

Educational Visits Policy

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Introduction

The Berlesduna Academy Trust believes that pupils benefit enormously from taking part in educational visits with the school. In particular, they have the opportunity to undergo learning experiences not available in the classroom and such visits help to develop a pupil's investigative skills.

The Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) has responsibility for ensuring that all educational visits comply with appropriate legislation and guidance.

Reasons for Visits

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that pupils benefit fully from visits and those experiences are positive and remain free from harm. The EVC will give approval for visits including local area visits (see appendix 4) and will make referrals to Essex County Council (ECC) when necessary.

All schools are required to offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

All activities must have a clearly defined educational purpose and we seek to ensure that the National Curriculum is delivered to all children, regardless of social background, race, gender or differences in ability. All are entitled to the development of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. To enrich the curriculum for the children at the school, we offer a range of educational visits and other activities that add to what they learn at school.

Visits and curriculum links

All educational visits and activities support and enrich the work we do in school. There are also a number of people who visit the school to support our work. Some visits relate directly to areas of learning for individual classes, whilst others relate to all our children.

For each subject in the curriculum there is a corresponding programme of activities, which includes visits by specialists. All these activities are in line with guidance published by the LA: e.g.

English – theatre visits, visits by authors, poets and theatre groups; Science – use of the school grounds, visits to local woods and parks; Mathematics – use of shape and number trails in the local environment; History – castle visits, study of local housing patterns, museums; Geography – use of the locality for fieldwork, field work further away

Art and Design – art gallery visits, use of the locality;

PE – range of sporting fixtures, extra-curricular activities;

Music – range of specialist music teaching, extra-curricular activities, performances;

Design and Technology – range of specialist teaching, extra-curricular activities;

ICT/Computing – E-safety presentations/its use in local shops/libraries/secondary schools etc;

RE – visits to centres of worship, visits by local clergy.

NOTE – when extra-curricular activities take place there should always be an adult, other than the one running the activity, on the premises.

Gaining approval for a trip

Governors

As part of their responsibility for the general conduct for the school, the Governing Body has adopted this policy for the effective and safe management of educational visits.

The Governors must approve any visit involving an Overnight stay or Overseas. The Governors delegate the Headteacher / EVC the responsibility to approve all other visits.

The Governors have adopted a charging and remissions policy which is available on the school's website: www.oeapng.info (3.2c-Charging for school activities)

The Headteacher or EVC:

- Is responsible for ensuring that all school activities are properly planned and appropriately supervised and that this policy is implemented.
- Should ensure that the aims of the visit are commensurate with the needs of the pupils, including those with special educational needs for whom additional, appropriate arrangements may need to be made. (For additional guidance refer to the Equality Act 2010)
- Should ensure the suitability of all staff appointed to the visit.
- Should ensure that the visit leader fully understands his/her responsibilities.
- Should implement effective emergency contact arrangements.
- Should ensure that financial and insurance matters, staff ratios and parental consent are dealt with appropriately.
- Should have a system in place to record, audit and monitor school off-site visits.

An electronic submission process **EVOLVE** is used to log, audit and approve the following:

- Overseas formal approval by Head then EVC
- Residential formal approval by Head then EVC
- Adventurous formal approval by EVC and Head
- Day Visits involving transport formal approval by EVC
- Local Area Visit (see appendix 4) formal approval by EVC*
- Sporting fixtures (see appendix 5) formal approval by EVC

Residential Visits

Residential visits will only take place in centres agreed by the LA. It is the visit leader's responsibility to ensure that the school is in receipt of the Centre's risk assessment procedures and that they are familiar with these procedures. The visit leader must give a copy of the procedures to the EVC. All other procedures as per day educational visits. Refer www.oeapng.info (4.2b - Residential visits) prior to organising all visits and the following policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Health and Safety Policy and documentation
- Charging Policy
- Risk assessment checklist for visits out of school

Choosing a provider

After considering the reasons for the visit, the visit leader should check out the provider. www.oeapng.info (4.4h-Preliminary-visits-and-provider-assurances)

On Residential, Adventurous or Overseas visits, leaders should check to see if the provider holds the LOtC Quality Badge or has specific National Accreditations (ABTA bonded, AALA licence, Adventuremark, etc.)

Transport

The level of supervision necessary should be considered as part of the risk management process when planning the journey. Whatever the mode of transport, group members should be made aware of the position of emergency evacuation exits, first aid stations and meeting points. The Visit Leader should also be aware of alternative routes or means of travel in the event of delay or cancellation. Visit Leaders should plan the journey in a way that will address whatever travel issues may arise.

^{*}Although EVOLVE does not require authorisation for local area visits the Trust does require that all visits require approval.

When crossing roads as part of the journey, the Visit Leader should ensure that young people know how to observe the safety rules set out in the Highway Code and the Green Cross Code and are aware of direction of traffic flow. It is good practice for all the staff, voluntary helpers and the young people to be briefed on a common approach as to how group road crossings will be managed. Where available, pedestrian crossings, traffic lights, underpasses and footbridges should be used to cross roads. Head counts should be carried out whenever the group is getting off or onto transport.

Coaches and buses will be hired from a reputable company.

Arranging and obtaining consent

- Initial, in principle, agreement will be sought from the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher prior to any arrangements being made.
- Parents will be given sufficient written information on proposed visits in order for them to make informed decisions on whether their child should attend a visit.
- The contents of a Consent Form for educational visits for a parent or carer to sign will vary according to the type of visit (see Appendix 1).

Visits and staffing

Every educational visit will have a designated leader and a deputy leader. The visit leader must recognise that whilst leading the visit, he or she is in effect representing the Headteacher and holds delegated responsibility for Health & Safety and Duty of Care. The group leader must ensure that there is an appropriate level of first aid and lifesaving cover as necessary for the nature of the visit/activities.

It is the responsibility of the Visit Leader to carry out Risk Assessment / Risk management for the visit. (see appendix 2)

For Risk Assessment guidance see www.oeapng.info (4.3g Risk Management)

Key Requirements for Leaders

The key requirements for leaders are that they must be competent to lead, confident and accountable. Being competent means that the leader has demonstrated the ability to lead to the level demanded by the visit or activities that they are to lead, and has sufficient relevant experience and knowledge of the activities, the group, and the environments they will operate in. Competence is a combination of skills, knowledge, awareness, judgement, training and experience. It is not necessarily related to age or position within the establishment.

The visit leader is responsible for ensuring there is effective supervision during the visit, taking into account the activities taking place, the environment, the amount of children and the distance travelled. Effective supervision includes experience, training, qualifications and common sense.

Visit leaders and teachers must ensure that visits are planned for and that appropriate preparation has taken place. The visit must have specific aims and objectives, a preliminary visit should be completed by staff (where possible) and a risk assessment must be completed and final approval obtained. In the case of residential or adventurous activities, risk assessments must be completed by the visit leaders and submitted at least 8 weeks in advance of the visit. In the case of all other visits, risk assessments must be completed by the visit leaders at least 4 weeks in advance of the visit.

The LA, Trust, Headteacher or EVC retains the right to prevent a visit from taking place or recall a visit if it has left the premises if appropriate preparation and risk assessments have not been completed or they feel that children or adults may be put at an inappropriate or unacceptable risk.

Visit Leader Training

Training should be offered to all leader staff and can be delivered by the trained EVC or by the Educational Visits Adviser. A Juniper online learning module is available for schools allowing cost effective CPD opportunity for all of the staff engaged in anyway on an out of school activity. (See EVOLVE Homepage for more details.) This is strongly recommended to ensure all staff are clear on their roles and responsibilities when engaged in an off-site activity.

Codes of safety and conduct

- Appropriate consent will be obtained from parents/carers together with appropriate medical or other information
- Children will be briefed prior to each educational visit
- The briefing will include the purpose of each educational visit, code of behaviour and supervising adults
- A briefing (led by the visit leader) for all accompanying adults will take place prior to each visit
 and consider Health and Safety, Child Protection, Codes of Conduct and aims and objectives for
 the visit
- Children with specific medical or special educational needs will be listed as part of the visits Risk Assessment (eg. asthma, language and communication or behaviour difficulties).

Arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs

- Arrangements for Children with Special Educational Needs will be considered as part of the Educational Visits risk assessment and, if appropriate, in consultation with the SENCO or equivalent post holder.
- Consideration will include the capability of the pupil, possible adaptation of the activity, additional or different resources, and the necessity of additional supervision.

Volunteers

- When using volunteers, it is essential that they meet the requirements for the role that they
 have been assigned. The engagement of any volunteer must involve an appropriate level of
 vetting and induction. They must be sufficiently competent and confident to carry out their
 responsibilities.
- Parents or staff using their own cars will have appropriate insurance, provide the school with documentation proving ownership of the vehicle, that the car is adequately insured, taxed and has an up to date MOT certificate. (see page 10) They will also follow the school and LA procedures for transporting children.

The visit

On the day

Leave in the school office:

- An amended list of children present and going on the visit
- Full list of staff/volunteers attending the visit
- The itinerary for the entire day

Before leaving school:

- Check children out of classroom to ensure bags, lunchboxes and clipboards etc. are taken
- Take First Aid Kit, sick bucket, inhalers and other medication e.g. EpiPen and mobile phone
- Copies of Emergency / Critical Incident cards given to all leaders

During the visit

Children must be kept in escort's group at all times. There should be a system in place to safeguard young people at all times. (e.g. If toileting issues arise, an approach could be not to send young children into the toilets on their own but in small groups).

Courtesy to the public must be shown at all times, care taken not to block pathways, etc.

Escorts should remain vigilant throughout the visit to ensure the safety and well-being of the pupils in their care and inform the visit leader or another member of staff of any relevant incident involving pupils in their care as soon as possible.

Every escort must be given an emergency procedures card. This will have the school's contact and action plan in case of an emergency.

On return

Check all children off the coach and a member of staff must lead the class either into school or to an area of the playground where children can be collected by parents/carers and teachers can check them off, thus ensuring that each child departs with known parent/carer.

A teacher must remain with uncollected children until all parents/carers have arrived and all children have departed.

Financing the visit

When stating the cost for each individual, explain where this cost has come from and that the school would like a voluntary donation from parents to fund the visit. Stipulate the school's policy concerning parents who are unable to offer a voluntary contribution — which is that, no child will miss a trip if parents do not make a voluntary contribution. Stress, however, that if sufficient financial support is not forthcoming that the visit may have to be cancelled. State when and how you would like to receive payment.

Insurance

Introduction

Insurance is an area where misconceptions abound. It is too important to be left to chance and those involved with schools [teachers, pupils and parents] need to be sure of the nature and level of cover which is provided, both according to statutory requirements and that which may be additionally obtained on a voluntary basis through premium payments.

The following advice will help clarify some of the many queries which are raised, though it does not replace the need for individuals to seek information on insurance from their LA, school or professional association which is pertinent to their own circumstances.

Personal

All employed persons have a possible claim against their employer if they sustain any bodily injury by accident arising out of, or in the course of, their employment. Such claims can only be substantiated where injury can be proved to be through negligence of the employer or another employee [Employers Liability].

In respect of pupils, schools have a legal duty to take care of the well-being and safety of young people. Where there is a breach of this responsibility a claim for compensation may be brought.

There is no requirement for schools to make provision for loss through personal injury as the result of an accident where no blame may be attached. Personal accident insurance cover for pupils is a matter for the parents to arrange.

Indemnity

Please see reference to parental consent: www.oeapng.info (4.3d-Parental-Consent)

Emergency Procedures

- In the event of an unexpected change of plan, emergency procedures will be in accordance with the plan set down in the individual Educational Visit Risk Assessment.
- In the event of a Primary Care Plan being in place for a child, the leader will be familiar with its emergency procedures and the leader will hold a copy of the document.

There are three levels of emergencies/incidents: emergencies, critical incidents and major incidents.

Emergencies

Examples include:

- Illness
- Safeguarding
- Hospitalisation
- Poor behaviour causing a concern

If any emergencies take place, staff should use the emergency contact cards to contact the relevant people.

Critical Incident (see Appendix 7)

Examples include:

- Road traffic accidents
- Missing child
- Life-threatening incident

If any critical incidents take place, staff members should follow the step-by-step instructions on the back of the emergency cards.

Major Incident

Examples include:

- Terrorism
- Fire
- Flood

If any major incidents take place, staff members should follow the step-by-step instructions on the back of the emergency cards.

All staff members must carry the emergency cards with them at all times. On return, the visit leader must comply with the school's normal accident reporting procedures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

After any visit, it is good practice to ensure a system of feedback, review and rigorous evaluation. In the case of overseas visits, there is a particularly strong case for ensuring this takes place and includes the consultation of the young people concerned, the parents, the leaders and partner organisations.

Such a process will help in the celebration of success as well as feeding in to the general planning and risk management for future visits. Any significant issues should be shared with the EVC, the Head/Manager and the employer's advisory team.

All leaders are expected to complete an evaluation form on EVOLVE once they have completed a visit.

Appendix 1 - Checklist for information to parents/carers

How much of the information below is required prior to obtaining consent will obviously depend on the proposed visit or journey. Information must be supplied in writing to parents at an early stage in planning:

- Dates
- Times of departure and return
- Method of travel, including name of travel company, if any
- Destination with full address and telephone number
- Emergency contact arrangements
- Supervision arrangements
- Names of leader and accompanying staff
- Names and status (eg parent) of other accompanying adults who will exercise some responsibility during the visit
- Purpose of visit and activities planned (any activity involving special risk must be clearly specified)
- Cost; what it covers and does not cover
- Methods of payment and cancellation arrangements. Advice on pocket money
- Insurance
- Clothing/footwear and other items to be taken. Prohibited items
- Code of conduct; details relating to the standard of behaviour expected from the young people during the visit.

Appendix 2 - Risk Assessment Checklist

This is a minimum expectation of a RA checklist; schools may add to this according to their needs/internal procedures.

	Yes	No	
Has an "in principal" approval/agreement been received			Ensure you have gained verbal approval from your Head and also are the SLT aware of where and when you want to go.
from the SLT? Have you identified the purposes of			Ensure the children and staff know where you are going ;why you are going and
the trip?			what you will be doing when you get there.
Has a pre-visit been completed?			Visit or contact the responsible person (if applicable). Explain length of visit and pupils activity. Find out about facilities, rest and toilets. Assess risks where safety is important.
Have insurance levels and arrangements been checked?			Speak to Finance officer to check cover. Does it cover pupils, staff and third party? Does cover extend beyond school hours? Does the firm/organisation you are visiting have its own arrangements? Are risks involved?
Have travel arrangements been made?			Arrange with Finance Manager / Office Manager that the appropriate documents are held and/or check the Essex agreed list. Obtain estimates if necessary. Confirm time of departure and return.
Have the activities been costed accurately?			Ensure that the cost of the coach, train, admission fees, gratitude and other payments and/or access cost per child and adult are accurate and that access can be gained. Speak to the Finance Manager.
Have adequate staffing arrangements been made and agreed by SLT?			Arrange and check staffing arrangements for the trip.
Have Governors/SLT (as appropriate) been informed of a detailed plan?			Arrange briefing for appropriate parties if needed
Have parents/carers been informed?			Write letters to parents (ensure that the SLT have seen the letters before they are sent out and give a signed copy to office for file) Ask for consent, include information on type of activity, clothing and footwear, dates, travel arrangements.
Have the office been given sufficient information about the trip? A list of which children and staff are attending and if any children are not going.			Ensure the office staff are fully briefed on the trip and have a list of children attending, this will need to be updated on the day if any children are absent/ or do not go on the trip and stay at school.
Have you completed a risk assessment on-line, including any details about SEN pupil needs?			Complete a risk assessment online, ask for help from SLT if unsure.
Has final approval been received from SLT and other appropriate parties?			Ensure the EVC knows you have completed a risk assessment either via e-mail or verbally. Check it has been agreed BEFORE departing for the trip.
Have the adults/ children going on the trip been briefed about emergency contact details and what to do?			Ensure you brief all adults and children going on the trip with you of emergency procedures.
Have you got a copy of the risk assessment to take on the trip with you so that you have the contact details of SLT and the emergency plan?			Print a copy of the plan to take with you.

Appendix 3 - Local Area Visits

Boundaries

The boundaries for local area visits are a 1 mile radius around the school.



We use the local area on a regular basis for a variety of learning activities, and approved staff are allowed to operate in this area providing they follow the below Operating Procedure. They will complete a local area activity form on Evolve and upload a local visit risk assessment.

Operating Procedure for Local Area Visits

The following are potentially significant issues/hazards within our extended locality:

- Road traffic
- Other people / members of the public / animals
- Losing a pupil
- Uneven surfaces and slips, trips, and falls
- Weather conditions
- Activity specific issues when doing environmental fieldwork (nettles, brambles, rubbish, etc)

These are managed by a combination of the following:

- The Head, Deputy or EVC must give verbal approval before a group leaves (minimum of 2 weeks notice).
- Only staff judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved.
- The concept and Operating Procedure of local area visits is explained to all new parents when their child joins the school.
- There will be a minimum of two adults unless attending a Trust event where one adult may be sufficient.

- Staff are familiar with the area, including any 'no go areas', and have practised appropriate management techniques.
- Pupils have been trained and have practised 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.
- All remotely supervised work in the extended learning locality 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 deposit in the office a list of all pupils and staff, a proposed route, and an estimated time of return.
- Staff will have mobile phones with them and the office will have the phone numbers.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (eg gloves, goggles).

Appendix 4 - Away Sporting Fixtures Risk Assessment

Please find below a detailed risk assessment that staff are familiar with and follow when taking our children on trips to local away sporting fixtures.

Also attached is the 'Code of Conduct For Pupil Behaviour On School Trips' and the 'Code of Conduct For Transporting Children In Private Vehicles' which is signed when any adult transports our children in a private vehicle.

This document was taken from EES for schools and adapted by the EVC to suit the needs of our school.

It has been read by relevant staff.

This declaration is made for all visit staff by the EVC Lead.

General Risks		
Significant HAZARDS	CONTROL MEASURES and PRECAUTIONS that staff agree to adopt as their normal practice	Additional CMs required?
Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed	Discuss with all staff that organise or help lead this type of visit. Consider the suggested	If existing CMs cannot be met or circumstances have changed
	measures below – if control measures do not result in a low residual risk consider adding	
	extra measures in each section as needed.	
Inadequate staff supervision/	The Overall Group Leader will be a designated competent leader, with adequate experience of leading similar groups and activities	Inadequate staff supervision/
training/ qualifications	The Overall Group Leader, responsible for the group's welfare, will be an employed member of staff with appropriate leadership experience and competence, and	training/ qualifications
Accidents	 knowledge of the group An appropriate number of other competent leaders will accompany the group to assist with supervision of the group. Where some direct supervisory responsibilities are delegated to an another leader (e.g. HLTA), the Overall Group Leader maintains overall responsibility for the group, and will ensure that they can be contacted, and intervene or provide assistance if required All contracted coaches and volunteer staff will be appropriately checked regarding child protection issues prior to involvement, and will be made aware of recommended safe practice A member of staff will be available to supervise group members in the changing rooms (if necessary) All accompanying staff will remain accessible and available to assist with supervision throughout the activity/event, including supervision of those not directly involved (e.g. reserves/spectators) If accompanying staff are directly responsible for providing coaching/supervision of groups, they will hold the appropriate qualification, as recommended by the National Governing Body concerned, or equivalent 	Accidents

	Guidance provided by the Government and relevant Sports Governing Bodies regarding the use of volunteers and paid coaches (contractors) will be referred to and followed
Visits inadequately planned/	Staff will be fully briefed and prepared to fulfil their supervisory roles and responsibilities e.g. accompanying sick or injured group members to/in hospital if
organised/ risk assessed	required
	 Staff will have an established emergency procedure in the event of a group member being injured and needing hospitalisation
→ Accidents	 Group members will know where and how to contact a staff member in an emergency.
	 Contact details and after hours numbers of parents, group leader, and others responsible, will be held by the group leader and emergency home contact
	The Leader and emergency home contacts will have clear instruction as to what to
	do in an emergency.Group leaders will be familiar with the site and in the case of unfamiliarity will
	undertake a pre-visit and if needed make adaptations to this risk assessment.

Exposure to weather cold injury heat injury sunburn	 Weather and ground conditions will be taken into consideration prior to the event, and alternative contingencies will be pre-planned for occasions when the conditions are deemed unsafe or unsuitable An up-to-date weather forecast will be obtained and plans will be adjusted accordingly. Young people will be instructed to wear/bring appropriate equipment, clothing and footwear for the prevailing weather/ground conditions Plans will be in place for young people who may/do not bring suitable kit (i.e. kit is checked before departure). 	
Collisions, falls, slips injury	 The Leader responsible for the group will ensure, as far as possible, that: the playing surface/nets/posts/markers etc. are established in accordance with the relevant sport's Governing Body and national guidelines all other equipment that is provided is safe and suitable the referee/umpire is appropriately qualified and experienced all obvious hazardous obstacles/objects are either cleared from the playing area or suitably protected the ground conditions and playing surface are suitable (e.g. no ice/hard frost/rocks/broken glass) 	
Assault/Aggressive behaviour injury	 The Leader responsible for the group will ensure, as far as possible, that: players are clearly briefed regarding expected behaviour/sanctions (see attached Children's Code of Conduct) prompt action is taken by the referee or accompanying staff (e.g. substitute an offending player) if dangerous/aggressive behaviour is shown by players which puts themselves or others at risk of harm 	Assault/Aggressive behaviour injury
Pupils lost/separated from the group injury	 The Overall Group Leader will retain responsibility for all group members until they have been returned to the care of their parents/guardians, or to an agreed place of safety Suitable grouping measures will be applied (buddy systems, large groups split into smaller ones) with appropriate supervision by staff Itinerary and arrangements will be discussed in advance with young people. 	Pupils lost/separated from the group injury

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Risk Assessment Carried out by	Educational Visits Officer	Date:	

• All young people will be briefed on what to do if congrated from the group	
 At least one leader with each group will have a competent level of First Aid. 	Inadequate emergency procedures
 Leaders will know how to call the emergency services. 	
 Appropriate medical/special needs information will be obtained. 	illness or injury
 All appropriate medical conditions will be disclosed to <u>all relevant</u> staff/leaders 	
Advice from SENCO will be sought if appropriate	
Group Leaders to take copies of Care Plans if appropriate	
Necessary arrangements for individual pupils will be made, including individual Risk	
Assessments and additional staffing measures if required.	
Pupils and parents will be reminded to bring individual medication	
First aid and travel sickness equipment will be carried.	
Mobile phones will be carried by staff	
Parents will be informed in writing of their child's involvement in sports fixtures	
including accurate dates and times.	Away matches if start/return is
Parental consent for after-hours activities will be obtained, by a letter before every	before/after school hours
sporting fixture	
The consent letter will ask for up to date contact information including: phone	
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	danger/injury
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	 Leaders will know how to call the emergency services. Appropriate medical/special needs information will be obtained. All appropriate medical conditions will be disclosed to all relevant staff/leaders Advice from SENCO will be sought if appropriate Group Leaders to take copies of Care Plans if appropriate Necessary arrangements for individual pupils will be made, including individual Risk Assessments and additional staffing measures if required. Pupils and parents will be reminded to bring individual medication First aid and travel sickness equipment will be carried. Mobile phones will be carried by staff Parents will be informed in writing of their child's involvement in sports fixtures including accurate dates and times. Parental consent for after-hours activities will be obtained, by a letter before every sporting fixture The consent letter will ask for up to date contact information including: phone numbers and collection details with alternative arrangements made explicit e.g. a parent of another child picking up Starts/returns will be pre-planned, and parents will be informed where and when to drop off/collect young people.

Risk Assessment Carried out b	v Educational Visits Officer Date	•
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Walking		
Significant HAZARDS Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed	CONTROL MEASURES and PRECAUTIONS that staff agree to adopt as their normal practice Discuss with all staff that organise or help lead this type of visit. Consider the suggested measures below – if control measures do not result in a low residual risk consider adding extra measures in each section as needed.	Additional CMs required? If existing CMs cannot be met or circumstances have changed
All accidents	This generic risk assessment will be read and completed in addition to the generic risk assessment "Travel - General" which gives general safety guidance applicable to all journeys Where possible, prior inspection of the intended journey will be undertaken by at least one group leader to identify potential hazards and choose safe walking route The route will be planned to avoid fast or dangerous junctions or sections of road Staff will be fully briefed with respect to supervisory responsibilities	
Collision with vehicular traffic (roads with pavements)	Young people given appropriate briefing regarding hazards and required behaviour e.g. remain on pavements unless instructed otherwise, courtesy to public, etc. The planned route utilizes wide pavements where possible The planned route will cross roads only at designated crossing points or at specified locations which are considered to be low risk	

	All journeys, especially road crossings, will be closely supervised by staff
	Young people will be briefed not to cross roads, unless and until specifically instructed to do so by staff
	One supervisor (or appropriate group member) will be at the front of the group, one at the back, with the others positioning themselves alongside the group between the young people and the road itself
	If abroad, pupils will be briefed regarding right-hand traffic and any local traffic rules
Collision with vehicular traffic	Walking beside roads with no pavements will be kept to a minimum, and only undertaken
(roads with no pavements)	if the risk is considered reasonable, and there is no suitable alternative (consideration will
	be given to factors such as speed and business of traffic, and widths of road and verge)
	Young people given appropriate briefing regarding required behaviour i.e. –
	to stay together as one group, on one side of the road only
	to walk in a single file close to roadside
	to walk off the road and on the verge, if at all possible
	The group will normally walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic, but the
	group leader will choose the safest side according to road conditions, width of verge, and
	visibility of traffic) Particular care will be taken around corners, when oncoming traffic may not be visible
	Leaders will be positioned at the front and back of the group. N.B. It will not normally be
	safe for staff members to walk alongside the group
	If visibility is poor, leaders at the front and rear of the group will be positioned at an
	appropriate distance ahead and behind the group to give prior warning to oncoming

	vehicles (wear bright clothing - fluorescent, if possible; flags or signs might be used if appropriate to signal to drivers to slow down)
	Leaders will warn group members of oncoming traffic and give instructions to the group to move onto the verge if appropriate
	Roads will be crossed only at safe locations where visibility is clear and sufficient time is available to cross
Collision with vehicular traffic when crossing roads	Young people given appropriate briefing regarding required behaviour when crossing roads e.g. walk, utilize pedestrian islands, cross in waves/small groups, leave clear exit at far side
	Young people only to cross roads when specifically directed to do so by staff Staff will be appropriately positioned and clearly visible to traffic and to guide group safely across

Travel (private vehicle)		
Significant HAZARDS	CONTROL MEASURES and PRECAUTIONS that staff agree to adopt as their normal practice	Additional CMs required?
Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed	Discuss with all staff that organise or help lead this type of visit. Consider the suggested measures below – if control measures do not result in a low residual risk consider adding extra measures in each section as needed.	If existing CMs cannot be met or circumstances have changed
All accidents	This generic risk assessment will be read and completed in addition to the generic risk assessment "Travel - General" which gives general safety guidance applicable to all journeys	
Driver error	 has a current driving licence for the type of vehicle s/he will be driving (driving licences should be checked annually by designated "responsible person") is an experienced driver who has held a full driving licence for at least 2 years has no past convictions (in the last 5 years) for, and is not facing impending prosecution for, any significant driving offences (e.g. drink driving) is healthy and fit to drive is aware of and agrees to implement the following LA guidance not to drive if feeling too tired or unwell to drive safely not to drive if under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication Not to use a mobile 'phone or radio in the car unless the car is stationary or the equipment is fully "hands-free" operated. to adhere to national speed limits and the highway code to drive in a responsible and sensible manner to choose safe locations, away from busy traffic, for passengers to get in/out of car (e.g. car park, onto wide pavement) 	

	 will check and ensure that seat belts are fitted correctly on all young people before departure and after all breaks in the journey 	
Defective or unsuitable vehicle	 The following documents must be checked as evidence the vehicle is roadworthy. valid road tax current MOT certificate (receipt for last service?) There is adequate motor vehicle insurance cover provided i.e. it is insured for personal business use 	
	It is ideal to have some form of 'Breakdown' cover The establishment must ascertain that:	
	 the vehicle is fitted with fully operational seatbelts (ideally 3 point) for each person booster cushions must be available for use when appropriate (children under 1.35m) the vehicle has sufficient capacity for each passenger to have their own seat and own seatbelt if younger children are being transported, adults to decide whether child-safe locks are appropriate and then that they are operational on the doors to ensure that they cannot be opened accidentally 	
Child abuse	Prior to a driver taking young people in their car, the school/establishment will make all reasonable and appropriate checks to ensure that young people are not at risk of harm from the driver, including: - • requesting personal references of occasional/one-off volunteers who are unknown to the group leader • requesting a DBS check on any volunteer who will have regular unsupervised contact with young people • requesting drivers to read and sign an agreed "Code of Safe Conduct" See attached • making prior arrangements to ensure that young people do not need to be transported alone	

Driver distracted by	The establishment will ensure that: -
misbehaviour or illness in car	 young people who are likely to present challenging behaviour are appropriately supervised by staff who are aware of and capable of handling their behaviour a second adult accompanies the main driver young people are briefed beforehand regarding required conduct/behaviour young people are briefed not to open vehicle windows without permission, and not to place hands/heads out of open windows young people are briefed not to throw anything inside or from the vehicle, or to make signs to passing road users the driver will be informed of any significant medical conditions (including propensity for travel sickness) and relevant medication carried any travel sickness equipment is provided young people are briefed to eat/drink sensibly
In event of breakdown or accident, additional collision with vehicle, or with passengers during evacuation	 The school/establishment will instruct drivers: if breakdown or accident occurs, to evacuate all passengers away from passenger side of vehicle to safe resting place (beyond side barrier if possible), well away from passing vehicles if above is not possible, to instruct passengers to sit on side of vehicle furthest from moving traffic and remain wearing seat belts Ensure that Traffic Patrol officers are informed to place blue or amber flashing hazard lights between the vehicle and approaching traffic as soon as possible

Travel (Hired Vehicle)		
Significant HAZARDS Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed	CONTROL MEASURES and PRECAUTIONS that staff agree to adopt as their normal practice Discuss with all staff that organise or help lead this type of visit. Consider the suggested measures below – if control measures do not result in a low residual risk consider adding extra measures in each section as needed.	Additional CMs required? If existing CMs cannot be met or circumstances have changed
All accidents	Group leaders have read and will follow School / LA policy regarding transport on educational visits (OEAP National Guidance)	The generic risk assessment, "Indirect or Remote Supervision" may also be pertinent
All accidents and incidents	Purpose, location, time and duration of visit Activities to be included during the visit Composition of group, including any special or particular needs for individuals Transport considerations Supervisory responsibilities throughout the visit, including any specific responsibilities e.g. 1st Aid, medication, spending money etc. Emergency procedures – communications, mobile 'phones, Critical incident Card including all emergency contact numbers Contingency arrangements in the event of an accident or breakdown (inc. safety of group, and planned means of onward travel or return home) Young people appropriately briefed to include the following: -	

	Purpose, location, time and duration of visit	
	Activities to be included during the visit	
	Expected standards of behaviour / Code of Conduct and pertinent safety rules	
	Required clothing, PPE etc	
	Emergency procedures - what to do if lost or separated from group, or there is an incident.	
Defective vehicles, or unsafe drivers or operating procedures	Only bona fide, reputable companies will be hired Where appropriate, prior written assurance will be obtained from the company that it has suitable and sufficient safety management systems in place	
Whilst on transport: Misbehaviour injury to self, others inside transport, or passers-by	Staffing supervision is within LA recommended ratios, sufficient to meet pastoral needs and maintain good behaviour Leaders will sit at various separate locations to ensure well-being and good behaviour Young people will be told not to: throw anything either inside vehicle or out of windows distract or disturb vehicle driver's concentration whilst travelling lean against or touch the emergency exits (except in emergency)	

	open or close vehicle windows without permission
	lean out or put head/hands through open windows
	hold or hang things out of the windows
	gesticulate to passers-by or other transport users.
	Individual risk assessments will be carried out if required
	Additional staffing will be arranged to ensure safe supervision if necessary
Unexpected motion or braking of transport → injury	Young people told to remain seated with seatbelts fastened where appropriate and not to move around vehicle unnecessarily
	Wheelchairs will be properly secured during journey using appropriate fixings
	If user remains in wheelchair, appropriate seat belts, if required, will be fitted
Obstacles in gangways, etc. → falls & injury	Aisles and emergency exits will be kept clear of obstructions
Major incident e.g. collision / breakdown	Leaders will ensure that group members read and/or listen to transport officials' safety instructions, and will help explain emergency procedures to the group if required

Health concerns, travel sickness	Young people (and parents in letter) will be reminded to bring personal medication if required Young people will have written parental consent and will inform leaders if medication taken or required Visit leader will carry information regarding medical conditions and relevant medication carried Young people will be briefed to eat/drink sensibly	
	See Children's Code of Conduct	
Injury whilst getting on / off transport	Allocate one staff member to stand by and check doorway as young people enter/leave Brief group to enter and leave in an orderly manner Instruct group to wait behind staff member and wait until given order to enter/exit. Transport will have suitable lift/wheelchair access	
Injury transferring, if needed, into/out of wheelchair	Access, egress and transfers will be carefully supervised (and assisted, if required) by sufficient number of trained, experienced staff members with suitable lifting aids where appropriate	
	Choose safe locations to get on/off transport	

Collision with passing vehicle	Ensure one staff member is the first onboard and last off board	
	Ensure that one staff member is the last onboard and first off board	
Breaks in journey	Brief leaders and young people re :	
e.g. service, bus or railway	purpose and timings of stop	
stations,	rendezvous times and places	
	hazards and conduct / behaviour required	
	how and where to contact staff (agree staff supervisory responsibilities beforehand)	
	to remain in pairs or threes (buddy system - each responsible for named other)	
	procedure if they become lost or separated from their group	
	Remind re moving traffic (driving on right abroad)	
	Careful head count before departure	
Confrontation with a member of public	Young people will remain in pairs, groups or buddy systems at all times, including visits to toilets, restaurants etc.	
Inappropriate provision, activity or actions by provider	Only bona fide, reputable providers will be used	
or provider's staff	Where appropriate, prior written assurance will be obtained (OV 6 Providers Assessment form) from the company that it has suitable and sufficient safety management and	
	quality-control systems in place	

Whilst on activity:	Staffing supervision is within LA recommended ratios, sufficient to meet pastoral needs
Inappropriate behaviour injury	and maintain good behaviour
to self, other party members, or	Overall party divided into smaller groups for more effective supervision by staff
passers-by	Young people appropriately briefed to include the following: -
	Purpose and duration of activity
	Expected standards of behaviour and pertinent safety rules – follow instructions / directions from provider's staff where applicable
	Emergency procedures - what to do if there is an incident or they become lost or separated from group

Swimming		
Significant HAZARDS	Significant HAZARDS	Significant HAZARDS
Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed	Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed	Likely places/ways that people could be seriously harmed
Inappropriate leadership	 Group leaders will read and follow guidance in OEAP National Guidance (doc 7x) At least one of the leaders will be an employed member of staff (e.g. teacher, social / youth worker) with appropriate leadership experience and competence, and knowledge of the group An appropriate number of other competent leaders will also accompany the group in a supervisory capacity (at least one other adult leader, with appropriate experience, should accompany to deputise in emergency The gender mix of staff will take account of the group's gender mix (normally at least one member of each gender in mixed groups), wherever possible A member of staff (of appropriate gender) will be available to supervise group members in the changing rooms (as necessary) If the group is under the direct supervision and care of instructors at the pool, at least one group leader will remain present and immediately available to assist (i.e. with behavioural / pastoral issues) if required, beside the pool All accompanying staff will remain accessible and available to assist with supervision throughout the pool session (as required) Staff will have an established emergency procedure in the event of a group member being injured and needing hospitalisation Meeting points will be agreed for the start and end of sessions If accompanying staff are directly responsible for providing instruction/supervision of groups in the pool, they will hold the National Rescue Award for Swimming Teachers and Coaches, as a minimum Only group members whose parents have given permission will be allowed to swim 	

Risk Assessment Carried out by	Educational Visits Officer	Date:

Inadequate safety provision	Where there are no lifeguards provided by the pool management, the Group leader will	
illadequate salety provision		
	ensure that: -	
	 An appropriate number (according to location and group) of qualified lifeguards will be available to provide constant supervision The lifeguard(s) will supervise from out of the water from a point where the whole swimming area can be observed The lifeguards will remain alert to danger, and will be ready and prepared, if necessary, to enter the water to conduct a rescue In addition to qualified lifeguards, a sufficient number of other leaders will act as observers/supervisors (it might be appropriate for some leaders to be present also in the water) Lifeguards will have access to, and be competent in, the use of suitable rescue equipment 	
	(e.g. lifebuoy, throw-line and/or reaching pole)	
	The depth of water will be checked and assessed as suitable for the group and activities -	
	diving and other activities	
Sudden / unexpected immersion	Group appropriately briefed regarding: -	
→ drowning	o safety rules and regulations	
, a. a	 behaviour required / agreed sanctions (e.g. about running, jumping, diving and it will 	
	be made clear that pushing, dragging or ducking others is unsafe and unacceptable)	
	All non swimmers/weak swimmers will be identified and be directed to areas suitable to	
	their ability	
Slips, trips, collisions during	Group members to be briefed regarding safety rules, expected behaviour (no running)	
non-swimming activities	and emergency procedures	
	Slip resistant surfaces in evidence	
	Non-formal swim teaching activities to be specifically risk assessed e.g. diving,	
	'recreational' time, use of slide, flumes, inflatables etc.	
Unsafe / inappropriate use of	Group members will only use extra equipment (e.g. snorkels, masks etc.) permitted by the	
	pool management	
equipment		
- 4 3.16 e	Floats and teaching / play equipment will be used only in accordance with pool management rules and procedures	

2 Injuries	Where canoes are available (i.e. stored) on poolside, these must not be used whilst swimming activities are taking place. Such use to be specifically risk assessed beforehand.	
Poor hygiene arrangements → infections	 Group leaders will check that: Group members use appropriate, clean swimwear, as required Group members with medical conditions that are infectious do not participate, or have sufficient protection to be no risk to others Group leaders to satisfy themselves, and the pool operator informed immediately where there are concerns, about the following: changing and showering facilities appear safe and clean the water appears clear and is regularly tested for quality water temperature is appropriate / acceptable 	
Child protection issues	 Swimming sessions will be arranged for the group's exclusive use in a clearly defined area of the pool Care, sensitivity, and sensible precautions will be taken regarding changing facilities and assistance in the pool to protect young people (and safeguard leaders from allegations) 	
Confrontation with members of public	 Appropriate briefing of staff on expected behaviour Appropriate briefing to students on required behaviour / Code of Conduct young people will operate buddy system - each responsible for named other(s) and must accompany each other at all times (inc. visits to the toilets) Young people will be briefed regarding their response if approached inappropriately by a stranger, or if they are offered anything by a stranger 	

Appendix 5 - Code of Conduct for Pupil Behaviour On School Trips

- Cooperate fully with teachers/leaders at all times.
- Fulfil any tasks or duties set prior to and during the visit to the best of their ability.
- Be punctual at all times.
- Not leave group sessions or accommodation without permission.
- Always return to the meeting point or at agreed times.
- If granted indirectly supervised time, be in groups of no less than three.
- Avoid behaviour that might inconvenience others.
- Be considerate to others at all times.
- Respect all requests and requirements made by staff and accompanying adults.
- Behave at all times in a manner that reflects credit on self, to the party and to the school.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of the places visited.
- Be aware of the social / religious conventions of the places visited and show appropriate consideration.
- If in doubt on any matter, consult with staff.

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Risk Assessment Carried out by	Educational Visits Office
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Appendix 6 - Code of Conduct for Transporting Children in Private Vehicles

To ensure the welfare and safety of the children you are transporting, you must follow this guidance:

- Keep your vehicle roadworthy and clean.
- Drive by the rules in the Highway Code.
- Drive at a speed appropriate to the conditions.
- Ensure that you and your passengers are wearing seat belts at all times.
- Keep to 5mph on school premises.
- Use child locks (if appropriate).
- Take care when reversing especially on school premises and use audible reversing warning device if available.
- Where possible, park so that children can get out of your vehicle on the pavement side and so that they do not need to cross the road.
- Only drop children off to their agreed destination.
- If dropping a child to their home, ensure that they are met by a parent/guardian. If no one is home, contact the school office and wait with the child. Do not leave the child alone.
- Wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the job.
- If you find that a route is unsafe, try to find an alternative.
- Never transport a child alone. Ensure that there is another child or adult present.

signed:	 	 	
Printed Name: _	 		
Date:			
_			 _

Appendix 7 – Guidance for procedures in the event of a Critical Incident on Off-Site visits

1. School / establishment critical incident procedures

The head of establishment e.g. Headteacher, must have an agreed site emergency plan which can be put into operation in the event of a critical incident.

A critical incident is defined as "when a member of a Berlesduna Trust group has suffered a life-

threatening injury, fatality or is in peril, including being lost".

Procedures to be followed in the event of a critical incident

The following suggestions are intended as a guide to enable leaders to follow a course of action covering the main basic priorities. Obviously no such list will ever be finite and other actions may be necessary depending on the situation. However, it is important that the relevant information is quickly and easily available, especially when groups are off-site and whatever the time of day or night.

- The leaders in charge of any venture **must** have lists of names, telephone numbers and addresses. Consideration should be given to carrying a mobile phone.
- Similar lists to those above, along with relevant consent forms, must be readily available at the "home" establishment and emergency contact; these **must** include last minute amendments. (Example: when using an Essex County Council Outdoor Centre, a copy must be left with the manager.)
- Out of office hours, a contact person should be nominated to act as the communication link with the party. There should preferably be two persons if the overnight stay is for more than one night; those nominated should have a copy of lists including:
 - The names of all off-site participants, including adults, and details of their emergency contacts.
 - The distribution, (i.e. names of leader / young people) if in separate groups, vehicles or boats.
 - The planned itinerary, including base address and telephone number in case of emergency.
 - The names, telephone numbers and email of the travel and coach companies.
 - Details of the establishment emergency contacts or nominated officer, in the event of an emergency Lead Manager (LM) / Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT).

Risk Assessment Carried out by	Educational Visits Officer
Date:	

2. Action to be taken by the leader / instructor (or by other staff) in the event of a critical incident

- 1. Assess the situation.
- 2. Protect the party from further injury or danger.
- 3. Administer First Aid.
- 4. Call the emergency services (999), as appropriate.
- 5. State the nature of the emergency.
- 6. Give your name and address / location and telephone followed by:
 - The nature of the incident.
 - The number of individuals involved.
 - The condition of those involved and where they are located.
- 7. Ensure an adult accompanies any casualties to hospital
- 8. Phone home emergency contact person Lead Manager (and Critical Incident Management Team Management or nominated officer)
- 9. It is probable that both staff and participants will be in a state of shock, therefore:
 - Remove the remainder of the party to secure accommodation and place under the care of a member of staff able to protect them from the attention of the press / media.
 - If necessary request the police to assist.
 - Calm and comfort participants and arrange for their evacuation.
- 10. Do not make any statements to press/media or allow anyone else to make statements other than expressions of sympathy.
- 11. Refer all media enquiries to the ECC Press Office Tel: 01245 434100 / 03330132800 Office hours or 07717 867525 Out of office hours

3. Procedures for lead manager or staff receiving notice of a critical incident

1. Calm and reassure the caller and then take down the following details:

- Name and telephone number of the person making the call.
- Name of the group.
- Nature, date and time of the incident.
- Details of injuries, hospital has a staff member gone with the injured to the hospital? Who?
- Are all party members accounted for?
- Names and telephone numbers of those involved.
- Action taken so far.
- Instruct that a written log of all actions and conversations is kept.
- Ask that anyone involved with the party give a short written account of the incident.
- Telephone numbers for future communication (is there a fax, available for use?) For serious accidents where the media are involved try to identify alternative telephone numbers at 'home' and 'off-site' base, as other lines will quickly become jammed. It is not for the party leader or other members or Service Unit staff taking the message to discuss matters with the media.

Under no circumstances should the name of any casualty be divulged to the media / press.

- 2. Reassure the caller that swift action will follow.
- 3. Immediately notify a member of the Critical Incident Management Team.

4. Keep a record of all communication, including times, dates and messages given and received.

4. Procedures for the school / establishment Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT)

- 1. The CIMT should be provided with the following information:
 - Name and telephone number of the person making the call
 - Name of the group
 - Nature, date and time of the incident
 - Details of injuries, hospital has a staff member gone with the injured to the hospital?
 Who?
 - Are all party members accounted for?
 - Names and telephone numbers of those involved
 - Action taken so far.
 - Ensure that a written log of all actions and conversations should be kept.
 - Ask that anyone involved with the party give a short written account of the incident
 - Telephone numbers for future communication (is there a fax. available for use?). For serious accidents where the media are involved try to identify alternative telephone numbers at 'home' and 'off-site' base, as other lines will quickly become jammed. It is not for the party leader or other party members of Service Unit staff taking the message to discuss matters with the media.

Under no circumstances should the names of any casualty be divulged to the media / press.

- The CIMT should speak directly with the group leaders to determine the precise details of the incident and to determine the appropriate course of action to be taken by the group and by CIMT (including informing the ECC Press Office via the SCF Communications Team). This could include sending an officer to the incident site.
- 3. Contact with parents/guardians/relatives should be agreed with the party leader.
- 4. The CIMT member will decide who else to inform e.g. Employer Cabinet member / Governor.
- 5. Ensure Health and Safety Executive and Essex County Council Health and Safety have been informed where appropriate.
- 6. Decisions relating to the organisation of services to bring the group home may well be made by the CIMT.
- 7. The CIMT member will collate and prepare a detailed report, arranging a visit to the site if necessary.

Key contact numbers

Schools Communications Team	0333 013 9880	Office hours
	03330 132800	Office Hours
Press Office	07717 867525	Out of hours, weekends and public holidays

5. Template for Critical Incident Management Team - emergency telephone numbers

Please develop a management contact tree based on the following:

- Confirm with the manager and be clear that you both understand roles and responsibilities regarding emergencies
- This is in addition to any local contact tree i.e. below management level that you have in place
- Please respect the confidentiality of this information.

During term time there needs to be two emergency contacts for every visit. Out of term time there will need to be two emergency contacts for every visit PLUS a specific nominated senior officer.

Emergency training information can be found at www.essexvisits.org.uk (see Resources – Jig-saw Icon – Visit Emergency Training Courses)

School / establishment contacts - Lead Manager / Critical Incident Management Team

Name	Position	Home Tel.	Mobile Tel.	Work Tel.