

# Visits & Journeys Policy

## White Spire School



Approved by:	Finlay Douglas
Last reviewed on:	April 2025
Next review due by:	April 2026

This policy is to be followed in conjunction with *Guidance for Off-Site Visits and Related Activities with National Guidance (Health and safety on educational visits Nov 2018)* and EVOLVE

White Spire School acknowledges the immense value of off- site visits and related activities to young people, and fully supports and encourages those that are well planned and managed.

All educational trips and visits must be approved by the Headteacher or senior member of staff in advance of activities being organised. Any overnight or certain adventurous activities need to be carefully planned and permission must be sought from the LA using the EVOLVE system.

For on-going local trips, a generic risk assessment (Appendix 1) should be completed annually. The Headteacher, senior member of staff and medical officer should countersign all groups going out.

## **EVOLVE**

At White Spire School, all overnight and certain adventurous activities are completed over EVOLVE.

The EVC will support the Headteacher in ensuring that competent staff are assigned to lead and accompany visits.

All EVOLVE visits, which include Overseas, Residential or certain adventurous activities will be submitted for Local Authority approval. These should be submitted to the LA at least 30 days in advance.

In approving visits, the Headteacher and EVC will ensure that the visit leader has been appropriately inducted/trained, and is competent to lead the visit. The following will be considered when assessing the competence of a member of staff to lead a visit:

- a) What experience has the leader in leading or accompanying similar or other visits?
- b) Is the leader competent in planning and managing visits?
- c) What are the leader's reasons for undertaking the visit?
- d) Does the leader have the ability to manage the pastoral welfare of participants?
- e) Does the leader exhibit sound decision-making abilities?
- f) What experience has the leader had of the participants he/she intends to supervise?
- g) What experience has the leader of the environment and geographical area chosen?
- h) Does the leader possess appropriate qualifications?
- i) If appropriate, what is the leader's personal level of skill in the activity, and fitness level?
- j) If leading adventurous activities has this, been 'approved' by the LA?
- k) Is the leader aware of all relevant guidelines and able to act on these?

## **Generic Risk Assessment -Appendix 1**

For all generic visits and journeys, a school risk assessment must be completed 4 weeks before the trip unless agreed otherwise. The risk assessment must follow the schools set guidelines and be signed off by the following:

- Headteacher
- Lead first aider
- Trip Leader

The risk assessment must include code red information, pupils and staff, time of departure and place of visit must be logged in the Risk Assessment log on staff share. Medical information should be updated on an ongoing basis.

### **Inclusion**

Under the Equality Act 2010, it is unlawful to discriminate against disabled participants because of their disability, without material or substantial justification. At White Spire School, we make reasonable adjustments to avoid participants being placed at a substantial disadvantage.

### **Risk Assessing**

Both EVOLVE and the school risk assessment (Appendix 1) allows for expected risks to be reduced to an *acceptable* or *low* level, and not necessarily eliminated. Planning should achieve a rational balance between potential adverse risks and the intended benefits and outcomes of the activity.

Once a risk assessment is agreed, it should be shared with all staff attending the visit. After the visit is completed, staff should shred paperwork. The original copy will be kept by the EVC.

### **Safety During the Visit**

Prior to the visit, staff must ensure that all participants understand what is expected of them. This includes any instructions that will be in place. These should be re-emphasised as appropriate during the visit.

Monitoring of the visit must be ongoing; this contributes towards enjoyment, safety, and learning.

It is primarily the responsibility of the visit leader, in consultation with other staff where appropriate, to modify or curtail the visit or activity (e.g. Plan B) to suit changed or changing circumstances - for example: over-busy lunch area, rain, rising water levels, etc.

Following the visit, the visit leader should record any significant issues as a note on EVOLVE/inform the EVC, for both reference, and to inform future visits.

**All** White Spire staff are responsible for our pupils on a trip and have a duty of care to keep them safe.

In the event of an emergency, the trip lead will consider:

- The nature and extent of the emergency as quickly as possible
- Names of any casualties and get immediate medical attention if necessary
- Ensure that all the group are safe and looked after
- Ensure that all group members who need to know are aware of the incident and that all group members are following emergency procedures
- Ensure that a member of school staff/guardian accompanies casualties to hospital and that the rest of the group are adequately supervised at all times and kept together
- Notify the police if necessary
- Inform the school contact and advise of next steps.

## **Parent / Carer Consent**

### **Schools:**

On entry parents need to give written consent for pupils to take part in off-site activities for the duration of their school career.

Written consent is to be requested for activities that need a higher level of risk management or those that take place outside school hours. Parents must be informed of these activities in advance and given the opportunity to withdraw their child from any particular visit or activity covered by the form.

## **Staffing and Supervision**

On all visits, there must be an 'effective level of supervision' that has been approved by the EVC and the Headteacher. The EVC and Headteacher will make a professional judgement regarding the number and suitability of staffing on an individual visit basis, after consideration of the following factors:

- The type, level, and duration of activity.
- The nature / requirements of individuals within the group, including those with additional needs.
- The experience and competence of staff and other adults.
- The venue, time of year and prevailing/predicted conditions, if applicable.
- The contingency or 'Plan B' options.

A visit will not go ahead where either the visit leader, EVC, or Headteacher is not satisfied that an appropriate level of supervision exists.

## **Vetting and Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Checks**

Staff and volunteers who work *frequently* or *intensively* with, or have regular access to, young people or vulnerable adults, must undergo an enhanced DBS check with barred list check as part of their recruitment process. For the purpose of this guidance:

- '*frequently*' is defined as 'once a week or more'.
- '*intensively*' is defined as 'four or more days in a month, or overnight'.

Refer to National Guidance document 3.2g [Vetting and DBS Checks \(The OEAP\)/KCSIE](#)

## **Direct, Indirect and Remote Supervision**

Young people must be supervised throughout all visits, even though they may be unaccompanied at times. The risk assessment would advise if indirect/remote supervision was appropriate otherwise direct supervision must be used at all times.

**Direct supervision** is where a member of staff is with a young person / group.

**Indirect supervision** is where young people are unaccompanied by a member of staff, but where there is a member of staff in the vicinity, for example as might occur in a museum or shopping centre, or 'down-time' at an activity centre.

**Remote supervision** is where young people are unaccompanied by a member of staff, and the supervising member of staff is not necessarily in the immediate vicinity, for example as might occur during D of E expeditions.

Both indirect and remotely supervised activities can bring valuable educational benefits, and the progression from dependence to independence is to be encouraged. Such activities develop essential lifelong skills, including learning to manage risk, self-sufficiency, interaction with the public, social skills, communication, decision making, etc.

The decision to allow indirect or remote supervision should be based on professional judgement taking into account such factors as:

- prior knowledge of the individuals (including their maturity and levels of responsibility);
- venue and conditions;
- the activity taking place;
- preparatory training;
- the competence of the supervising staff;
- the emergency systems in place.

When recording a **remotely** supervised visit on EVOLVE, there must still be a named visit leader. This will be the member of staff that has made a professional judgement regarding the level of responsibility and maturity of the participants and decided that, in their opinion, it is reasonable for them to be undertaking the specific activity unaccompanied by an adult. A 'Note' should be added to EVOLVE specifying that remote supervision applies.

## **First Aid**

On all trips, there is a **responsible adult with a good working knowledge of first aid appropriate to the environment (e.g. urban, remote, water, etc.)**. The first aider will also be aware of individual medical needs as part of the risk assessment. A first aid kit appropriate to the visit should be carried and include all relevant pupil medication/care plans.

## **Insurance**

The school is insured under Milton Keynes LA insurance (Zurich)

## Appendix 1

Med    Lead    File

### Trip Code Red

**Protocol for remaining pupils and staff if there is a code red or medical issue.**

Lead first aider to take control of the pupil that is unwell and inform senior member of staff.

Lead first aider to direct a member of staff in supporting them i.e. to call the school on the landline number, 01908 373266 option 7

The member of staff calling school will take direction from the lead first aider, i.e. requesting the office to contact parents/carers. The lead first aider within school will report to the office to take control of the incident and direct staff within school as appropriate.

The senior member of staff that is on the trip will take control of all the pupils and staff that are not involved with the code red/medical issue, removing all from the incident and where appropriate return all pupils and staff to school.

<b>Lead First Aider:</b>
--------------------------

<b>Senior Teacher:</b>
------------------------

Trip:

Lead Teacher:	
Class:	
Number of Pupils:	
Date	
Time	
Number of Staff:	

## **Risk Assessment Procedures**

- High risk or unusual trips EVOLVE
- Activity Request 8 weeks
- EVOLVE trips RA: 6 weeks in advance

### **Low Risk Activity Request 4 weeks**

- Low risk trips 4 weeks in advance to Karen for medical check then passed to Finlay.
- FILL OUT MINIBUS LISTS/GROUPINGS LIST if different.
- Once trip is agreed - see points to note
- Risk assessment:
  - M = Medical
  - B = Behavioural
  - O = Other

## Visit Request Information needed -

To Do List	Date	Signature
Request Visit		
Enter trip in the school diary		
Letter Home if needed/permission slips/medical consent if overnight		
Medical plans including Staff		
External Risk Assessment information if necessary		
Hand in Risk Assessment for checking		
Informed First Aid of visit activity and pupils attending.		
Book lunches		
Book minibus		
Book camera		
Arrange driver		
Confirm staff attending		
Emergency contact numbers - collect from School office if outside hours.		



## General Risk Assessment

Date:	Time:	Lead Teacher:
Trip Outline:		
List of pupil names:	Risk Medical/Behavioural/Other	Control Measure
General Risk Assessments: (see attached sheet)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>		
Staff list:	Medical / Other Risks	Control Measure
Emergency plan:		
If the trip is going to be delayed, contact the school office by 14.30 latest for SLT mobiles.		
School contact details available. Contact school to inform and seek advice.		
School to contact parents/carers if necessary.		
All pupils and staff gather together at safe refuge.		
Await collection or onward travel as advised.		

Lead teacher: ..... Date: .....

Medical Check:..... Date: .....

Headteacher: ..... Date: .....

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

**Minibus:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Adults:                      Pupils:

Driver: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ - Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Pupils: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Pupil Grouping	Allocated staff

**Emergency Card (Visit Leader)**

**This ‘card’ must remain with the Visit Leader at all times on a visit**

**In the event of a significant incident or accident that does not involve serious injury or fatality, and/or is not likely to attract media attention**, the Visit Leader should seek advice from their establishment emergency contact(s). This should normally include a member Senior Management of the establishment.

**In the event of an incident that does involve serious injury or fatality, and/or is likely to attract media attention**, the Visit Leader should adopt the following protocol:

1. Assess the situation;
2. Safeguard uninjured members of the group (including self);
3. Attend to any casualties;
4. Call emergency services, if appropriate.  
(999 or appropriate local number if abroad, Europe 112, North America 911)
5. **Contact the LA Emergency Contact Number** to report the incident and request assistance.

**Milton Keynes Council Emergency Contact  
01908 311773**

Be prepared to give: Your name and Establishment/Group

Phone number and back up phone numbers

Exact Location

Nature of Incident

Number in the Group

You will be called back as soon as possible so try not to make outgoing calls until contact is made.

You will be given advice and asked what the LA can do to support you.

Then:

- Contact your establishment, EVC or Home Contact (see below) and seek further advice. If you are unable to do this, the LA will contact your establishment on your behalf.
- If practicable, delegate party leadership to the Deputy Leader, in order that you can be contactable at all times, and to enable you to coordinate all necessary actions;
- You will be provided with a dedicated number to refer all press, media, parental, or other enquiries to the LA and for continuing contact with the LA during the incident.
- Wherever possible, prevent group members from using telephones or mobiles, or going on-line until such time as this has been agreed by the LA;
- Do not allow any member of the group to discuss liability with any other party.

When the incident is under control:

- Seek further and full details of the incident, how and why it happened so far as can be established at this stage;
- Maintain a detailed written log of all actions taken and conversations held, together with a timescale – It may be appropriate to ask someone else to do this;
- Contact the British Consulate / Embassy if abroad.

Name	Office/ Home (if applicable)
School	01908 373266
Milton Keynes Council	01908 311773

# Emergency Card (Home Contacts)

For visits that take place outside normal establishment hours.

**This ‘card’ or equivalent must remain with the establishment emergency contact(s) at all times, if access to EVOLVE is not possible.**

**The establishment’s Emergency Home Contact(s) should have all visit information, including itinerary, venue details, names, medical information and emergency contact details for all participants including staff.**

In the event of being contacted by the Visit Leader (or other member of staff involved in a visit), you should:

- Confirm the phone number at which the caller can be contacted back on;
- Note their location;
- Determine the nature of the emergency;
- Determine the type of help required.

**If the incident does not involve serious injury or fatality, and/or is not likely to attract media attention:**

- Provide the required assistance if possible;
- Seek further advice or pass on details to other establishment contacts that may be able to assist.

**If the incident does involve serious injury or fatality, and/or is likely to attract media attention:**

- Inform the Visit Leader that someone will phone him/her back as soon as possible;

**It is the responsibility of the Visit Leader to contact the LA. However circumstances may prevent this. If you are not 100% positive that the LA has been contacted, please contact Milton Keynes Council 01908 311773 and state that you require immediate assistance from the Emergency Response Team. Give brief details of the incident.**

- Your details will be taken and you will be phoned back as soon as possible;
- You should also contact the Head of Establishment (if this is not you);
- A Response Team will be brought into action to support the party, the establishment, and the parents. Teams of senior officers are briefed for this role and will provide continuous support from the moment the emergency occurs. The team would operate from the Emergency Control Centre and the Head of Establishment or a senior member of staff may be asked to join the team immediately;
- The Head of Establishment should consider the appropriate time to contact the parents of the participants involved on the visit. Advice and support can be sought from the LA in dealing with this.
- The Response Team will form a continuous link with the affected group, and depending on the level of emergency will send a senior officer to the incident location. The Response Team will direct all actions; provide links with the media, rescue agencies, tour operators, insurance companies, etc. As appropriate the Response Team would arrange for the return of the party or arrange other transport where required;
- You will be provided with a dedicated number to refer all press, media, parental, or other enquiries to the LA and for continuing contact with the LA during the incident.
- The LA will give accurate and periodic information through press releases, will arrange interviews, and will attempt to reduce media pressure from the incident, establishment, and parents. If appropriate, support and counselling will be arranged for families, participants and staff.

Name	Office/ Home (if applicable)	Mobile
Head of Establishment	Finlay	
Deputy Head of Establishment	Michelle	
Milton Keynes Council	01908 311773	

SLT	Michelle	
-----	----------	--