



Educational visits

West Moors Middle School

Approved by: Full Governing Board **Date:** April 2026

Next review due by: April 2028

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1. Aims and scope

Educational visits are activities arranged by, or on behalf of, our school, which require pupils to leave the school premises, having been authorised to do so by the headteacher or other designated member of staff.

Safely managed educational visits with a clear purpose are an indispensable part of a broad and balanced curriculum. They provide an opportunity to extend the learning of all pupils, including an enrichment of their understanding of themselves, others and the world around them. They form an integral part of our approach to furthering our pupils' education and personal growth.

This policy sets out our approach to planning and operating educational visits, to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff, and to make sure that our visits are available to all pupils. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff, pupils and volunteers when it comes to visits.

This school recognises its duty of care and statutory responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of pupils, staff, volunteers, providers and members of the public in connection with educational visits for which it is accountable. We use Outdoor Education Advisers Panel National Guidance (OEAPNG) and work closely with the Local Authority advisor to access training and additional support and guidance.

This policy applies to activities taking place within and outside of normal school hours, including weekends and holiday periods. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Visits to places of interest in the local area
- Day visits to places such as museums and other cultural and educational institutions
- Sporting activities
- Adventurous and recreational activities
- Residential trips organised by the school
- Trips abroad organised by the school

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#), and the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)

3. Roles and responsibilities

Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Approving staff requests for educational visits, including having final authority to approve any educational visit of less than 24 hours
- Trips which include adventurous activities have additional scrutiny provided by the LA adviser who requires this via Evolve 28 days before departure.
- Making sure staff, including additional educational visits coordinators or trip leads, have received any necessary training
- Working with the governing board to approve residential trips of more than 24 hours

The educational visits coordinator (EVC)

***Dr Deborah Craddock (headteacher)* is the appointed EVC at our school. Their role is to:**

- Oversee and guide other staff to arrange and organise educational visits
- Assess the ability of other staff to lead visits and designate a suitable trip lead for each visit
- Assess outside activity providers
- Advise the governing board when they're approving trips
- Access the necessary training, advice and guidance
- Evaluate all visits once complete, from planning to the visit itself, and use this to improve future arrangements

Trip lead

Every educational visit will have 1 member of staff designated as the trip lead. The trip lead will:

- Plan the proposed visit, taking into account the health and safety risks to pupils, staff and volunteers
- Seek and obtain approval for all educational visits from the headteacher
- Assign staff and volunteer roles, as needed
- Make sure the school has accurate and up-to-date information about the trip destination, to be used in risk assessments
- Make sure the needs of everyone taking part are considered, including coordinating any additional support needed
- Make sure parents and carers are given accurate information about educational visits, including any costs or

necessary equipment not supplied by the school or a third party

- Communicate key details about the visit and all locations to staff, pupils and parents/carers, including roles and responsibilities and expected behaviour
- Make sure staff are capable and able to fulfil their roles at all times while responsible for pupils and others

Staff

Staff have a responsibility to make sure all pupils and staff who take part in visits are kept safe and understand the proper way to prepare for trips, as well as how to act while taking part. Staff will:

- Carry out any required risk assessments and work with the trip lead
- Communicate with parents and carers and make sure trips are inclusive of all pupils' needs
- Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them
- Help manage pupil behaviour and discipline as required while on the visit
- Share any concerns or worries with the trip lead and others, as appropriate

Parents and carers

By agreeing that pupils can take part in educational visits, parents/carers agree that they will:

- Provide all information required, such as emergency contact details and health/medicine information if applicable
- Sign and return consent forms and any other documentation required in a timely manner
- Share any concerns or information about the pupil that may affect or impact their ability to safely take part in the trip

Volunteers

Volunteers attending school trips, including parent volunteers, agree to:

- Follow the directions of staff and act accordingly
- Behave appropriately and model good behaviour for pupils
- Report any concerns to the trip lead or other staff present as soon as possible
- Make sure pupils under their supervision are acting safely and appropriately, and raise any issues with staff as soon as possible

Pupils

Our school behaviour policy also applies to all educational visits. This includes the expectation that pupils will:

- Follow instructions given to them while on the trip
- Dress and behave as expected for the length of the trip
- Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others, reporting any concerns to a staff member or trip supervisor

Pupils will always be reminded of our behaviour expectations before going off-site for a visit, and will be expected to uphold the school's behaviour policy at all times.

[Our Behaviour for Learning Policy can be found on the West Moors Middle School website.](#)

4. Planning and preparation

All visits are planned and processed using Evolve. Staff have their own log in and visit leaders are responsible for adding evidence of their planning and preparation to Evolve. The EVC will scrutinise this information following the training which they have received during EVC training and from ongoing support provided by the LA Outdoor Education Adviser where required. The Head Teacher will then provide the final level of scrutiny before completing the form by confirming “yes” to the three questions shown and providing their PIN.

Any overseas, overnight or adventurous activities need Local Authority acknowledgement and will be submitted on Evolve at least 28 days before departure.

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by the Headteacher, and based on factors including:

- Cost (including any potential cost to parents/carers)
- Timing in the school year and any potential clashes
- Educational purpose and value
- Disruption to the normal running of the school Health and safety considerations
- Staff-to-pupil ratio
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Any other factors deemed appropriate and relevant

As part of the planning stage, information will be gathered by staff proposing the visit, including:

- Location and travel distance
- Travel plans or options
- Full cost breakdown, including multiple options where available
- Resources, including staffing, volunteers, and physical supplies Accommodation options, where needed
- Insurance detailed, where needed
- Risk assessment plans and first aid provision
- What safety measures can be put in place in order to reduce any risks

See **appendix 1** for our trip information form for the planning and approval of a visit.

In cases where a trip involves activities for more than 24 hours, an overnight stay and/or travel overseas, the headteacher will seek approval of the governing board. This will also require LA acknowledgement at least 28 days before departure.

Once the risk assessment has been approved by the headteacher, and the governing board where relevant, staff will communicate with parents/carers and provide trip information.

Written parental consent will be required for trips that take place outside of normal school hours, and for any trips requiring a higher-than-normal level of risk assessment.

We will evaluate each visit after its conclusion, from the planning through to the visit itself, to continually improve the planning and experience of our future visits.

4.1. Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of background or abilities, should be able to take part in every aspect of our school life, including visits.

SEND

If a pupil with a disability or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or any other specific needs (e.g. medical conditions including allergies) is participating in the visit, they will have the same support that is available to them during the school day.

We will adjust the trip programme where necessary, working with parents/carers to provide additional support, making reasonable adjustments to itineraries, providing additional support staff, and other adjustments as appropriate.

Additional risk assessments may be carried out to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils.

Challenging behaviour

In some cases, it may be reasonable and necessary to prevent a pupil with challenging behaviour from coming on a trip to protect their safety and the safety of the other pupils attending.

We will consider all reasonable options to help the pupil go on the trip safely, such as adapting the trip itinerary and increasing staffing numbers so the pupil can be supervised on a 1:1 basis.

5. Risk assessment

We will carry out a full risk assessment at least 2 weeks before the start of all trips. For overnight, overseas and adventurous visits which need sign off by the LA adviser, risk assessments will be undertaken at least 8 weeks before the start of the visit.

This will be completed using the school's risk assessment template and available resource on the Evolve software platform. All trips risk assessments will be saved on the school system. All risk assessments are to be approved by *Dr Craddock (Headteacher)*. Existing risk assessments can be found on our school system (shared drive) or those provided by the destination itself might also be used to support this process.

The SAGED risk assessment will include any specific medical issues and allergies (for staff and pupils), the role of additional support on the visit, specified activities to be carried out, as well as risks associated with transport to and from the destination.

Where practical, staff may make a preliminary visit to the trip destination as part of the planning and risk assessment process, but this is not mandatory.

Trip leads will raise any concerns or questions about potential risks and safety measures with the Headteacher and, where appropriate, third-party vendors.

Every risk assessment will be approved by the *Headteacher, Dr Deborah Craddock*.

Staff ratios and first aid

Risk assessments for each visit will ascertain the safe level of supervision required. On all educational visits, we will make sure:

- At least 1 male and 1 female supervising adult is present (for mixed pupil groups)
- At least 1 supervising adult able to administer first aid is present on all trips
- Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the school's First Aid and Health and Safety policies. These can be found on the West Moors Middle School website.
- All supervising adults will be made aware of any medical issues or allergies at the start of the trip
- Adults without a DBS check will not be left alone with pupils at any time
- The trip lead will undertake regular attendance checks to ensure all pupils are accounted for

Transport

Transportation for trips will be organised by the school, in line with our safety procedures, the level of planning and approval required will be determined by the Evolve System (Outdoor Education Advisory Service). We will make sure pupils, staff and volunteers are transported safely and efficiently, with the required first aid provision.

Unless previously agreed with parents, transport for visits will leave from, and return to, the school site.

Use of external organisations

As part of the risk assessment process, we will check that any external organisations providing an activity have appropriate safety standards and liability insurance.

We use the LOTC Quality Badge or a Form 4 Provider Checklist, we recognise the value of a pre visit and experienced visit leaders.

6. Volunteers

Where appropriate, parents and carers may be asked to volunteer to attend and supervise pupils alongside staff members on trips. Where more parents/carers volunteer than required on the visit, those invited to attend will be selected as fairly and transparently as possible, whilst taking into consideration:

- The needs of the pupils going on the trip
- The setting and circumstances of the trip
- Volunteers' skills and previous experience

Parents/carers selected to volunteer will be informed at least 2 weeks ahead of the visit, and asked to confirm their attendance in writing. They will also be asked to confirm they agree with the expected behaviour. See **appendix 3** for our volunteer code of conduct for educational visits.

Volunteers will receive a full induction from staff members on the day of the visit, prior to departure, including on their responsibilities, expected behaviour, the process for raising concerns, emergency procedures and contact details, and the expected timetable of the trip.

Where practical and as required by the nature of visits (i.e. when volunteers may be left with children without staff members present), volunteers may be asked or required to undergo safeguarding checks, including DBS checks.

At no point will volunteers on whom no safeguarding checks have been carried out be left alone with pupils or given sole responsibility for the care of a pupil.

7. Communication and consent

We will contact the parents and carers of pupils invited to take part in an educational visit at least 2 months before the proposed date of the trip; this would be earlier for any residential or adventurous activities. Communication will be via letter / mail merges to primary guardians via Arbor. Information provided will include the date, travel times, destination, purpose of the visit, and the size of the group attending.

We will also communicate:

- Times and details of travel, including drop-off and pick-up times and location Pupil-to-staff ratios and staff qualifications, where relevant
- Clothing and equipment required, and whether this is provided by the school

- Expected behaviour and consequences of pupils' failure to meet these standards

Where required, parents/carers will be asked to provide written consent for educational visits by signing and dating a form to be returned to the school.

Parents/carers will also be asked to provide current and relevant medical information and dietary requirements, as well as emergency contact numbers where they can be reached.

We have a blanket consent in place for those visits within our local area which include, for example:

The Castleman Trailway from West Moors to Moors Valley
 Pinehurst Community Church West Moors, Pinehurst Road
 Scout Hut in West Moors, Hardy Road
 Oakhurst Community First and Nursery School
 St Mary's CE First School and Nursery

8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting

Generally, emergency planning will be defined as planning for:

- Serious and unexpected risk
- Serious and life-threatening injury
- Individuals going missing
- A serious breach of safeguarding expectations

The trip leader will be familiar with these plans for each visit.

In the case of an emergency, the trip leader or other supervising adult will contact the school office. The school office will then contact parents/carers as required, and inform them of changes to plans or cancellations of trips and/or alternative travel plans. This will form part of a wider communication plan that covers how routine communications should be handled in such situations.

For any visits that take place outside of normal school hours (including evenings, weekends and school holidays), a member of the senior leadership team will be designated as the **out-of-hours emergency contact** for the duration of the visit.

1 member of staff will always accompany a pupil seeking medical treatment.

In a case of a pupil being unaccounted for, the trip leader will search the area while another member of staff remains in charge of other pupils. In the unlikely event that a pupil cannot be found within 30 minutes, the trip leader will contact the school office who will notify the parents/carers.

The trip leader will then contact the police and provide them with the relevant information so they can take over the search, staying with them to comfort the pupil when found. The remaining staff and adults will return to the school with the rest of the pupils.

All incidents and accidents will be reported in line with our health and safety policy, including required reporting to Ofsted and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Smaller incidents, accidents or near misses that do not require external reporting will still be covered by an internal report, to include steps that can be taken in the future to avoid similar incidents.

There will also be a clear process for evaluating all visits and trips once they have been concluded from the planning through to the visit itself. This will help with evaluating whether planning worked and to learn from any incidents that took place.

9. Charging and insurance

We will follow our school's charging and remissions policy at all times. [This is available to view on the West Moors Middle School website.](#)

Parents/carers won't be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place during school hours. They also won't be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place outside of school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination, or religious education. Where necessary, we may ask for a voluntary contribution to the costs of educational visits, but this will be entirely optional (except for residential visits) and will not affect pupils' ability to take part fully in the trip.

We will make sure adequate insurance is in place for all trips, including, but not limited to: cancellation insurance for contracts with external providers, travel insurance, accident and medical cover, and loss of luggage and other personal items.

10. Residential visits

The headteacher, together with the governing board, will approve all residential trips longer than 24 hours before submitting to the LA adviser via Evolve 28 days before departure.

The planning and preparation laid out in this policy will apply to residential visits as well as 1-day visits. In addition, the trip lead will make sure:

- Staff have received any necessary training
- All necessary permissions and medical forms are obtained at least 1 month before the start of the trip
- All adults, including volunteers, have had adequate safeguarding checks. Where appropriate – e.g. if the volunteer will be in direct unsupervised contact with pupils – this will include relevant DBS checks

Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission at least 2 months before the first day of the visit. Information shared with parents will include:

- The dates and time of departure and return to school
- The full address and contact details of the destination
- Planned activities and options Meal provision
- Costs and optional charges, including deposits and the date by which this must be received, in line with our charging and remissions policy (this will include information about exemptions)
- Clothing and equipment provided, and what pupils must bring themselves
- Public health requirements, including any required vaccinations
- Accommodation options and arrangements The names of staff attending

For visits abroad, we will make sure that any organisation providing activities holds the LOTC Quality badge or similar local accreditation. We will follow the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas travel guidance](#) and [foreign travel advice](#) when organising these visits.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the headteacher, EVC and finance manager. Every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing board for approval.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Charging and remissions policy
- Behaviour policy
- Child protection policy
- First aid policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special educational needs (SEN) policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan

<p>Intended outcomes: Up to 4, please.</p>	<p>1. 2. 3. 4.</p>
<p>Number of staff required:</p> <p>Ratios: KS2 - 1:10 KS3 – 1:15</p>	
<p>Names of accompanying staff/helpers:</p> <p>NB All parent helpers must be DBS checked and the Childcare Disqualification sheet signed.</p> <p>If any doubt, ask Finance Officer/Admin Officer in school office.</p>	
<p>Transport needed:</p> <p>Quote acquired and noted – at least 2 quotes for transport should be sought</p> <p>Cancellation period and penalty payment if cancelled</p>	<p>Quote 1: Name of company</p> <p>Quote 2: Name of company</p> <p>Cancellation period and penalty payment</p>
<p>Transport booked date:</p>	
<p>Transport company to be used and contact number:</p>	
<p>Cost of Venue:</p> <p>Discuss with Finance Officer how this should be paid:</p>	
<p>Any other costs:</p>	

<p>Estimate of costs: (Including a breakdown and suggested cost per pupil)</p> <p>Liaise with Finance Officer re costs (to ensure costing is adequate)</p>	<p>Transport: Venue: Other costs: _____</p> <p>£</p> <p>Signed (Finance Officer):</p>
<p>Cost to pupil:</p>	<p>£</p>

Financial costings need to be approved by the Finance Officer/Head Teacher.

It has been agreed that final planning for this visit can proceed

Signed..... Headteacher

Date.....

Part two: please complete the following in conjunction with the Evolve online form (hard copy available to complete)

<p>Letter to parents written including: - - <i>Timings of the day</i> - <i>Type of dress required</i> - <i>Lunch arrangements</i> - <i>Cost</i> - <i>“if not enough contributions received the visit may be cancelled”</i> This must be produced on headed notepaper and to include information on how to provide consent.</p> <p>Copy of letter attached to this document.</p>	<p>Signed:</p>
<p>Letter issued to pupils if necessary – date:</p>	
<p>Organiser to liaise with office team to assess how many pupils signed up and consent provided.</p> <p>Regular check ins with finance team to check status of finance</p>	
<p>Venue Pre-Visited Date:</p>	

<p>Risk assessment carried out date: (Risk assessment to be attached to this sheet) Main Observations:</p> <p>Main Action required:</p>	
<p>Ensure details of accessibility on Risk Assessment</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>Challenging Children – risk assessment completed if necessary and copy attached to this form.</p>	
<p>Evolve form to be completed/is LEA authorisation required - speak to the EVC</p> <p>Documents to be made available to upload to EVOLVE</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Programme/Itinerary <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to parents <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
<p>School kitchen advised of visit (so they can cater accordingly)</p>	

Order free school meals/packed lunches/Universal infant meals Number required:	
First Aid cover staff:	Name: Name:
Number of First Aid boxes/travel kits required	
Emergency procedures organised: ****COPY TO OFFICE ON DAY OF VISIT Parents to have any relevant details in a pack on day of visit and packs to be returned to group Leader at end of the visit.	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site emergency procedures cards for Base and group Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone numbers of staff <input type="checkbox"/> Venue Details <input type="checkbox"/> Arrangements for delayed return to school <input type="checkbox"/> Any accident reports <input type="checkbox"/> Medication forms
Register of pupils' names with contact details and medical information to be obtained from the office	
Register of Staff/parent helper names with contact details and medical information to be obtained ****COPY TO OFFICE ON DAY OF VISIT	
Parent Helpers Names & CRB checked:	
Checked with Head teacher regarding any staff cover required	
Briefing meeting for staff – date:	

Briefing meeting for pupils/parents – date:	
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Headteacher
Visit Evaluation

Identified Outcomes as listed under purpose of visit	Evaluation

Date of Visit:
Year Group:

Venue:

Visit Leader:

Accompanying
Adults:

Supervision ratio: KS2 – 1:10 KS3 – 1:15

HAZARD OBSERVED	RISK BEFORE CONTROL MEASURES	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	COMMENTS ACTIONS	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
Exposure to weather.	Cold injury, heat injury, over-exposure to sun.	Pupils and staff.	<p>Consider possible weather conditions and plan appropriate programme, clothing and equipment.</p> <p>Plan for pupils who may not bring suitable clothing – check before departure and/or bring spares.</p> <p>Daily weather forecast obtained and plans adjusted accordingly.</p>	Provide clear information about suitable clothing and equipment to pupils and parents.	Low

Appendix 2: volunteer behaviour and code of conduct

This code of conduct sets out the expected behaviour for volunteers attending school trips. Volunteers should read and sign this form, showing that they understand and agree to follow this code while acting on behalf of the school. If you feel you cannot agree with this code, please speak to the School Office at the earliest opportunity and withdraw from the trip.

A copy of this form will be kept in the school office, and you may ask for a photocopy to keep for yourself.

This volunteer code of conduct will be used alongside the school's parental code of conduct, which can be found on the West Moors Middle School website.

Volunteers agree to:

- Remain professional and respectful with staff and pupils at all times
- Listen to and act on instructions from staff
- Dress appropriately for the trip
- Arrive at the agreed time and remain until the trip is concluded and they are told they may leave by staff
- Pay attention to potential dangers and raise concerns with staff
- Act responsibly and demonstrate good behaviour to pupils
- Report any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a pupil to staff as soon as possible

Volunteers agree **not** to:

- Exchange contact details with pupils unless told to by a member of staff
- Engage in physical contact with pupils unless appropriate or required
- Share inappropriate personal information (i.e. personal beliefs, religious views, relationship status)
- Use demeaning, offensive, abusive or insensitive language
- Smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) for the duration of the visit
- Allow themselves to be left alone with a pupil unless previously agreed with staff
- Take photographs or record pupils without the permission of pupils and staff

As a volunteer, I have read and agree to this code of conduct, and will follow the rules set out above.

Signed:

Date: