

# Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits Policy

## Headcorn Primary School



This policy was approved by the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors and supersedes any previous Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits Policy. It will be reviewed as appropriate, and amended where any clarifications or actions are needed, and at a minimum every 3 years. The policy has been based on a model policy from Kent County Council. Any amendments will require the approval of the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors.

Approval Body	Head Teacher and Chair of Governors
Approval Date	Mar 2025
Signed – Chair of Governors	J Keeler
Signed – Head Teacher	S Symonds
Date for Review	Mar 2028 (3 years)

## Statement of Intent:

The Head Teacher 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 Head Teacher / Manager or delegated to an appropriate staff member.
- The Governing Body has incorporated into the existing Governor's Health and Safety responsibilities direct responsible for 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 Head Teacher 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.