

Dry Drayton C.E (C) Primary School



Educational visits and learning outside the classroom policy

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Title	Educational visits and learning outside the classroom
Version	Based on CCC model Version 2023 Revised
Date	15th December 2025
Approved by Head teacher	15 th December 2025
Approved by governing body	26 th January 2026
Next review date	Spring 1 2029

Introduction

This Policy is the local policy for Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary school and aligns with Cambridgeshire County Council Policy for Educational Visits. The school provides a rich and varied programme of opportunities for pupils to learn outside the classroom - within the school grounds, the local area and further afield. The programme of visits is structured and progressive to gradually develop young peoples' confidence, independence, responsibility and specific learning objectives.

This policy covers all offsite visits and onsite outdoor learning. This policy is managed by the Head Teacher and Educational Visit Coordinator. It provides a local framework for staff planning off site visits. Visits fall into one of three zones as defined by the National Guidance documents from www.oeapng.info: Zone 1, 2 and 3

The Local Authority as Employer has formally adopted **the OEAP National Guidance** as the source of guidance, www.oeapng.info

It is a legal expectation that employees must work within the requirements of their employer's guidance; therefore employees must follow the requirements of "National Guidance" set within the context of this policy.

Roles

All Roles are clearly defined on the NG website. www.oeapng.info as Visit Leader, Assistant Leaders, Volunteers, EVC, Headteacher, Governing Body.

There is specific guidance and information for each of the above roles and relevant documents.

Within the school all roles are covered and managed by staff and the Governing Body.

The school has a Trained EVC who is Abby Scarrow.

All visits have a named visit leader and assistant staff who are aware of their role and responsibilities.

Volunteers are managed under the school volunteer policy including relevant DBS checks.

Competence of Staff

Staff must be accountable, competent and approved to lead visits. Training courses are available to develop confidence and competence. There are national standards for staff who want to lead adventure activities and the adviser will give advice when needed.

Procedures

All visits require planning, preparation and levels of approval. This varies according to aspects of complexity and distance. These are explained in the guide.

This School has the Zones defined as follows, all visits and outdoor learning fit into one of three Zones.

Zone 1

Local regular visits

These are visits which are regular, local and straightforward to organise. The risk management will be covered by the schools defined Zone 1 Procedures which is attached to this document. It is the responsibility of the visit leader to ensure that these documents are amended if required because of changes in circumstances. These changes need to be recorded and noted.

This school is in a small village and activities that this school includes in Zone 1 are work in and around the school grounds, trips around Dry Drayton village, church visits, swimming at a local school pool, walks to Bar Hill, school PE events, matches and tournaments travelling on foot or public transport or by approved taxi, bus or in parent's cars.

Zone 2

'Normal Visits'

These visits are the majority of this school's visits. There will be aspects of complexity that require careful planning. All visits are required to be planned and logged on Evolve, and will be approved by the EVC and Headteacher. Advice on these visits will be provided by the Outdoor Education Adviser. Approval for visits of greater complexity may require pre approval before undertaking detailed planning and the EVC should be consulted

Zone 3

Adventure / Abroad and very complex visits

These visits require specific approval at school level and the approval of the Outdoor Education Adviser. These must be entered into the Evolve system, and submitted to the Adviser at least 4 weeks before the departure date.

The adviser approves visits on behalf of the employer.

Managing Risks

The school has a legal duty to ensure that risks are managed requiring them to be reduced to an “acceptable” or “tolerable” level. This requires that proportional (suitable and sufficient) risk management systems are in place, requiring the school to provide such support, training and resources to its employees as is necessary to implement this policy.

Emergencies and Critical Incidents

The School Critical Incident plan is regularly reviewed and updated. It covers and manages the possibility of having to manage an offsite visit emergency. Senior staff who may have to implement the plan are trained and briefed. The Adviser service provides support and information, linked to the Visit Emergency Support Network, (VESN). An updated guide is available to schools to assist.

Monitoring

The school ensures that there is sample monitoring of the visits and outdoor activities undertaken by the staff. Such monitoring should be in keeping with the recommendations of National Guidance.

Links to other Key Policies

Health and Safety Policy; Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; Charging and Remission Policy; Administration of medicines policy; Insurance

Vetting

Staff deployed onto visits are subject to the schools safeguarding processes and arrangements. Volunteers are also included in this process.

Working with outside providers

All visits must be thoroughly researched to establish the suitability of the venue and to check that facilities and third party provision will meet our expectations. Such information gathering is essential in assessing the requirements for effective supervision of young people. A provider must either supply an LOTCQB or an AALS License or complete the [Provider form](#)

Planning for Inclusion

Every effort should be made to ensure that outdoor learning activities and visits are available and accessible to all, irrespective of special educational or medical needs, ethnic origin, gender or religion. If a visit needs to cater for young people with special needs, every *reasonable* effort should be made to find a venue that is both suitable and accessible and that enables the whole group to participate fully and be actively involved.

Good Practices

All staff and helpers must be competent to carry out their defined roles and responsibilities. National Guidance sets a clear standard to which the visit leaders **must** work. The guidance states: ‘leaders are accountable, confident and competent to lead visits’.

Transport

Careful consideration should be given to this area. This policy supports groups travelling by the most appropriate means which can include, walking, public transport (buses, trains and tube), taxi and private cars, coach and aircraft. The NG website contains details to assist in planning for transport.

For advice and support contact the Outdoor Education Adviser Service
 Office email Outdoor.education@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
 Phone 01480 379677
 Adviser email Stephen.brown@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Zone 1 procedures and risk assessment

Roads

- paired walking
- Hi-vis jackets
- road safety lessons

Swimming

- Swim tests week 1
- Appropriate number of adults supporting pool side and changing side.
- Children to dress independently.

Cars/buses/taxis

- DBS drivers where possible
- parent helper = multiple children.
- All seatbelts on.
- Follow carseat guidance.

Ratios

- No specific ratio apart from EYFS, all dependent on activity and children being taken.

First aid

- Large first aid kit in red rucksack
- Inhalers to go on all zone 1 trips.
- Mini first aid bumpers for church visit.
- Contact forms in red rucksack

Zone 1

Procedure & Risk assessment:

Local walks

SCSSP competitions

Swimming lessons

church visits

Village trips

Any problems please ring the school office if no answer then the head teacher.

Sports competitions

- All adults to be given paperwork.
- Parents to be informed of events.
- Two adults, one for toilet walks.

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adult to check they are clear then wait outside.

Paths/woodlands

- paired or single file
- some in high vis
- weather and ground check for suitable clothing.
- Adult at front to look for any obstacles.

Year 5/6 in village

- safety rules
- In groups of 3. rules if need an adult.
- 2 adults stationed in different parts of the village.
- All in high-vis jackets.

*ratios for pre-school are 1:4.