

**Christ Church CE School
Educational Visits Policy
Autumn 2015**



Christ Church
CE Primary School
Regents Park
NW1 4BD

Christ Church C of E Primary School
Educational Visits Policy

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Mission Statement

The Christian Faith is at the heart of our school community. At Christ Church we care for each other and learn together.

Christ Church is a small, caring school which is committed to a broad, balanced curriculum and to a continual raising of standards. We aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical needs of every individual.

We are a Church of England school, with a strong commitment to the teaching of Christianity whilst supporting a multi-faith approach to the curriculum. We recognise, value and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in our school.

The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in our positive, disciplined and calm atmosphere. We believe that effective learning takes place when children work in a purposeful and stimulating environment that supports a wide range of learning styles. Mutual respect between adults and children promotes excellent behaviour and well developed social skills. With this approach we seek to achieve high academic standards.

We aim to cater for each individual, taking particular account of any specific needs or abilities. We endeavour to ensure that all our children fulfil their potential and, within this context, we emphasise health and safety, enjoyment and achievement and the beginnings of responsibility for themselves and others. These skills will be carried forward to the next phase of education and throughout life.

The whole school community is committed to a collective responsibility for the implementation of the values inherent in this statement.

Our School Aims - Every Child Matters

The Ethos of the School

The school aims to provide a positive, disciplined, purposeful environment, within a Christian context. We aim to teach children to be caring, to exhibit good behaviour and appropriate social skills and to begin to take responsibility for themselves and others.

The Values of the School

The School aims to value every child and to contribute to the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Mental and Physical well being of our whole school community. We value the diversity of our community and we aim to promote the health and safety of everyone.

The Standards of the School

The School aims to teach a balanced Curriculum and to ensure that each child fulfils his or her potential. We aim to provide teaching and learning of a high standard. We believe that this is achieved when pupils are highly motivated, enjoy coming to school, and are appropriately challenged.

Christ Church C of E Primary School

Educational Visits Policy

Date of policy: Autumn 2015

Review date: Autumn 2017

This policy has been written in conjunction with the local authority manual - 'Guidance for Off-Site Visits and Related Activities with National Guidance and EVOLVE' (2014).

Introduction

An educational visit is any aspect of a pupil's education that takes place off the main school site and includes visits to places such as parks, museums, galleries and outdoor activity centres. At Christ Church School we value the role of educational visits and regard them as an important part of school life. This policy has been written in order to enable both children and staff to gain as much as possible from educational visits. It contains the guidelines and procedures to be followed when planning and attending off-site activities.

Rationale

'...learning outside the classroom helps to bring the curriculum to life - it provides deeper subject learning and increases self-confidence'

Health and Safety Executive, 2011

At Christ Church we recognise how educational visits enrich the school curriculum. This policy has been developed in order to provide a consistent approach to educational visits, ensuring continuity throughout the school. It provides teachers with help in planning and organising activities for their children, ensuring safety and enjoyment. This policy also provides information for all staff, parents, carers and other visitors on how we organise and run off-site activities.

Aims and objectives

School visits benefit children in many ways, including:

- To offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development
- To provide children with relevant experiences which support and enrich their learning in school
- To provide opportunities to apply a different range of skills than those used in the classroom
- To prepare children for opportunities and experiences of adult life
- To expose children to different environments and experiences
- Providing links between what is learnt at school and the outside environment

Types of Educational Visits

There are two types of educational visits.

Low-risk activities:

- Local surveys and fieldwork
- Visits to local libraries, theatres, museums, exhibitions etc
- Sports or recreational events as participants or spectators

High-risk activities:

- Journeys involving an overnight stay
- Day visits abroad
- Day visits involving activities or fieldwork in a coastal or mountainous environment or near a river, canal, lake or reservoir
- Day visits to activity centres
- Any activities including swimming with the exception of swimming lessons included in the curriculum

All visits falling into the 'high-risk' category must be authorised by the local authority and be entered into EVOLVE by the school administrator, in conjunction with the organiser of the trip.

Organisation of Educational Visits

The National Curriculum defines what is taught to children at Christ Church School and it forms the programme of learning for each child throughout the

year. In addition, teachers plan a corresponding programme of educational visits and activities, which support and develop children's learning in chosen topic areas. Teachers try to plan a range of activities which support different curricular areas over the academic year. We aim to plan at least one educational visit every half term.

When organising an educational visit the following procedures should be followed:

- ✓ Check the school diary before confirming a date to avoid overlap with other planned activities which take place over the school year
- ✓ Record your visit in the school diary
- ✓ Once the trip has been confirmed, fill in a Trip Planning Form - recording the date and time of the visit, the objectives, travel arrangements and identifying the generic risk assessments that will apply (see 'Trip Planning Form' in the appendices, and the 'Educational Visits, Generic Risk Assessment' file), as well as any additional risk assessments and hand in to the Headteacher
- ✓ Organise tickets for transport if needed. If you are using the free transport scheme then give your trip details to the office who will arrange this for you - details must be in **at least two weeks** before trip date
- ✓ Give date of trip and number of packed lunches required to the kitchen **at least two weeks** in advance of trip date
- ✓ Carry out a pre-trip visit in order to plan your route and activities, and fill in any additional risk assessments on the Trip Planning Form. Some venues also provide their own risk assessment information. Additional risk assessment details need to be handed in to the Headteacher with your planning forms.
- ✓ Organise parent/carer volunteers (see ratio required for each year group). Parent/carer volunteers must complete a List 99 check. Any child who has a Statement should be accompanied by their LSA - LSAs should not be included in overall adult ratios
- ✓ Hold a pre-trip briefing with all accompanying adults, to share planning and risk assessments for the trip, and to disseminate the schools 'Pre-trip Briefing and Guidance for Parents' (see appendices)

- ✓ Organise a permission/information letter (see example in appendices) for your children's parents/carers, including the following information:
 - where you are going and why
 - what transport you are taking
 - approximate time of departure and return to school
 - cost of voluntary contribution
 - a permission slip to be signed (if necessary)
 - a box to indicate whether their child requires a packed lunch from school (FSM only)

Parents should be informed at least a week before the trip will take place.

Permission slips

Nursery

A signed permission slip must be signed for every trip outside of school.

All other classes

All parents are required to sign a slip when their child starts the school to give permission for them to go on all low-risk trips. Therefore an additional permission slip only needs to be signed for activities which involve a higher level of risk or those which will involve leaving/returning to school outside of normal school hours

Adult to Child Ratios

Christ Church adopts the following adult:child ratios when going on educational visits:

- Nursery - 1 adult : 2 children
- Reception - 1 adult: 5 children
- Years 1, 2 and 3- 1 adult : 6 children
- Years 4, 5 and 6 - 1 adult : 10 children

In the EYFS, at least one of the adults must hold a paediatric first aid certificate.

Boys should be taken to the ladies toilet up to and including Year 3.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Headteacher is to:

- ✓ Ensure that the visit complies with LEA guidance and the school's own Health and Safety policy
- ✓ Oversee the planning of the trip and ensure that the group leader is competent to carry out the outlined procedures for educational visits
- ✓ Ensure that the appropriate adult to child ratio is employed
- ✓ Make sure that in the event of a major incident or accident, LEA guidelines are adhered to in terms of informing parents, staff and the media. Help to ensure that serious incidents, accidents and near-accidents are investigated

The role of the group leader is to:

- ✓ Follow the procedures outlined in this policy when organising their visit
- ✓ To gain permission for the visit from the Headteacher
- ✓ Ensure that their visit has a clear purpose and objectives
- ✓ Carry out a risk assessment to ensure the safety of children and other adults attending the trip
- ✓ Bring their class' inhalers and epi-pens on every trip, along with a First Aid kit
- ✓ Assess the safety of all participants throughout the trip
- ✓ Organise the appropriate number of adults to accompany them and ensure that these adults are fully briefed
- ✓ Inform all relevant parties of the trip details
- ✓ To monitor and oversee the behaviour of all groups throughout the visit
- ✓ To follow the school's Health and Safety policy and emergency procedures should any incidents occur whilst off-site

The role of the deputy leader:

- ✓ To collaborate with the group leader with the planning and risk assessments for the trip
- ✓ To monitor and oversee the behaviour of all groups throughout the visit
- ✓ To follow the school's Health and Safety policy and emergency procedures should any incidents occur whilst off-site
- ✓ Assess the safety of all participants throughout the trip

- ✓ Be prepared to take over as leader if the situation requires them to do so (i.e group leader falling ill whilst on the trip)

The role of accompanying adults is to:

- ✓ Ensure they are briefed about the trip, including the names of their assigned children and any medical issues these children may have
- ✓ Stay with their assigned group throughout the visit
- ✓ Monitor the behaviour and safety of all the children in their group during the visit
- ✓ Refer any incidents/accidents to the group leader

The role of the pupil is to:

- ✓ Follow the instructions of the group leader and their accompanying adult at all times
- ✓ To know who their accompanying adult is
- ✓ To know what to do in the case of an emergency
- ✓ To follow the school's behaviour policy at all times

Pupils with special educational/medical needs

All pupils in Christ Church are entitled to off-site educational experiences and staff plan their trips with the needs of all their children in mind. Children with Statements will be accompanied by their LSAs whilst off-site. Group Leaders will bring all class inhalers with them, along with a First Aid kit. In the case of special medical needs, such as epilepsy, the appropriate medication/equipment will be brought and staff will be trained to use it. All accompanying adults will be briefed about the needs of the children in their care before leaving school.

Residential Visits

Children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit, also known as 'School Journey'. This visit enables children to take part in outdoor and adventure activities. All specialist activities are undertaken with qualified instructors.

As with all visits, the cost of these trips is kept as low as possible. Parents are able to pay in instalments using a payment card provided by the school.

There is a designated Group Leader in charge and parties are accompanied by a qualified First Aider.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our Governing body to agree and then monitor the implementation of the educational policy. This is carried out during policy review committee meetings. This policy will be reviewed every two years and any amendments made in light with review findings.

Signed:

Date:

Appendices

Appendix a: Trip planning form

Appendix b: List of schools generic risk assessments

Appendix c: Example letter to parents

Appendix d: Example pupil feedback form

Appendix e: Guidance for Parent/Carer volunteers on trips