

St Mark's CE Primary School

Ramslye Road
Tunbridge Wells
TN4 8LN



Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits Policy

Headteacher: Simon Bird
Chair of Governors: David Hill

Our Vision

St Mark's CEP School is committed to developing children that are flourishing, building strong foundations, making excellent all-round progress and reaching their potential. We Aspire, Believe, Succeed.

Created: Nov 2017
Updated: January 2024
Ratified: February 2024
Review date: January 2027

Website - Yes

Signed by Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____

Aspire, Believe, Succeed

*The school is founded on the Christian values of **thankfulness, forgiveness, friendship, fellowship and trust** in which personal responsibility, self-respect and respect for others are central to our children's growth.*

Statement of Intent:

The Headteacher and Governors are committed to establishing and implementing arrangements that will ensure:

- Visits and activities are planned to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and volunteer helpers - including appropriate risk management and assessment that is specific to the needs of the group, the planned activity and the location and environment. This includes any significant risk assessment information being communicated with those attending the visit as appropriate.
- The management of overall visit and activity planning, risk assessment and the visit approval process is carried out by a competent staff member with appropriate experience and training; an **Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC)** will be nominated in each school or establishment to carry out this role and they will attend an EVC training course, and an EVC update course every 3 years. This role can be retained by the Headteacher or delegated to an appropriate staff member.
- As a school we use the EVOLVE system which provides Headteachers and Educational Visits Coordinators with an effective 'tool' to help manage educational visit information and gain approval for visits. It allows schools to manage all their visits and activities using a single online database system, including local day trips and adventurous and residential visits.
- The Governing Body has designated the Health and Safety Governor as having direct responsibility for the oversight and monitoring of Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits.
- Visits and activities are planned with clear educational aims and objectives, based on pupils' needs and abilities, to support high quality learning outcomes.
- Visits and activities are planned and led by competent members of school or establishment staff, with appropriate qualifications and experience as required by the activities.
- Appropriate technical expertise is sought in relation to the planning and management of more hazardous or adventurous activities, including the verification of activity leader qualifications, safe activity management, appropriate ratios, etc.
- External providers used to provide services and support, have been appropriately checked to ensure they are suitable for use on educational visits e.g., meeting nationally accepted standards and legal adventurous activity requirements (e.g., Adventurous Activities Licence), have appropriate financial protections in place (e.g., ATOL), etc as appropriate; and hold an appropriate level of Public Liability Insurance for the activities or services provided.

- Appropriate emergency and serious incident procedures are in place to manage accidents, incidents and safeguarding issues, and visit information can be easily accessed by all those who need it in an emergency situation (this may be overnight, at weekend or during holiday periods). All staff and volunteers involved with visits receive appropriate training and briefings on dealing with emergencies.
- Information and documents relating to educational visits are appropriately stored and retained, in line with data protection and document retention requirements, to support incident management and potential investigations / court proceedings after serious incidents and accidents.
- All school and establishment staff are appropriately trained for their roles in leading and accompanying educational visits and activities.
- All visits and activities have been formally approved by the Headteacher or Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) on their behalf. Approval systems should be clearly evidenced, and involve school Governors as appropriate.
- Informed activity and medical consent has been obtained from parents / guardians as appropriate for the type of visit or activity, and that parents / guardians are given enough information to be 'fully informed' about all educational visit activity plans if specific written consent has not been gained.
- Full medical information and details of other issues such as behaviour, special needs, dietary requirements, etc have been obtained from parents and are available to visit leaders and accompanying school or establishment staff. These should be shared with provider staff where appropriate.
- Appropriate monitoring and evaluation of visits and activities takes place, to ensure quality and safety.

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