordinator (VC), the duties delegated to the VC or in absence of a VC fulfil this function themselves.

### **Visit Coordinator (VC)**

The Establishment Visits Coordinator is: Helen Simpson (Headteacher)

They will undertake duties as agreed between themselves and the Nominated Manager. (Reference to common duties and responsibilities should be made contained within Nottinghamshire County Council's Visits Guidance).

The VC will be conversant with Nottinghamshire County Council's Visits Guidance as well as existing good practice, issued by Government Departments, National Governing Bodies and national interest groups (available as downloadable documents or hyperlinks within Nottinghamshire County Council's EVOLVE system).

### **Visit Leader**

The Visit Leader should be conversant with Nottinghamshire County Council's Visits Guidance, service specific guidance and corporate policy and will comply with these requirements.

The Visit Leader will liaise with the VC throughout the planning and preparation of their trip to ensure that any activities or events that may place staff or other participants at significant risk are assessed and that safety measures are in place prior to the trip taking place.

The Visit Leader will ensure that all parents of children on their trip are provided with all required information, which may include risk assessment information, and that any questions raised are answered prior to the trip taking place.

The Visit Leader named for each visit will have overall responsibility for that visit whilst it is underway.

The Visit Leader will be fully familiar with emergency procedures and contact numbers.

### **Supervisory staff**

All staff assisting with supervision on any trip will be conversant with the Nottinghamshire County Council's Visits Guidance and the specific risk assessment/s for that event.

All staff will ensure that the requirements of any risk assessments, risk control procedures and safe systems are followed.

All staff will ensure that once the trip has started, where any previously unforeseen hazards or risks are identified; they are brought to the attention of the Visit Leader.

Staff will feed back information to the Visit Leader to enable a full review of the trip to be completed.

## Arrangements

It is especially important that staff use the most up to date guidance when planning and executing visits away from their normal place of work. The online visit planning and approval system (EVOLVE) has been developed to facilitate this and is regularly updated.

Establishments must use this system or implement alternative arrangements that are similarly robust.

Nottinghamshire County Council identifies 3 categories of visits within its Visits Guidance for Children and Young People, which require differing levels of approval:

### Category A – Locally Approved Visits

All such events will be approved by the Nominated Manager and managed in the establishment by adherence to Nottinghamshire County Council visits guidance and establishment-specific operating procedures. This establishment's operating procedures for visits are:

- The Head or Deputy must give verbal approval before a group leaves.
- Only staff judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved. A current list of approved staff is maintained by the EVC and office.
- The concept and Operating Procedure of the 'Local Learning Area' is explained to all new parents when their child joins the school, and a synopsis is in the School Prospectus.
- There will normally be a minimum of two adults.
- Staff are familiar with the area, including any 'no-go' areas, and have practiced appropriate group management techniques.
- Pupils have been trained and have practiced standard techniques for road crossings in a group.
- Where appropriate, pupils are fully briefed on what to do if they become separated from the group. This will be agreed before the visit with the Head/Deputy and the supervising adults based on the age and needs of the children and the location of the local visit.
- All remotely supervised work in the Local Learning Area is done in 'buddy' pairs as a minimum.
- Pupils' clothing and footwear is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school.
- Staff are aware of any relevant pupil medical information and ensure that any required medication is available.
- Staff will record the activity on EVOLVE (Local Area Visit module).
- A mobile is taken with each group and the office have a note of the number.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (eg gloves).
- When crossing Sherwood Street, only the zebra crossing by school or at the junction of Sherwood Street and High Street must be used.
- When crossing A60, the pedestrian crossing near Hetts Lane must be used. Children must only cross when the 'green man' is showing.

### Category B - Service Approved Visits

Visits not normally forming part of your regular work, such as all day excursions or trips.

All such events will be processed via the EVOLVE system, approved by the Nominated Manager and managed by adherence to Nottinghamshire County Council visits guidance and establishment specific operating procedures.

### Category C Service & Local Authority Approved Visits

Residential visits, visits requiring specific competency to deliver or more hazardous events.

All such events will be processed via the EVOLVE system, approved by the Nominated Manager and be delivered when establishment is in receipt of Local Authority approval. Local Authority approval must be sought at least 4 weeks prior to the visit.

Where the establishment uses external providers for activity provision, suitable assurance must be sought by the establishment to ensure that they are suitable and appropriate for use.

#### **Additional Guidance**

All visits must have a clear educational purpose:

- to raise achievement by boosting self esteem and motivation
- to develop key skills
- to develop social education and citizenship
- to promote education for sustainable development
- to promote health and fitness

Costing and funding will be in line with the Governors Charging and Remissions Policy.