

Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School



Educational Visits Policy

Approved Nov 2022

Last Reviewed: March 2025

Next Review Date: March 2026

Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School - Educational Visits Policy

The governing body has overall responsibility of ensuring that the Educational Visits policy, as written, does not discriminate on any, including but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Rationale

Well planned and executed educational visits provide our pupils with valuable experiences which enhance their learning at school. Providing a variety of 'real-life' opportunities for our children enables them to achieve a fuller understanding of the world around them through direct experience. Educational visits are an essential element of good primary practice.

Purposes

Educational Visits can provide stimulus and support to work being covered as part of the school curriculum. It may be that a visit provides an effective stimulus at the start of a unit of work; alternatively teachers may decide to use an educational visit at any time during a project to enhance and support the curriculum.

Wherever or whatever the venue, teachers should ensure that the educational benefits to the children are maximised.

Guidelines

The organisation of an educational visit is crucial to its success. With rigorous organisation and control, a visit should provide a rich, learning experience for the pupils. The following guidelines support the planning and implementation of educational visits organised at Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School.

Head Teacher

The Head Teacher at Gorse Hall is the **Educational Visits Coordinator** and will endeavour to ensure that:

- they have appointed a suitable group leader;
- all necessary actions have been completed before the visit begins. (This applies even when the head is not going on the visit);
- all EV forms are completed in the correct order (please see Appendix A)
- the risk assessment is complete and that it is safe to make the visit;
- training needs have been met;
- the group leader has experience in supervising and controlling the age groups going on the visit and will organise the group effectively;
- the group leader has relevant skills, qualifications and experience if acting as an instructor, and knows the location of the activity;
- all supervisors on the visit are appropriate people to supervise children and have appropriate clearance;
- the governing body has approved the visit if necessary;
- parents have signed consent forms;
- arrangements have been made for all the medical needs and special educational needs of all the children;
- the mode of travel is appropriate;
- travel times out and back are known;
- there is adequate and relevant insurance cover;
- they have the address and phone number of the visit's venue and have a contact name;
- that they have the names of all the adults and pupils in the travelling group, and the contact details of parents and the staff's and volunteers' next of kin.
- the staff member has taken the first aid kit, bottle of water and any medication they need.

Group Leaders

The group leader is responsible overall for the supervision and conduct of the visit, and should have been appointed by the HeadTeacher.

The Group Leader should:

- be able to control and lead pupils of the relevant age range;
- be suitable qualified if instructing an activity and be conversant in the good practice for that activity if not;
- undertake and complete the planning and preparation of the visit including the briefing of group members and parents;
- undertake and complete a comprehensive risk assessment;
- have regard to the safeguarding of the group at all times;
- know all the pupils proposed for the visit to assess their suitability;
- observe the guidance set out for teachers and other adults below;
- Ensure that the safety of the children is the first priority ;
- Ensure adult; pupil ratio is adequate;
- Provide a full costing for the educational visit, as to determine the level of voluntary contribution that will be need;
- Seek permission from the Head Teacher for the education visit, as she has ultimate and final responsibility for the children within the school (whether she is present on the educational visit or not).
- Organise for a coach or other transport to be booked, via the office, well in advance It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure the transport and venue has been booked, It is the office's job to book the venue and coach or other transport.
- Ensure that date of visit to added to the office diary
- Always seek parental permission in the form of written permission before going on a visit, verbal permission is not sufficient.
- Ensure adult: pupil ratio (see supervision) Parent helpers cannot form part of the legal ratios.
- Ensure the parent volunteers have read and signed to say they will adhere to the risk assessment
- Ensure children not going on visits are set appropriate work to do and prior arrangements made.
- Ensure a first aid bags, children's individual medication/inhalers and medical paperwork, plus 'sick bags' are always taken on visits and ensure First Aiders are distributed appropriately.
- ensure that pupils understand the expected behaviours and the importance of following rules (see responsibilities of pupils below).

Responsibilities of pupils

The group leader should make it clear to pupils that they must:

- not take unnecessary risks;
- follow the instructions of the leader and other adults;
- dress and behave sensibly and responsibly;
- look out for anything that might hurt or threaten anyone in the group and tell the group leader about it;
- should not undertake any task that they fear or that they think will be dangerous.

Any pupils whose behaviour may be considered to be a danger to themselves or to the group may be stopped from going on the visit. The curricular aims of the visit for these pupils should be fulfilled in other ways. Children who have SEND or behaviour needs may be appointed a 1:1 helper on the trip.

If a child's health or behaviour are causing concern, parents/carers may be contacted to ask them to collect their child or give permission for a member of staff with business insurance to collect them.

Other teachers and adults involved in a visit

Teachers on school-led visits act as employees of the LEA or of the Governing Body. They will therefore be acting in the course of their normal employment during their normal hours. They will be acting under an agreement with their Head Teacher and Governors if some of their time on the visit falls outside normal hours.

Teacher and other adults on the visit must:

- do their best to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the group;
- care for each individual pupil as any reasonable parent would;
- follow the instructions of the leader and help with control and discipline. Non-teachers
- should generally not have sole charge of pupils except where risks to health and safety
- are minimal;
- consider stopping the visit or the activity if they think the risk to the health or safety of the
- pupils in their charge is unacceptable;
- ensure parents accompanying the trip have an up to date DBS – please allow approx. a month for this to be completed

Parents

The group leader should ensure that parents are given information about the purpose and details of the visit and are invited to any briefing sessions for longer visits.

The group leader should also tell parents how they can help prepare their child for the visit by, for example, reinforcing the visit's code of conduct.

Special arrangements may be necessary for parents for whom English is a second language; Parents must:

- provide the group leader with emergency contact number(s);
- sign the consent form;
- give the group leader relevant information about their child's health which might be relevant to the visit.

Planning off-site visits

Whether the visit is to a local park, museum, swimming pool, or includes a residential stay, it is essential that careful planning takes place. This involves considering the dangers and difficulties which may arise and making plans to avoid them.

The class teacher is responsible for planning all off-site visits with support from the EV coordinator. In practice, the detailed planning is delegated to the organiser of the visit or the group leader, but the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the person planning the visit is qualified to do so and has the necessary experience. The organiser / group leader must agree all plans with the Head Teacher/EV coordinator.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment should always be carried out before setting off on a visit, using Gorse Hall's Risk Assessment Forms. The risk assessment should include the following considerations:

- what are the risks?
- who is affected by them?
- what safety measures need to be in place to reduce risks to an acceptable level?
- can the group leader guarantee that these safety measures will be provided?
- what steps will be taken in an emergency?

The group leader and other supervisors should continually reassess the risks throughout the visit and take appropriate action if pupils are in danger.

The group leader should take the following factors into consideration when assessing the risks:

- the type of activity and the level at which it is being undertaken;
- the location;
- the competence, experience and qualifications of supervisory staff;
- the group members' age, competence, fitness and temperament;
- pupils with special educational or medical needs;
- the quality and suitability of available equipment;
- seasonal conditions, weather and timing.

Exploratory visit

Wherever possible the group leader should undertake an exploratory visit to:

- ensure that the venue is suitable to meet the aims and objectives of the school visit;
- assess potential areas and levels of risk;
- ensure that the venue can cater for the needs of the staff and pupils in the group;
- ensure that the group leader is familiar with the area before taking a party of young people.

If it is not feasible to carry out an exploratory visit, a minimum measure should be to contact the venue, seeking assurances about the venue's appropriateness for the visiting group. In addition, it may be worth seeking views from other schools who have recently visited the venue. In some cases, such as when taking walking parties to remote areas, it may be appropriate to obtain local information from the Tourist Boards.

First Aid

First Aid provision should be considered when assessing the risks of the visit. For adventurous activities, visits which involve overnight stays, or visits abroad it is sensible to have at least one trained first-aider in the group. The group leader should have a working knowledge of first aid and all adults in the group should know how to contact emergency services.

The minimum first-aid provision is:

- a suitably stocked first-aid box;
- a person appointed to be in charge of first-aid arrangements.

First-aid should be available and accessible at all times. If a first-aider is attending to one member of the group, there should be adequate first-aid cover for the other pupils. The Head Teacher should take this into account when assessing what level of first-aid facilities will be needed.

Supervision

It is important to have a sufficient ratio of adult supervisors to pupils for any off-site visit. The factors to take into consideration include:

- sex, age and ability of group;
- special needs pupils;
- nature of activities;

- experience of adults in off site supervision;
- duration and nature of the journey;
- type of any accommodation;
- competence of staff, both general and on specific activities.

There should always be enough supervisors to cope effectively with an emergency. When visits are to remote areas or involved hazardous activities, the risks may be greater and supervision levels should be set accordingly. As general guidelines, the following ratio of adults to children should be used:

Nursery 1:2

Reception 1:4

Years 1 - 3 1:6

Year 4 - 6 1:10

Regardless of these suggested ratios, each visit will be assessed individually through the school's risk assessment procedure for educational visits. These ratios do not include residential visits.

Where there is more than one adult supervisor a group leader, who has authority over the whole party, should be appointed.

Where a high adult: pupil ratio is required, it is not always feasible to use school staff alone. Parents with appropriate clearance may be used to supplement the supervision ratio. All adult supervisors must be DBS cleared before being approved to accompany a visit. They should be carefully selected and they should be well known to the school and the pupil group. All adult supervisors, including school staff and parent helpers must understand their roles and responsibilities at all times. In particular, all supervisors should be aware of any pupils who may require closer supervision, such as those with special needs or those with behavioural difficulties. Teachers retain responsibility for the group at all times. For the protection of both adults and pupils, all adult supervisors should ensure that they are not alone in a one to one situation with a pupil.

If the school is leading an adventure activity, such as canoeing, the LEA or Governing Body must ensure that the group leader and other supervisors are suitably qualified to lead and instruct the activity before they agree that the visit can take place. Qualifications can be checked with the National Governing Body of each sporting activity.

Whatever the length and nature of the visit, regular head counting of pupils should take place. The group leader should establish rendezvous points and tell pupils what to do if they become separated from the party.

Preparing Pupils

Providing information and guidance to pupils is an important part of preparing for a school visit. Pupils should have a clear understanding about what is expected of them and what the visit will entail. Pupils must understand what standard of behaviour is expected of them and why rules must be followed. The lack of control and discipline can be a major contributory factor when accidents occur. Pupils should also be told about any potential dangers and how they should act to ensure their own and other's safety. Pupils should be involved in planning, implementing and evaluating their own curricular work and have opportunities to take different roles within an activity. This could include considering any health and safety issues.

Participation

Pupils should be assessed to ensure that they are capable of undertaking the proposed activities. During the visit they should not be coerced

into activities they fear. Pupils whose behaviour is such that the group leader is concerned for their, or others' safety, should be withdrawn from the activity. On residential visits the group leader should consider whether such pupils will return home early.

Information to pupils

It is for the group leader to decide how to provide information, but they should be satisfied that the pupils understand key safety information. Pupils should understand:

- the aims and objectives of the visit / activity;
- background information about the place to be visited;
- how to avoid specific dangers and why they should follow rules;
- why safety precautions are in place;
- why special safety precautions are in place for anyone with disabilities;
- what standard of behaviour is expected from pupils;
- who is responsible for the group;
- what to do if approached by a stranger;
- what to do if separated from the group;
- emergency procedures;
- rendezvous procedures.

Transport and pupils

Pupils using transport on a visit should be made aware of basic safety rules including:

- arrive on time and wait for the transport away from the road, track, etc.
- do not rush towards the transport when it arrives;
- wear your seatbelt and stay seated while travelling on transport;
- make sure your bags do not block aisles on the transport
- never attempt to get on or off the moving transport;
- never throw things out of the transport vehicle's windows;
- never get off a vehicle held up by traffic lights or in traffic;
- never run about while transport is moving or pass someone on steps or stairs;
- never kneel or stand on seats or otherwise impede the driver's vision
- never distract or disturb the driver;
- stay clear of automatic doors / manual doors after boarding or leaving the transport;
- after leaving the vehicle, always wait for it to move off before crossing the road;
- if you have to cross roads to get to the transport always use the Green Cross Code;
- if you feel unwell while travelling, tell a teacher or the person who is otherwise responsible for the group.

Pupils with special educational and medical needs

The Head Teacher will not exclude pupils with special educational or medical needs from school visits. Every effort should be made to accommodate them whilst maintaining the safety of everyone on the visit. Special attention should be given to appropriate supervision ratios and additional safety measures may need to be addressed at the planning stage.

Communicating with Parents / Guardians

Parents need to be aware that the teachers on the visit will be acting in their place – 'in loco parentis' – and will be exercising the same care that a prudent parent would. The following information on matters that might affect pupils health and safety is useful to parents, and will be included in letter to parents / guardians prior to a visit:

- dates of the visit;
- times of departure and return;
- details of accommodation with security and supervisory arrangements on site;

- names of leader, or other staff and of other accompanying adults;
- visit's objectives;
- details of the activities planned and of how the assessed risks will be managed;
- insurance taken out for the group as a whole in respect of luggage, accident, cancellation and medical cover. Any cover to be arranged by the parents, if appropriate, will be requested;
- clothing and equipment to be taken;
- money to be taken;
- the information to be given by parents and what they will be asked to consent to.

Parental consent

Gorse Hall Primary School will seek consent for:

- visits involving young children;
- adventure activities;
- visits abroad;
- other residential visits.

If parents withhold consent absolutely the pupil should not be taken on the visit, but the curricular aims of the visit should be delivered to the pupil in some other way, wherever possible. If the parents give a conditional consent the Head Teacher will need to consider whether the child may be taken on the visit or not. The School's parental consent form should be completed for each pupil in the group.

Residential visits

Hostels and Hotels

The school will bear in mind the following:

- the group leader should ideally have adjoining rooms with staff quarters next to the young people's;
- the immediate accommodation area should be exclusively for the use of the group;
- access by staff to student rooms must be available at all times;
- separate male and female sleeping areas for pupils and adults;
- the group leader will ensure that the whole party are aware of the lay-out of the accommodation, its fire precautions / exits, its regulations and routing, and that everyone can identify key personnel;
- security arrangements – where the reception is not staffed 24 hours a day, security arrangements should be in force to stop unauthorised visitors;
- ensure that locks / shutters etc. work on all the rooms used by the group;
- storage of clothes, luggage, equipment etc., particularly safekeeping of valuables;
- adequate lighting – it is advisable to bring a torch;
- provision for sick, disabled pupils or those with special needs;
- safety in rooms (electrical connections, secure balconies);
- recreational accommodation / facilities for the group;
- residential visits with overnight stay must be approved by the LEA.

Coastal visits

Group leaders and other teachers should be aware that many of the incidents affecting school children have occurred by or in the sea. There are dangers on the coast quite apart from those incurred in swimming. The group leader should bear the following points in mind in the risk assessment of a coastal activity:

- tides and sandbanks are potential hazards so timings and exit routes should be checked;
- ensure group members are aware of warning signs and flags;

- establish a base on the beach to which members of the group may return if separated;
- look out for hazards such as glass, barbed wire and sewage outflows etc;
- some of a group's time on a beach may be recreational. Group leaders should consider which areas of the terrain and sea are out of bounds;
- cliff tops can be highly dangerous for school groups even during daylight. The group should keep to the path at all times. Group leaders should consider whether it is safe for pupils to ride mountain bikes on coastal paths.

Swimming

Swimming and paddling in the sea or other natural waters are potentially dangerous activities for a school group.

Swimming in the sea on a coastal visit, will **not** be allowed for Gorse Hall children. Paddling will only be allowed as part of a supervised activity, preferably in recognised bathing areas which have official surveillance. Pupils should always be in sight of their teachers. One teacher should always stay out of the water for better surveillance. Where paddling is to be allowed on a visit, a ratio of 1 adult: 4 children is a minimum.

Farm visits

Gorse Hall recognises that farms can be dangerous even for the people who work on them. Taking children to a farm will be very carefully planned, and the risks to be assessed should include those arising from the misuse of farm machinery and the hazards associated with E coli 0157 food poisoning and other infections.

The proposed farm will be checked to ensure that it is well managed; that it has a good reputation for safety standards and animal welfare; and that it maintains good washing facilities and clean grounds and public areas. An exploratory visit should be carried out.

The basis rules for a farm visit will be:

We will never let pupils:

- place their faces against the animals or their hands in their mouths after feeding them;
- eat until they have washed their hands;
- sample any animal foodstuffs;
- drink from farm taps (other than in designated public facilities);
- ride on tractors or other machines;
- play in the farm area.

Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School - Educational Visits Procedures

Appendix A

Below is an outline of what needs to be done if you are planning a visit. A visit is classed as any time a child or group of children are off the premises.

1. Complete the 'School trip booking request' form. **This must be approved by the Headteacher.**
2. The teacher(s) in charge of the trip must complete the risk assessments. (Risk assessments must be completed for the full range activities e.g. coach travel, walking around etc.)

Appendix B

This form must be completed if the visit includes travel by air/sea, residential visits or visits involving potentially hazardous pursuits. This form must be approved by the governing body before submitting to the Principal Governor Support Officer.

Appendix A1



GORSE HALL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL- EDUCATIONAL VISIT BOOKING REQUEST

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR ALL SCHOOL TRIP BOOKINGS

VENUE:	
VENUE ADDRESS:	
VENUE CONTACT NAME:	
VENUE TELEPHONE:	
VENUE EMAIL:	

DATE OF TRIP:	
DEPARTURE TIME FROM SCHOOL:	
DEPARTURE TIME FROM VENUE:	
YEAR GROUP(S) ATTENDING:	
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN :	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULTS:	
NAMES OF ADULTS:	
NUMBER OF SCHOOL PACKED LUNCHES REQUIRED:	
PARENT HELPERS: (LIST 99 CHECKED)	

LEAD TEACHER NAME AND SIGNATURE:	
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DATE OF APPROVAL HT:	
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OFFICE USE ONLY	INITIAL & DATE
VENUE BOOKED:	
CONFIRMATION RECEIVED:	
COACH BOOKED:	
CONFIRMATION RECEIVED:	
CONFIRM IN SCHOOL DIARY:	
LETTER TO PARENTS:	
CONSENT FORMS RETURNED:	
RISK ASSESSMENT RECEIVED:	
TRIP COSTING COMPLETED:	

Appendix A2

EDUCATIONAL VISIT RISK ASSESSMENT

ACTIVITY:

Group Leader:

Visit Details:

Date of Visit:

To leave school at -

Arriving at:

Coach Pickup at -

Returning to school

Assessment by:

Date:

Approved by

Head Teacher

Signed

Date:

Trip Itinerary

<p><i>Significant Hazards and Associated Risks</i></p> <p>Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people</p>	<p><i>Those who might be harmed</i></p> <p>Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified</p>	<p>Control Measures(CM's):</p> <p>Controls, including relevant sources of guidance</p> <p>briefings, actions by leaders / participants, qualifications / experience of supervisors</p>	<p>Additional Control Measures required?</p> <p>If existing CM's cannot be met or circumstances have changed</p>	<p>Residual Risk Rating</p> <p>(H / M / L)</p>
<p><i>All children present and ready for the trip</i></p>	<p><i>All group members, particularly children</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
<p>Walk to the coach across the school car park</p>	<p>Children, all group members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
<p><i>Making sure all children on coaches and are accounted for</i></p>	<p><i>Children, all group members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		

APPENDIX B

NOTIFICATION FORM FOR TRAVEL BY AIR/ SEA, RESIDENTIAL VISITS, OR VISITS INVOLVING POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS PURSUITS

A copy of this form should be submitted by the Headteacher to the Governing Body (or Governing Body Committee / Chair of Governors, if delegated responsibility has been agreed) for approval. A second copy of the form should be submitted to the Principal Governor Support Officer, Services for Children and Young People, Council Offices, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6DL, for advice and guidance relating to the proposed visit. No firm indication that the proposed visit will take place should be given to pupils, parents or staff until approval has been granted by the Governing Body / Governing Body Committee / Chair of Governors.

1. SCHOOL NAME.....Gorse Hall Primary School.....

2. A) Destination of visit

B) Purpose of visit

C) Educational outcomes Self-Esteem, physical skills, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving

3. A) Date and time of departure Monday, 16th October 2023 9.10am

B) Date and time of return Wednesday, 18th October 2023 2pm

C) Itinerary Attached

4. Number and Age Range of Pupils:

Girls Boys Age Range

5. Adult Supervision, including relevant qualifications of supervisors - please indicate male (M) or female (F) after each name, (please note supervision ratio's as clause 5.2 adult/pupil ratios page 24)

(a) Visit Leader

(b) Teaching Staff (M/F) Non-Teaching Staff (M/F)

1.

2.

3.

(c) Designated first aiders (M/F)

1.

2.

3.

(d) Other Adults: (M/F) Relevant qualifications and experience

1.

2.

3.

(Please indicate relevant experience/qualifications of any adult supervisor, if appropriate).

6. Transport arrangements Coach to and from the centre

7. Accommodation details (including travel and stay)

8. Risk assessments

- a) Have complete risk assessments been carried out?
- b) Do risk assessments include pupils with educational needs?
- c) Do risk assessments include for pupils' swimming ability?
- d) Have risk assessments from any activity centre been received and reviewed by the EVC?

(Please include details of risk assessment information)

9. Nature of activities to be included in the visit (please specify any high-risk activity)

(If any "high risk" activities are anticipated, supervising adults should be appropriately qualified).

All activities have been appropriately risk assessed and are supervised by skilled and qualified adults. Each group participating in activities always has an assigned member of school staff.

10. Insurance Details

11. Emergency Contact Arrangements

12. Any Additional Information:

13. Are systems in place to undertake a post activity review? (See Appendix A2, Checklist for Educational Visits).

Authorisation :

Headteacher signed

Date:

Chair of Governors signed

Date:

SCYP Officer Signed