



## Educational Visit Policy

### 1. Introduction

CornerPost Education Centre acknowledges the many benefits of learning outside the classroom and is committed to supporting educational visits and activities that enrich the learning opportunities of children and young people.

The centre works within the requirements set out in Staffordshire County Council's [Educational Visits Policy](#) and the formally adopted Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel 'Employer Guidance' (available at <http://oeapeg.info/>)

All school staff will be made aware of the requirements of this policy and any changes that are made when the policy is reviewed.

### 2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Centre Manager is responsible for ensuring visits are approved as necessary, that all visits approved can be accommodated within the timetable and that the ethos of each visit is one with which the school wishes to be associated.

The Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC) is a staff member who is delegated with the following tasks: -

- To grant verbal permission that a leader may plan a visit after deciding that the timetabling and ethos of the visit are acceptable.
- To check and approve that the planning and risk management for visits follows employer policy and guidance, and to liaise with the LA as required.
- To ensure that there is sample monitoring of visits in keeping with the recommendations of employer policy and guidance

The Manager will ensure that the EVC, Visit Leaders, assisting staff and voluntary helpers are specifically competent to carry out the responsibilities allocated to them for all visits.

Visit Leaders will have over-all charge of the visits they lead, which will be effectively supervised with an appropriate level of staffing. Relevant visit information is shared with parents and consent is sought where necessary.

Details related to a visit and its participants (including staff) will be accessible to a designated 24/7 emergency contact in case of emergencies.

### **3. Procedures**

Staff wishing to plan and undertake a visit (prospective Visit Leaders) should first seek permission from the Centre Manager to plan a visit. The Manager will further be asked to declare that the Visit Leader and staff are competent to supervise the visit.

When providers are used it is a requirement for them to hold Public Liability insurance cover with a minimum limit of indemnity of £5M.

Regularly repeated visits may receive block annual approval subject to parents being made aware of every visit, especially any involving a return time outside the normal school day.

### **4. Risk Management**

The risk management of an activity should be informed by the benefits to be gained from participating. CornerPost Education Centre recommends a 'risk-benefit assessment' approach, whereby the starting point for any risk assessment should be a consideration of the targeted benefits and learning outcomes.

This appreciation of the benefits to be gained through participating provides objectivity to a decision that any residual risk (i.e. the risk remaining after control measures have been put in place) is 'acceptable'. HSE endorse this approach through their 'Principles of Sensible Risk Management' and advocate that it is important that young people are exposed to well-managed risks so that they learn how to manage risk for themselves.

There is no legal requirement to produce a risk assessment in a particular format; but there is a legal requirement for the process to be recorded and for suitable and sufficient control measures to be identified for any significant risks i.e. those that may cause serious harm to an individual or harm several people.

### **5. Emergency Procedures**

The risk management for each visit will identify the relevant emergency procedures during the visit.

In the event of a delay (of more than 1 hour), or of an incident resulting in harm to any attending participant, staff member or volunteer, then the school must be contacted as soon as possible to inform the Headteacher or designated deputy so that they can decide: -

- A. If the incident is of a less serious nature then the next of kin or parents of those affected will be informed about what has happened (e.g. that the party will be returning late or that an incident has befallen a party member) and the action that has been taken so far. In appropriate circumstances the Visit Leader will be designated to undertake this task.
- B. If the incident is very serious to contact Staffordshire County Council using

the emergency contact phone number and details given below:

*The emergency contact phone number for Staffordshire County Council outside office hours is 00-44-1785-278499. The number for Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service Fire Control and it will be answered by a Control Operator is 00-44-8451-213322. Upon connection, please provide the Operator with your name, a contact number and a brief outline of what has happened. Then ask the Control Operator to page the CCU Duty Officer and to pass this information in full onto him/her. Please note that calls to the numbers above are to be used only in extreme circumstances, such as serious injuries and/or fatalities. This provision is not for resolving matters such as lost passports, lost luggage and forgotten items such as medication.*

*Under no circumstances should these numbers be given to young people or to their parents or guardians*

## **6. Accident Reporting**

All accidents will be handled in line with Staffordshire County Council's [Accident Policy](#). Accident investigation and employee hazard report forms are available from the [Health and Safety](#) intranet site alongside other relevant policies and useful information.

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