

Westminster

Primary

School

*Nurturing Minds...
Inspiring Excellence*

Educational Visits and Off-Site Learning Policy

Ratified by trustees: March 2024

To Be Reviewed: March 2025

1.Introduction:

1.1: Our Philosophy

At Westminster School, we strongly believe that a wide range of educational visits and visitors coming into school form an invaluable aspect to the school curriculum. We believe that high-quality outdoor learning/educational visits and visitors into school enrich the curriculum, provide academic benefit and offer vital opportunities for physical, social, emotional and personal development.

With this philosophy in mind, the staff at Westminster School aim to provide all pupils, subject to risk assessment, with a variety of high-quality learning experiences outside the classroom.

We recognise that they are undeniably worthwhile, but also recognise the additional responsibilities. It is because our staff believe in the benefits to the children, they give the time and commitment to plan and safely deliver these opportunities for the children.

1.2 Who is this policy for?

This policy is for staff, governors/trustees, parents and any other stakeholders who are directly involved in monitoring, planning and running any visit that is outdoors, off site or not considered within the normal boundaries of the classroom environment. This policy will set out clear expectations and procedures for staff to follow.

- Local visits (often repeated each year)
- Whole day activities
- Sporting activities
- Adventurous activities
- Residentials
- Overseas visits

2: Statutory requirements:

This policy and WPS educational visit procedures have been developed with consideration of the Birmingham City Council document '**Policy and Guidance for Educational visits and Learning outside the Classroom [LOTG] (2020)**'. Birmingham City Council incorporates the "**National Guidance**" from the **Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP)** and their policy makes many references to key information which can be found there. The Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) and key personnel who support the planning and leading of trips at WPS have read the document (**see website <https://oeapng.info>**). Birmingham EVC training has also supported the policy and procedures that the school will adhere to.

3: Roles and responsibilities:

3.1 The Trustees must:

- Ensure that a policy exists for the coordination of visits and for future effective and management
- Assure itself that appropriate risk assessment procedures are in place
- Ensure an approval system for visits is in place
- Determine what types of visit require its specific approval
- Determine its procedures for responding to a major emergency
- Have a charging and remissions policy

3.2 The Head Teacher:

- Ensures that the policy is implemented
- Tasks are delegated for EVC as appropriate
- The visit leader is an appropriately experienced and a competent member of staff.
- The suitability, number and competence of all adults accompanying or instructing the party
- Adequate child protection procedures are in place
- Proper and effective support structures in the event of difficulty or emergency
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance in place
- Visits are evaluated to inform future visits
- Countersigns the Risk Assessment

It is a legal requirement that all schools have a trained Education Visits Coordinator (EVC). The named EVC at Westminster School is Mr Ben Hughes. The HT, Mr Maneer Samad and the Assistant Heads (Ben Hughes and Yogita Patel) have all undergone the EVC training by Birmingham City Council. The EVC will be involved in the planning and management of educational visits including adventure activities led by centre staff

3.3 The functions of the EVC are to:

- Liaise with appropriate bodies to ensure that educational visits meet the requirements of the risk assessment.
- Approve educational visits alongside the Head Teacher/Head of Centre. EVCs have had the necessary training to share this responsibility with the EVC/Head of Centre.
- Ensure that the risk assessments have been carried out and recorded.
- Assign competent people to lead or otherwise supervise a visit.
- Assess the competence of leaders and other adults proposed for a visit.
- Ensure staff attend risk assessment meetings as appropriate
- Organise thorough induction of leaders and other adults taking pupils on a specific visit.
- Ensure that the visit leader obtains the consent of parents/carers and provides full details of the visit beforehand.

- Organise the emergency arrangements and ensure there is an emergency contact for each visit.
- Keep records of individual visits including reviews, reports of accidents and 'near misses'.
- Review systems and, on occasion, monitor practice.

3.4 Visit leaders are responsible for:

- Planning the visit.
- Informing parents/carers and seeking consent.
- Risk assessments
- Arranging transport and additional insurance where required.
- Obtaining approval from the EVC
- Making sure that all accompanying adults understand their roles and responsibilities.

4 Key procedures for staff to follow:

4.1 Outline and approval:

An initial outline of visit to be discussed with EVC.

- There should be links between the visit and the work within the classroom.
- Clear aims and objectives must be discussed and approved by the EVC (using form - **FORM 1**)
- Financial implications (cost to child, food, entrance, transport, equipment etc)
- Cost-setting must be discussed with and approved by a senior leader (using form - **FORM 1**)

This includes the amount of any voluntary contribution requested from the parents.

4.2 Risk Assessment: (RA)

- It is good practice to undertake a pre- visit (discuss with EVC as this will vary depending on the visit and might not be necessary for all visits) Pre-visits cannot take place when the school CPD sessions take place.
- Risk Assessments (using WPS form **EVRA** – updated Dec 2021) must be provided for all outdoor visits.
- Risk assessments must clearly state any children/staff who have medical conditions, what the medication is required, who will carry medical equipment and who will administer it.
- Previous RA may be used but will need updating for changes in circumstances and MUST be amended for current group e.g. medical/ staffing etc. All amended risk assessments must be signed by EVC/HT
- The RA will either incorporate a detailed plan of the day (if necessary) or one will be attached.
- RA should be completed and signed by EVC 3 days before the visit. (any RA not presented in this timescale may prevent the visit from taking place).

- The RA must be signed by EVC and countersigned by the HT.
- The completed/signed RA must be shared with all staff members on the trip.
(see **FORM 2- confirmation of meeting form**)

4.4 Information to Parents and Consent

Written consent (where applicable) must be obtained for all children attending the visit. **WPS has retained the policy of BCC which recognises that some visits in the immediate locality of the school only require written consent from parents at the beginning of the academic year (e.g. local visits, sporting activities, field work etc)**

The EVC will advise if consent is not required. If consent is not required, a letter informing of intended visit must be sent out. If parents do not consent, then the child must not be allowed to go on the visit. The EVC and class teacher must keep a copy of the consent forms and any objection must be kept on file by the EVC.

Brief information and **consent** must be available to parents for activities which include:

- Involve a day away from school
- Special lunch arrangements (please see office to order FSM packed lunches)
- Special clothing
- Cost
- Visits which will have a late arrival home (for older children – lists must be obtained as to who is going home alone, who will be picked up)

More **detailed information** must be provided and **consent** must be sought for

- Any visits for pupils in Y1- 3 which is outside the normal routine of school
- Any off-site activity where adventurous activities are offered
- Residential visits
- Visits abroad
- Circumstances where indirect (remote) supervision is envisaged

4.5 Staffing:

- All visits are required to have a visit leader who plans and oversees the visit. This is named on WPS Risk Assessment.
- The visit leader can be anyone who the HT / EVC deem to be competent in organising and leading the visit.
- The visit leader must accept responsibility for a common law duty of care towards the pupils' in their care. The EVC will share this knowledge with the visit leader and provide further guidance.
- The visit leader will be required to hold a visit meeting to share the RA and any other organisational issues prior to the visit. (a register sheet must be signed by all and a copy given in with trip paperwork- see **FORM 2 - confirmation of meeting form**)
- WPS follow Birmingham City council/ National guidelines (OEAP) for Staffing ratios
N – 1:3 Rec 1: 5 Y1 – Y3 1:6 Y 4- Y6 1:10/15

The ratios for EYFS are statutory. Other year groups are guidance and should be seen as a starting point.

The ratios are clearly stated on the WPS risk assessment. WPS staff must understand that these are minimum requirements and that the ratio will ultimately depend on the activity and the group undertaking it. The EVC/ HT may change ratios when necessary.

- The visit must have a qualified first-aider attending. For children under 5 this must be someone who is paediatrically trained.
- All activities that require clearly defined qualifications for leaders must be sought and a copy made and handed in with the RA.

4.6 Transport

WPS will use a range of transport for its visits: these will include, public transport, hired coaches, hired minibuses and occasionally taxis and private cars.

a) Private cars

- Where hired cars are used, the employer must have the extension 'business use' on their policy which must be verified and reviewed annually (see later section on insurance).
- Where private cars are used, a child under 12 who has not reached a height of 135cm will need appropriate restraints (car seat).

b) Public transport (trains, buses)

- WPS understand the benefits of using public transport for cost effectiveness, personal development and reducing the environmental impact. Groups using these systems will need to consider– higher staff ratios, strict timetables, emergency plan / short notice changes and the fact that groups are in the enhanced public eye.

c) Transport by coach

- WPS will only use companies that provide seatbelts
- WPS will only use coach companies that are reputable or have been used and been effective previously
- Visit leaders should check the condition of the coach for obvious safety features
- Any significant deficiencies should be discussed with the driver and depending on the circumstances insist that any deficiencies should be corrected or request the provision for another coach. Although this would delay the visit, this should not be the reason for failure to act in cases of serious deficiency.
- Visit leaders / staff should remain vigilant and should any significant issues of concern arise, it may be necessary to insist that the coach be stopped at the first safe opportunity and further actions need to be taken. It is essential that phone numbers (including 'out of hours' phone number are taken on the trip. In these circumstances, it is imperative that the visit leader takes detailed account of circumstances of any incident.

d) Transport by minibus

- WPS no longer has its own designated minibus drivers to drive pupils to events. If the need arises for minibus drivers, they will need to complete the minibus driving

scheme which must be retested every 3 years. Currently, transport by minibus will require the transport company to provide us with a qualified driver.

- If WPS wish for drivers to be trained, personnel must be between 21- 70 years of age and hold a full license for 12 months
- With any form of transport, a minimum of one additional adult (in addition to the driver) will attend.

4.7 Prior to visit:

a) Behaviour of children:

At WPS we believe that appropriate preparation of our children will significantly enhance the enjoyment, educational value and safety of the visit. The age, maturity and ability of young people will determine the nature and extent of such preparation. As well as giving information about the activities and expectations of behaviour, the focus will be on supporting children to keep themselves safe. E.g. potential hazards, meeting places, emergency procedures, what to do if separated etc. WPS has very high expectations for behaviour outside the classroom and consideration /action could be taken for pupils whose behaviour might compromise the safety of other pupils on the trip.

b) Checking out:

Prior to the visit leaving the school premises, the trip leader should ensure that the following have been handed in to the office:

- i) Completed and signed EVRA form
- ii) All consent forms
- iii) Class list –
 - highlight pupils who are staying in school (yellow)
 - highlight those who are absent (pink)
- iv) Signed meeting form (**FORM 2 - completed meeting form**)

4.8 On the visit:

- Each adult should take the following on the trip:
 - **emergency procedures card**
 - **class list**
 - **completed and signed EVRA form**
- The visit should be delivered according to the plan
- Staff will be trained that adjustments might need to be made to respond to unforeseen procedures
- Any changes must be added onto the RA and reasons why.
- A fully stocked First Aid kit must be provided.

4.9 Emergency Procedures and incident reporting

- Emergency procedures (general) agreed by SLT have been developed
- Emergency procedures agreed by the school must be adhered to
- Emergency procedures must be shared by visit leader to all staff and emergency procedures cards must be provided for staff attending.
- Emergency procedures must be reviewed yearly
- EVC and HT (EVC trained) will leave their numbers for the duration of the visit.
- All accidents must be reported to the senior leadership team

4.10 Reporting back in:

- Once the trip has been completed, the visit leader must
 - a) report back to EVC
 - b) ensure that any incidents, accidents, near misses are reported and any paperwork is filled in
 - c) a brief evaluation of the visit is completed (see **EVRA** form)
 - d) all required paperwork is handed back to EVC for record keeping and all other is shredded.

5. Safeguarding:

Westminster School is committed to the safeguarding of children and young people. We operate Child Protection procedures in line with LA guidance. All school staff attending a visit will have a DBS check in accordance with LA guidance. Any staff who are not DBS checked (see section on volunteers) will be briefed in WPS Child protection procedures. These persons will not be left alone with children on the trip. The trip leader must assess the suitability of the volunteer for the role in question. Where doubt remains about the suitability following appropriate checks, the adult should not be allowed to go on the trip.

The visit leader/ school staff operate a protective ethos and therefore will constantly remain vigilant throughout the duration of the visit.

Staff will ensure that any equipment, tools and activities are properly risk assessed and incorporate safe procedures including formal risk assessments for young people to ensure pupils' health, safety and wellbeing.

As part of the subject, pupils will be taught the skills to develop their knowledge and awareness about keeping themselves and others safe. This will be differentiated by age and ability.

6. Monitoring & Review

- WPS understands that a monitoring of procedures and practices is essential for ensuring compliance of policy and safety of staff and children in all visits.

- We have appointed a Health & Safety (H&S) trustee (**Nadeem Bhatti**) and trustees are required to check our policy procedures annually
- All paperwork that is submitted is checked and regulated by EVC prior to visit taking place.
- We aim to review our policies and practices annually. An annual review will enable the EVC to learn from near misses or accidents. Outcomes from this information sharing will be shared across the school.

7. Induction, training & succession planning:

Westminster Primary School is committed to developing staff competence to participate in and lead educational visits. Every year, staff will undergo basic training in procedures to be followed. This will include:

- a) Informing them of statutory requirements concerning educational visits.
 - b) Writing of effective Risk Assessments
 - c) Records that need to be kept (consents of any children involved in an accident, RA, approval, register of visit meeting)
- The EVC will have updated training every 3 years.

8: Risk management and risk benefit assessment:

- All visits / visitors are required to carry out a Risk Assessment
- The EVC will advise and oversee regarding RA
- Where appropriate, generic RA can be used. These will be for
 - a) local walks
 - b) visits to secondary schools (unless activities undertaken are assessed as a risk by EVC)
 - c) visits to other schools (unless activities undertaken are assessed as a risk by EVC)
 - d) sports activities undertaken frequently / by same/ similar groups of children

NB: generic swimming RA needs to be generic for the ability and age of children attending. E.g. Year 3 children different to Year 5 children

- All generic RA must be amended with up to date medical and any SEN requirements.
- All previous and generic RA must be reviewed regularly to ensure that circumstances that could affect the safety of the children have not changed etc.

9: Assessing venues and providers:

- Where appropriate, WPS will assess and use venues / external providers if they are deemed to provide the best delivery of required learning.
- WPS will adopt the same rigorous visit procedures adopted from BCC
- WPS will attempt to use providers who already have a credited assurance of health and safety systems etc. This will reduce extra bureaucracy for visit leaders and providers.
- Before accepting a booking, the EVC will check the accreditation
- WPS/EVC will ask for their RA and ask any information that they publish to support helping visit leaders to manage their visit.

10: Volunteers:

- At times, WPS may ask for volunteers to support on a trip to enhance the child / adult ratio.
- If the volunteer is employed by the school to complete regulated activity (as outlined by BCC/ Safeguarding) then an enhanced DBS check will have been established. The visit leader must check this.
- If the volunteer is not engaged in regulated activity, then they will not be subject to an enhanced DBS check. In this instance, the visit leader must be made aware. The adult will not be left alone with children or left to supervise a group of children unattended.
- WPS follows BCC guidelines which state that teachers from the school form not less than 50 % of the minimum staffing complement. (for children under 5, there should be at least one teacher for every 20 pupils, supported by a balance of approved adult helpers) see section 12
- All volunteers must be briefed in WPS child protection procedures and know the named person on the trip to report any incidents to (this might not be a DSL)
- The trip leader (with support from EVC) will assess if volunteers are competent to carry out the role assigned to them
- WPs will not ask volunteers to lead to / be an assistant leader.
- Volunteers will be required to be supervised by a member of school staff at all times.

11: Insurance

Westminster School is insured against its legal liability should a child be injured while in our care. However, if parents/carers wish they may arrange additional insurance cover. It may be advisable, in certain circumstances, for the EVC to take out additional insurance for residential visits. Visit organisers should clarify through the school what insurance cover already exists to identify what additional cover needs to be provided. The duty of care which applies to a teacher/leader is 'in loco parentis' to fulfil their obligations, teachers and leaders must

- Ensure that their actions are compatible with those expected for careful and prudent parent
- Ensure that their actions take account of the age and known propensities of particular children

- Exercise sound judgement, commensurate with their knowledge experience and training
- Ensure that their actions are in line with well-developed and accepted practice.

11.1 Insurance of privately-owned vehicles:

The responsibility of insurance of private vehicles belonging to governors/trustees, employees and voluntary helpers (including parents) rests with the owner/ driver concerned. **For any employer planning to use his/ her own car the policy must permit 'business use' by the driver concerned. It is a criminal offence to drive a vehicle without proper insurance being in force.** It is essential that employees hold the appropriate form of insurance permitting business use and that it is verified. They should provide documentary evidence when authorised to use their cars on school business and thereon on a 12-month basis. These records will be held in their personnel file.

11.2 Minibuses: Please see guidance in the document "Minibuses Regulations and operational guidelines 1997 " or summary in Section 11

11.3 Coaches:

- WPS will check that any coach company hired will provide valid and appropriate insurance for duration of the hire period.

12: Equal opportunities / Inclusion

All pupils, subject to risk assessment, are entitled to learning experiences outside the classroom. Consideration may have to be given to pupils with specific needs, such as access and/or specific social, emotional and behavioural difficulties when compiling a risk assessment for a visit. We recognise that it is unlawful to treat a young disabled person less favourably and to fail to take steps to ensure that disabled persons are not placed at a substantial disadvantage without justification.

13 : Records

- The visit leader must write up any near misses or accidents in a record book collated by the EVC. A meeting with staff should be held to learn from the incident and this information should be shared across the school
- The EVC must check that all pupil medical details are stated on the **EVRA**
- Any consent forms of children who have been involved in an accident must be kept by EVC
- A copy of **EVRA** (signed), **FORM 2 confirmation of meeting form** must be kept by EVC and filed under the correct year group.

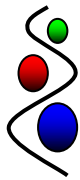
14 : Outbreak of disease

- The school will adhere to the most recent government guidelines
- In the event of an outbreak of disease, visits will only take place if they meet the government directives relating to social distancing, modes of travel, etc.

APPENDICES

Westminster School: EDUCATIONAL VISITS RISK ASSESSMENT (EVRA)

Updated March 2023



<u>VISIT VENUE:</u>	YEAR GROUP/CLASS	
DATE OF VISIT	TIME OF VISIT	
	DEPART SCHOOL:	<u>ARRIVE BACK:</u>

HAZARDS	Control Measures (Managing the risk)		Acceptable/ unacceptable
	The risk assessment process must be seen as ongoing and dynamic. This means that professional judgements and decisions regarding safety must be made during the activity. If the control measures are not sufficient, the activity must not proceed.		
PEOPLE 1. Details of group A separate group list may be attached.	What are the risks? e.g. Medical issues, such as how many children have asthma must be recorded/arrangements for SEND children if applicable	Control measures	

<p>2. Staffing</p> <p>Give names and relevant experience.</p> <p>Include any staff with specific training e.g. First-aid</p> <p>NB: all adults must be briefed on the RA and sign visit leader form to acknowledge the briefing.</p>	<p>Ratio 1:3 (Nursery), 1:5 (Reception), 1:6 (Y1-Y3), 1:10/15 (Y4-Y6) – these are minimum requirements and will always be assessed on an individual basis.</p> <p>Visit Leader: Assistant Leader:</p>		
	<p>What are the potential risks?</p> <p>EG. Staff might be ill so ratio will be too low.</p>	<p>Control measures.</p>	
<p>CONTEXT</p> <p>3. Equipment</p> <p>Record if taking any or using some at the actual venue</p> <p>Please add any clothing requirements.</p>	<p>What are the potential risks?</p>	<p>Control Measures.</p>	
<p>4. Venue/ Environment</p> <p>Ensure chn have appropriate briefings before and throughout the trip. Please state if indoors/outdoors.</p>	<p>What are the potential risks?</p>	<p>Control measures:</p>	
<p>ORGANISATION</p> <p>5. Transport</p> <p>Seat belts, head counts, parking at venue etc. Please state mode of transport, approximate distance, lists for coaches etc</p>	<p>What are the potential risks?</p>	<p>Control measures:</p>	

<p>6. Emergency procedures</p> <p>Consent forms to stay in school office until after the trip.</p> <p>Include any details including meeting points/times.</p>	<p>What are the potential risks?</p>	
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Include any details including meeting points/times.

Completed by: _____ Positio n: _____
Date: _____

HT Signature (2) (M. Samad): _____ Date: _____

[illegible]

Checklist of paperwork to be kept:	
Signed EVRA	
Signed FORM 2	
Consent of any child involved in an accident/issue	
Evaluation completed.	
Signed off by	PRINT

Visit Evaluation: Please complete on return from the trip:

What worked well?	
Any accidents / near misses	
What aspects needed amending / reviewing	

Westminster Primary School

WPS FORM 1

Trip authorisation questionnaire:

Visit leader to fill in & discuss with EVC

What is the cost to enter the venue?	
What is the cost of a coach?	
Are there any additional costs? (e.g. additional adults, food, equipment etc)	
What is estimated cost per child?	
EVC signature: _____	
Authorisation: Yes / No	

Educational Visit Overview: WPS Form 2

Date of Visit: _____ **Visit to:** _____

To the best of our knowledge we are suitably equipped and qualified to supervise children during this educational visit. The visit leader has discussed the visit and shared the risk assessment with us.

Visit Leader: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Staff member: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ (EVC/Headteacher/SLT)

Original to EVC in Ed visit file

WPS FORM 3

Westminster Primary School

Supporting adults: Next of Kin details (MUST BE SHREDDDED AFTER TRIP)

[illegible]

WPS FORM 4 Educational Visits Checklist – On day of visit trip to _____

CHECKLIST – On day of visit	Check
Before leaving the building	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect money for trip payment from office (for some trips, organisations sometimes request cash/cheque payment) Collect packed lunches. Ensure that allergies have been catered for. Pick up your First Aid Bag including inhalers & any medication Ensure that you have the correct paperwork: signed RA, consent forms, class list showing: who on trip (highlight in Green), who in school but not on trip (highlight in Yellow) – you must indicate where they are, who is absent (Pink) Hand a copy of this in at the office before you leave. 	
After leaving the building	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head count – before getting on coach and whilst on coach before start of journey. Ensure that all children are wearing their seat belts for the duration of the journey. Talk to children about expectation of behaviour on coach. 	
Arriving the trip venue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a head count. Contact school office to confirm that you have arrived at the venue. Refer to emergency procedures card in any emergency. 	
On return	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back to SLT Report any incidents All extra copies of risk assessments and staff/child info, consents taken on trip will be shredded after the trip due to data protection. If the child has had an accident, pass on their consent form to SLT Quick evaluation Ensure unsigned EVRA has been uploaded into staff common, EVC. 	