

*A nurturing inclusive learning community that enables everyone to be their best*



**CALTON**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



**CALTON**  
PLAYGROUP

## **CALTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUP** **EDUCATIONAL VISITS POLICY**

**Approved by Finance and Resource Committee  
FAR Committee on 23/10/2023**

**Next renewal date: FAR Term 1 24/25**

The school, including the playgroup, has formally adopted, through its Governing Board, the Gloucestershire 'Guidance for Educational Visit'. Further procedures have been agreed with the Governing Board to ensure that this policy is adhered to.

### **Aims and purposes of Educational Visits**

The school has a strong commitment to the added value of learning outside the classroom and beyond the school premises.

Each year the school will arrange a number of activities that take place off the school site and out of school hours, which support the aims of the school. The range of activities which the Governing Body has given its approval includes:

- Out of hours Clubs (music, drama, art, science, sport, homework etc)
- School sports teams
- Regular local visits (places of worship, swimming, other local amenities)
- Day visits for particular groups
- Residential visits
- Overseas visits
- Adventurous Activities.

### **Approval Procedure**

The Governing Board has delegated the consideration and approval of educational visits and off-site activities to the Assistant Headteachers and the School Business Manager as the Educational Visits Co-ordinators (EVC) and the Governing Board has approved this appointment.

Before a visit is advertised to parents the EVC will also approve the completed plan and risk assessments for the visit before departure using the eVisit off-site visits online system.

### **Staffing**

The school recognises the key role of accompanying staff in ensuring the highest standards of learning, challenge and safety on a school visit.

Staff are encouraged and supported to develop their abilities in organising and managing visits. There will be a system within the school to allow less experienced members of staff to work alongside more experienced colleagues on visits. The selection of staff for educational visits will be a key priority in the initial approval of any proposed visit. Staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for proposed activities.

The school values and recognises the contribution of volunteer adults and parent helpers assisting with off-site activities and educational visits. Any volunteer will be approved by the Visit Leader. They will be carefully briefed on the scope of their responsibility. Where it is appropriate the school will ensure that vetting and DBS screening is available for volunteers.

The appointed Visit Leader will be fully supported in the tasks required to arrange the visit. This will include, as necessary, making time or finances available to

conduct an exploratory visit, briefing teachers and/or other staff, accessing training courses, reviewing and evaluating the visit or identifying time when the leader and EVC might work in partnership to undertake planning and risk assessments.

Visit staff will not be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs such that their ability to recognise hazards or respond to emergencies is in any way restricted.

### **Risk Assessment**

The Visit Leader will identify the risks from any activity that is under their control and take appropriate steps to ensure all participants are safe. Good practice precautions and safety measures will be taken and this will be recorded in a risk assessment.

### **External Activity Providers**

Where external contractors are involved in organising all or part of the visit, the contract will be made with the school on behalf of the pupils. All payments for the visit will be made through the school accounts.

The Visit Leader will make appropriate checks before committing the school to the contract. This will include seeking assurances about health and safety, and any accreditation and licensing.

### **Parental Consents**

General consent will be sought from parents at the start of each academic year for pupils to take part in local offsite activities (local definition is within walking distance), via ParentPay.

Consent, via ParentPay, from parents will be sought for pupils to take part in offsite none local activities organised by the school.

As part of the parent consent, parents will be fully informed of the activities and arrangements for the visit. For all residential visits parents will be invited to a briefing meeting where they can ask for clarification of any aspect of the itinerary and organisation of the visit.

Parental authority will be requested for pupils to receive emergency treatment when appropriate, including administration of an anaesthetic or blood transfusion. If parents do not agree to this, the school may decide to withdraw the child from the visit.

### **Information about special/medical/dietary needs**

The school maintains information about special educational, medical and dietary needs of all pupils, which will be referred to by the Visit Leader during the planning of all educational visits and off-site activities. Parents will be reminded to provide up to date information.

Where necessary special arrangements will be made and information will be shared with relevant staff and training provided.

### **The expectations of Pupils and Parents**

The school has a clear code of conduct for school visits based on the school's Relational Policy. This code of conduct will be part of the condition of booking by the parents. Pupils, whose behaviour is such that the Visit Leader is concerned for their safety, or for that of others, can be withdrawn from the activity. The Visit Leader will consider whether such pupils should be sent home early and parents will be expected to cover any costs of the journey home early.

### **Communication**

The school will ensure there is appropriate and adequate communication with visiting groups (in normal and emergency situations).

Two members of the Senior Leadership Team will be appointed as the emergency contacts for each visit, usually the Head Teacher and School Business Manager. All major incidents should immediately be relayed to this person(s), especially those involving injury or that might attract media attention.

The Visit Leader will leave full details of all pupils and accompanying adults on the visit with the emergency contacts, including the home contact details of parents and next-of-kin, as appropriate.

All incidents and accidents occurring on a visit will be reported back and recorded following normal school procedures for reporting and investigating accidents.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. There will always be a safeguarding lead on residential trips. All staff will have read and signed to say that they have read the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and as such policies and procedures will be followed when not on school site. All concerns occurring on a visit will be recorded following normal school procedures.

### **Review by the Local Authority**

The school is supported in its arrangements for educational visits and off-site activities by Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) at Gloucestershire County Council. Where necessary the school will seek advice from SHE.

All visits that involve an overnight stay, going abroad and any that involve adventurous activities will be submitted to SHE on eVisit prior to departure. SHE will provide an independent reassurance check of the plan and the precautions and safety measures that will be taken. Any advice provided will be fully considered prior to the trip taking place.

### **References to other policies**

The school has policies for Charging and Remissions, Inclusion and safeguarding, which applies to all visits.

