



# Offsite Educational Visits

**May 2022**

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## Linton School

### Offsite Educational Visits Policy

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**Review date:** April 2022

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**Lancashire County Council – School Safeguarding Helpline: 01772 531196**

**Lancashire County Council – Emergency Duty Team: 0300 123 6722 (out of office hours)**

**Blackpool Council – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 01253 477299**

**If the child is at immediate risk, please call the police on 999.**

## Our School

Linton School is an independent special school for young people with social, emotional and mental health difficulties for both boys and girls aged 8-18 years old. The school is registered for up to 12 learners and consists of 4 small classes to provide a nurturing environment to develop and progress throughout their learning journey. We are a trauma informed school that is able to support children and teenagers who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. Located in rural Preston we therefore benefit from some amazing outdoor space where we develop our outdoor, equestrian and horticulture skills. All the staff at Linton School are committed to creating a setting which not only focuses on academic success, but also provides our learners opportunities to develop their social, communication and independent skills.

## Culture and Ethos

We are committed to providing a nurturing, safe and ambitious learning environment that supports every young person to achieve lifelong skills through a diverse learner centred curriculum. Respectful and supportive relationships are at the heart of all we do; we value every member of the school community equally. Through bespoke curriculums tailored towards each individual pupil's needs, experiences, interests and strengths we foster a love for learning and support our young people to achieve their full potential. As an educational setting our main aim is to prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution towards society by giving our students the skills they need to be successful, resilient and inspirational young adults. Linton schools' purpose is to improve the quality of life for our young people both now, and in the future, 'building our futures together'.

## The Vision

Linton School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment to provide skills for lifelong opportunities, which gives the young people an ambitious outlook towards their future.

The vision drives everything we do and will be achieved through:

- Outdoor enrichment activities to promote life skills through play, nurture and teamwork.
- Promoting independence, patience and listening skills through Equestrian lessons.
- Multi-disciplinary links from both internal and external companies to provide a bespoke, broad and balanced curriculum that develops the education of our pupils.
- Empowering each learner to achieve their personal goals and develop a lifelong love of learning.
- A positive and ambitious school environment that promotes learning for all.
- Offering a broad range of learning experiences within the curriculum that values academic attainment as well as developing social skills, experiences and resilience.

**More information about the school can be found in the school Prospectus.**

# **Offsite Educational Visits**

## **1. Legislative Framework and Guidance**

This policy should be read with reference to the following legislation and guidance:

- The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2019
- The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2014
- DfE Health and safety: advice on legal duties and powers 2014
- OEAP National Guidance documents as found at <http://oeapng.info>
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002
- Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- Equality Act 2010
- Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 1996
- Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- The School Premises Regulations 2012

We encourage educational visits as we believe they '*offer an invaluable opportunity to enrich young peoples' learning, raise their self-esteem, increase their motivation and appetite for learning and raise levels of achievement in many aspects of their life and education.*'

### **1b. Introduction**

This policy applies to all staff at Linton School when they take pupils on off-site educational activities. This includes outdoor pursuits, physical education, off-site educational visits and all off-site visits connected to enrichment day and wider curriculum opportunities. It must also be considered when staff arrange work in the community and work experience placements. Staff includes all members of the teaching team and all members of the residential care teams who support in the school day.

The School uses off-site education activities as a part of the school curriculum for a variety of reasons:

- To support pupils in accessing facilities not available at the main school site;
- To support pupils in accessing the outdoor pursuits curriculum available at the school;
- To further enrich and support the learning experiences available in the school;
- To support pupils to access the wider community in order to better develop social and independence skills, reduce isolation, and better prepare them for adult life in society;
- To support pupils in accessing opportunities and resources necessary to achieve progress and accreditation in a range of wider curricular awards

Educational visits provide a variety of opportunities to enable our students to achieve a fuller understanding of the world around them through direct experience and offer a valuable enhancement to the curriculum. We regard them as an essential element of good teaching practice. We recognise that thorough planning and risk assessment of educational visits are crucial to ensure their educational success and safeguard students, teachers and volunteers. Each visit is designed to provide a rich, learning experience for students in a safe, managed environment.

### **Principles:**

- Young people should be able to experience a wide range of activities. Health and Safety measures should help them to do this safely.
- It is important that children learn to understand and manage the risks that are a normal part of life.
- Common sense should be used in assessing and managing the risks of any activity. Health and Safety procedures should always be proportionate to the risks of an activity.
- Staff should be given the training they need so that they can keep themselves and children safe, and manage risks effectively.
- Employers, school staff and others also have a duty under the common law to take care of students in the same way that a prudent parent would do so.
- Schools should seek to be inclusive; reasonable adjustments should be made to allow as many students as possible to be involved in offsite activities.

## **1c. Clarification of Roles**

The normal responsibilities for each of the roles is outlined in National Guidance, and described as follows:

### **Proprietors / Senior Management Team:**

The proprietors are represented by the Regional Lead, as the Responsible Individual for CareTech Schools. This position ensures that the proprietor responsibility for the school is maintained, and this includes responsibility for ensuring appropriate Health and Safety is maintained within the school.

Dependent on the circumstances, the Head Teacher may require authorisation for an Offsite Educational visit to be given by the representatives of the proprietors, the Regional Lead.

### **Head Teacher:**

The Head Teacher has responsibility for the daily operation of the school, and this includes ensuring all systems are properly developed and implemented effectively, and maintaining an overview of these systems. In accordance with the Health & Safety policy for the school, the Head Teacher maintains responsibility for Health & Safety practices, either directly, or by management responsibility for a delegated person, as in the case of the Education Visits Coordinator (EVC).

For the purposes of Offsite Educational Visits, it is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that the EVC is carrying out their role effectively, correctly and in accordance with this policy. The Head Teacher will have oversight of all Offsite Educational visits, and will have final authorisation for

whether they take place or not, once a review of correct procedures, planning, risk assessments and accompanying paperwork has taken place.

**The Head Teacher will:**

- ensure all school personnel, students and parents/carers are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the proprietor representative and coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- be responsible for the sanctioning and authorizing of all educational visits whatever the duration or purpose;
- ensure that the Educational Visit Coordinator and Visit Leaders have appropriate training and are sufficiently competent, experienced and qualified;
- ensure all volunteer helpers/supervisors are subjected to a Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records check before they take part in an educational visit;
- ensure all accidents and emergencies are dealt with and reported;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;

**Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC):**

*“A member of Establishment staff appointed to coordinate all Visits and with the status to effect change and be the focus of good practice. Such a person should be an experienced visit leader with sufficient status within the establishment to guide the working practice of colleagues leading visits.”*

The EVC for Linton School (Paul Barton) is responsible for the processes whereby an educational visit is planned, prepared and realised, whether this process is carried out by the EVC or where carried out by other members of the teaching team, under the supervision of the EVC. The EVC is also responsible for the promotion of this policy and procedures, the development of the staff team and the coordination of all aspects of Offsite Educational Visits across the School. The EVC is accountable to the Head Teacher.

OEAP guidance suggests that, for the purposes of Linton School, the role of the EVC should consider the following:

- Ensuring that they have an understanding of how outdoor learning, off-site visits and learning outside the classroom can support a wide range of outcomes for children and young people, and raise achievement.
- Ensuring that they have attended EVC training as recommended or required by the employer, and other training appropriate to effective delivery of the role (e.g. training in first aid, risk assessment, understanding the needs of the pupils, behaviour management, outdoor activities, other training beyond the scope of any EVC training undertaken but relevant to role)
- Ensuring that all activities and visits meet guidance requirements.

- Ensuring that the Head Teacher and members of Visit Leaders Team have access to training at an appropriate level to ensure that the Employer’s guidance and Establishment procedures are properly understood.
- Supporting the Head Teacher with approval of visits and other decisions.
- Supporting the Head Teacher in ensuring that all members of Visit Leaders Team are competent.
- Monitoring of Visit Leaders’ planning, and sample monitoring of visits.
- Organising the training of members of Visit Leaders Team.
- Ensuring that where the Visit Leaders Team includes someone with a close relationship to a group member, there are adequate safeguards to ensure that this will not compromise group management.
- Ensuring that DBS checks are in place as required.
- Ensuring that establishment policy provides sufficient guidance to Visit Leaders about information for parents and parental consent.
- Checking that there are 24/7 Establishment Emergency Contacts for each and every visit and that Emergency Procedures are in place.
- Ensuring that medical and first aid issues are addressed.
- Ensuring that emergency arrangements include Emergency Contact access to all relevant records, including medical and next of kin information for all members of the party, including staff.
- Ensuring that individual activities and visits are reviewed and evaluated and that this process includes reporting of accidents and incidents, complying with Employer requirements and Reporting Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).
- Ensuring that policies and procedures are reviewed regularly. A review should follow any serious incident or systems failure. Risk management documentation must be updated if necessary.
- Ensuring that there is an Establishment procedure for recording “near accidents/near misses”, including any resulting learning points and action.
- Ensuring that they keep their knowledge up to date via EVC update processes and EVC revalidation courses as recommended or required.
- Ensure the planning and delivery of any offsite visit is done in accordance with this policy and all required paperwork is completed competently.

**Visit Leader:**

*“The designated person responsible for the Visit and who will have overall responsibility for the safety and conduct of Participants and the Visit Leadership Team. “*

For the purposes of Linton School, the Visit Leader is the person who has designated responsibility for the visit, its planning and preparation, and its realisation. The Visit Leader will be responsible for the coordination of the visit, the staff accompanying the visit and the young people involved in the visit.

The Visit Leader must work with and seek support from the EVC in the organisation of a visit to ensure the School’s policies and procedures are adhered to.

***The Visit Leader must not carry out a visit until authorised by the Head Teacher.***

The Visit Leader will be the single contact point for the Head Teacher and EVC during the organisation of a visit, and the contact point between the School and those on the visit once it is underway. This is so as to avoid any confusion or misinformation arising during organisation and implementation stages.

## **1d. Procedural Requirements**

### **Risk Assessment:**

*Supervising a group of young people in any environment involves judgement based on a combination of experience, training, and tacit knowledge. Whether the environment is indoors or out, on-site or off-site, the same risk management principles apply. The difference is in how contained and controllable the environment is. Anyone working with young people in an indoor setting should feel able to use off-site or outdoor environments, and will find that their work becomes more powerful and memorable as a result.*

*Risk management is not about risk elimination. If young people work in an area of nettles and brambles they may get scratched or stung. This is not necessarily a problem - appropriately planned, it is experiential learning and part of growing up. There is no question that outdoor learning and off-site visits are enormously beneficial to the education and development of young people. However to achieve these benefits involves the acceptance of some element of risk. Indeed there is a benefit in young people experiencing such risks in order to learn to manage them for themselves and improve their ability to look after their own safety.*

<http://oeapng.info> – [Guidance Document 4.3f](#)

**ACTIVITY / VENUE:** Before embarking on an offsite educational visit, the Visit Leader must produce a risk assessment for that specific venue/location. It may be that the venue itself is happy to provide their own risk assessment, and should be contacted during the organisation process.

If the venue is an outdoor location, or if the venue is unable to provide a risk assessment, then a risk assessment must be completed by either the EVC or the Visit Leader. This will usually require a visit to the location, prior to the educational visit, in order to accurately assess the venue and complete the risk assessment.

If an activity is to be carried out at the location, which will be facilitated by members of the school team, then the activity itself must be risk assessed, with the location as a component of the risk assessment.

If the visit is to a location/venue for the specific purpose of engaging in an activity facilitated by the venue or by a third-party provider, then the risk assessment either provided by the venue/provider or completed by the school must account for the specific activity at that location. The school must adapt the risk assessment provided by any third party to be relevant to the needs of the pupil group.

A risk assessment will always be carried out prior to the visit, and must use the school's risk assessment template, and will cover:

- What are the hazards?

- Who might be affected by them?
- What is the likelihood of the hazard arising?
- What safety measures are needed to reduce risks to an acceptable level?
- Can the party leader put the safety measures in place?
- What steps will be taken in an emergency?

**PUPIL PARTICIPANTS:** All pupils admitted to our school have their own individual needs and present a range of individual risks. Parallel to the activity/venue risk assessment, the risk assessment of the activity MUST include an assessment of the individual pupil members participating in the visit and consider how their own individual needs and risks might have an effect when applied to the proposed activity or venue. This is done by using the risk assessment for the individual, present for the home and school, and applying the identified risks therein to the risk assessment for the activity proposed, and demonstrating how any identified risks can be reduced or minimised.

The age, competence, maturity and behaviour of the participants must be matched to the other variables, and any individual, medical or special needs addressed. ([oeapng.info](http://oeapng.info))

**EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES:** All offsite activities require the provision and use of appropriate equipment and resources, whether this is as simple as suitable footwear to walk around a venue or the specific Personal Protective Equipment required for certain outdoor pursuits or other, more hazardous activities.

#### **The Visit Leader / EVC must:**

- make clear in the risk assessment, what equipment and resources are required in order to reduce the risk for an individual participating in an activity;
- make clear how any necessary equipment or resources are to be provided (whether the responsibility of the home and young person or the responsibility of the school);
- ensure that necessary equipment and resources are present on the day of the activity, prior to the group leaving to complete the activity;
- ensure that staff accompanying pupils have the same expectations of equipment and resources applied to them as young people;
- ensure that any equipment or resources provided by the school for an activity are supported by a rigorous process for quality monitoring and testing as fit for purpose.

In the event that there is a failure to supply specified equipment and resources required to complete the activity safely, the Visit Leader/EVC must make an on-the-spot assessment as to whether the organised activity can take place, or whether it should be cancelled.

**NB:** It is expected that generic activity risk assessments for activities carried out regularly by the school, such as outdoor pursuits, would include a standard list of PPE equipment and resources required for that activity to take place safely.

#### **Approval of staff to lead and visit activities**

The school should have clear processes for approving Leaders to lead visits or activities. This should ensure that Leaders are **accountable**, **confident** and **competent** to lead the specific visits or activities for which they are approved.

Being **accountable** means that the Leader has been engaged through an appropriate recruitment process, which includes vetting and induction into the establishment's policies and procedures. The details of this process may depend upon whether the Leader is employed, contracted or acts as a volunteer, but in all cases should be thorough. Regardless of a Leader's employment status, they should understand the chain of accountability, what is expected of them, and the establishment's policies and procedures.

Being **confident** includes Leaders having the ability to take charge of a situation while being aware of, and understanding, their abilities, as well as their limitations.

Being **competent** means that the Leader has demonstrated the ability to operate effectively, and has sufficient relevant experience and knowledge of the activities, the group, and the environments in which the visit will take place. Competence is a combination of skills, knowledge, awareness, judgement, training and experience. It is not necessarily related to age or position within the establishment. It is situational – a leader who is competent in one activity or environment may not be so in another, and it involves breadth as well as depth.

Relevant experience is not necessarily gained by repeating the same thing several times, but by experiencing a range of different activities and environments.

For adventure activity leaders, competence is best demonstrated through:

- Holding a National Governing Body leadership/coaching award at an appropriate level, or
- Being "signed off" by a suitably-qualified Technical Adviser appointed by the employer.

For further information about appropriate technical qualifications, to lead or advise on specific adventure activities, see the qualifications matrices produced by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) in AALA guidance note 5.18 available at:

<http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/adventureactivitiesnetwork/view?objectId=582565>

Approval should never be assumed but must involve professional judgement. **The Head Teacher and EVC, though joint consideration, must make a judgement about the suitability of that person to lead that group on that visit/activity in that environment.**

There are various ways to help make an informed judgement about a colleague's competence, including:

- Observations of their group management and supervision skills within their day to day work in the establishment.
- Evidence of relevant experience – e.g. assisting on visits or leading visits in a previous establishment.
- Their personal interests and experience relevant to the proposed activities and environments.
- Evidence of having undertaken appropriate training.
- Evidence of relevant qualifications, including any specific qualification required by the law, the employer or the establishment (e.g. in First Aid).

Any approval to lead Off-site Visits must also include a judgement about how an individual will react in a crisis, without the immediate support of the establishment around them. Will they remain calm and take control of the situation or will they let the situation control them? It is good practice to keep evidence of Leader approval as well as records of experience (visits led or assisted on).

[adapted from <http://oeapng.info> Guidance Document 3.2d]

### **Evaluation of external providers**

When planning an off-site visit, you should thoroughly research the suitability of the venue and check that facilities and third party provision will meet your group's needs and expectations. This is an essential element of risk-benefit management and is critical in deciding how you will supervise the young people effectively. A preliminary visit is essential and should be carried out by either the EVC or the Visit Leader who has been approved to lead the visit.

Preliminary visits enable the Visit Leader to address the following questions:

- Will the venue or facility be suitable to meet the planned aims and objectives of the visit?
- Are there any particular hazards or threats which need to be considered in your risk-benefit assessment and emergency procedures?
- What will be your options if the conditions of daylight, water level, temperature and weather, or under-foot conditions, differ significantly from the pre-visit?
- Do you have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the venue, facilities and activities to feel confident when planning the visit?
- Will the venue be able to cater for the full range of group needs, including any special needs?
- Will the group need any specialist equipment?
- Are there any staff training needs?
- Will participants need to be prepared or trained?

It is sensible for a Visit Leader to take a camera on any preliminary visit, as photographs can be a great aid to briefing both the Visit Leadership Team and the Participants.

[for further guidance please refer to <http://oeapng.info> Guidance Document 4.4h]

### **Parental/Carer communication and consent**

DfE guidance states: *'Written consent from parents is not required for students to take part in the majority of off-site activities organised by a school (with the exception of nursery age children) as most of these activities take place during school hours and are a normal part of a child's education at school. However, parents should be told where their child will be at all times and of any extra safety measures required.'*

Parents/Corporate Parents will be informed in advance of each activity and will be given the opportunity to withdraw their child from any particular school trip or activity. We will ensure that we comply with all DfE guidance documentation before any educational visit is authorised and all precautions are taken to ensure students' safety. However, CareTech Schools obtain general written permission for local visits on admission (see Admissions Policy), but timely emails will be sent as reminders to corporate parents/carers.

### **Information about participants' medical & special needs requirements**

In order to effectively plan for an activity, the Visit Leader **MUST** have any information in respect of any specific medical conditions and/or particular special needs. It is the responsibility of the EVC to ensure that the Visit Leader has access to this information so that planning can be effective.

For example, the Visit Leader will need to plan the safe storage and administration of any medications required by a pupil on the activity, especially any controlled substance, or may need to plan for any specific mobility, supervision or support needs a young person may require.

## **Offsite Educational Visits Process**

### **2. Prior notification and approval of visit plans**

#### **For New/ one-off Visits:**

All offsite educational activities must be given sufficient time to be planned and organised effectively. A series of steps must be followed if the idea for a particular visit is to be proposed and planned.

- An activity summary proposal/meeting will be held with the Head Teacher/EVC for consideration;
- The Head Teacher/EVC will consider the activity summary and decide whether the visit is viable.
- If the visit is considered viable the Head Teacher/EVC will give provisional approval;
- If this approval is given, then the Head Teacher/EVC will coordinate the full planning process for the activity, and arrange for it to go ahead.
- All finalised plans and risk assessments **MUST** be reviewed and signed-off by the Head Teacher / EVC prior to the activity going ahead.

**Note:** Given the timings for organisation, all proposed visits/activities **MUST** be submitted to the Head Teacher/EVC with sufficient notice for them to follow any required service-specific procedures, and in order to be able to give proper consideration and authorisation for any visit. ***Last minute planning is unlikely to receive authorisation.***

#### **For regular/re-occurring Activities:**

Some activities, such as outdoor pursuits, P.E. or community placements, take place on a regular basis; often weekly. For these activities, once the approval process (above) and risk assessments have been completed, then the activity can be continued on a rolling basis.

However, all risk assessments for these activities **MUST** be reviewed termly, **AND**, should any element change, such as venue or individual participants, then that element of the risk assessment and activity plan must be reviewed and amended prior to the activity taking place.

<p><b>PLEASE NOTE: ALL OFFSITE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES MUST UNDERGO THIS APPROVAL AND PLANNING PROCESS PRIOR TO THEM TAKING PLACE</b></p>
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## 2b. Learning Value

For an Offsite Visit to be educational it must have a learning purpose or value. There must be a demonstrable value to enhancing or progressing the learning of the pupils taking part in the visit/activity. Therefore, every offsite educational visit or activity **MUST** have planned Learning Objectives/Outcomes, and the visit/activity must show planning to demonstrate how these objectives will be met and outcomes achieved.

In deciding approval for the arranged visit or activity, the Head Teacher or EVC should request a brief summary document of the planned visit. This must clearly outline what the learning purpose of the visit will be (as learning objectives), how these will be achieved by the visit, and what the outcomes for the learner will be in successfully participating in the visit/activity.

## 2c. Preparing Students

Wherever possible, students will be involved in planning, implementing and evaluating their own curricular work and have opportunities to take different roles within an activity. This may include considering Health and Safety issues.

Students must understand key safety information. This includes:

- the aims and objectives of the visit/activity;
- background information about the place to be visited;
- how to avoid specific dangers and why they should follow rules;
- why safety precautions are in place;
- why special safety precautions are in place for anyone with disabilities;
- what standard of behaviour is expected from students;
- who is responsible for the group;
- what to do if approached by a stranger;
- what to do if separated from the group;
- emergency procedures.

## 2d. Resources and Equipment

As discussed in the 'risk assessment' section, all activities require the use of particular resources or equipment. This includes adequate numbers of staff for supervision of young people, and the transport of the group to and from the venue.

The planning process must ensure due consideration of any equipment needed, and its source, staffing ratios and transport arrangements. The Visit Leader must ensure that they can demonstrate that these are all in place prior to visit/activity taking place

**ALL VISITS MUST** be equipped with a First Aid Kit and staffed by **AT LEAST ONE** person with appropriate and current First Aid training and certification.

## 2e. Types of visit requiring consultation with an external adviser before approval

Certain types of proposed visit may require consultation with an external person in an advisory role prior to the visit being approved.

In particular, **outdoor activities** not previously undertaken, or at a venue not previously used, or for a multi-day trip (>1 day). On these occasions it would be appropriate for the EVC to consult with an external adviser on Outdoor Pursuits to discuss the proposed activity and any particular risks that might arise, and prior to approval being given. It would also be advisable to consult with AALA to make sure that the proposed new activity falls within the remit of the service's AALA Licence.

If there is a proposal to take pupils on an extended trip, either within the UK or abroad, each pupil's Local Authority **MUST** be consulted, and authority given for the trip to take place.

## 2f. Checking In, Checking Out – Before and after a visit

### The Visit Leader **MUST**:

- Ensure that they have a copy of all risk assessments and planning documents with them on the visit;
- Ensure that they have all required resources for the visit prior to commencement and that these resources are fit for purpose;
- Have arranged a point of contact at the school, either the Head Teacher or EVC, who will be available to communicate with throughout the duration of the visit / activity;
- Notify the point of contact that they are leaving site and that the activity is commencing;
- Report in with point of contact at end of activity, and on return to the school to advise them that the visit/activity has concluded;
- If required, arrange a debrief meeting with the Head Teacher/EVC within 48 hours;
- Report and record on any additional documentation arising out of the visit, such as incident, accident, or physical intervention reports, within the timescales and processes required for that documentation;
- Ensure that all documentation for that visit is put together in a single pack and entered into the schools' offsite educational visit folder.

## 2g. Emergencies

### In the event of an incident or emergency the visit leader will:

- Evaluate the situation to ensure that all members of the group are kept as safe as possible;
- Evaluate the situation to make an on-the-spot risk assessment as to how the group can be managed best to minimise the risk arising, or reduce the likelihood of any further risk increasing;
- Immediately communicate with the point of contact at the school to advise them of the circumstances and the current plan of action – **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR ADVICE OR HELP**;

- Maintain regular communication to advise the point of contact as the situation progresses;
- Maintain control of the group, and an overview of the situation, whilst liaising with any other parties involved; such as emergency services or members of the public;
- Be prepared to administer first aid or support until help arrives;
- Report and record all accidents or incidents as per company processes;
- Be prepared to terminate the activity and return all participants to the school if this is the safest course of action.
- Be prepared to direct any public or media query to the point of contact. **DO NOT** give unapproved interviews without prior consent from CareTech senior management. **DO NOT** allow any public or media enquiry to distract you from your responsibility to the group as visit leader.

**In the event of an incident or emergency the point of contact (Head Teacher / EVC) will:**

- Communicate effectively with the visit leader to offer support, advice and direction;
- Begin a written chronological report of events as they unfold;
- Immediately communicate with the Regional Lead and young people's Local Authorities to let them know that an emergency has arisen and the details as known;
- Be prepared to deal with any public or media enquiry that might arise as a result of the emergency or incident; **BUT** do so only with authorisation from CareTech senior management (Managing Director or above), or direct the enquiry to someone more senior.
- Be prepared to initiate the Critical Incident Plan for the Service.
- **MUST** be available to see the emergency through to conclusion, supporting and coordinating the situation until all parties in the group are safely returned to school OR to some other agreed place of safety.

## 2h. Monitoring and Evaluation

**Regular Curriculum Activities (Outdoor Pursuits & P.E.):**

An existing monitoring system, under the Quality Framework for Education Services ensures that all teachers undergo formal observation at least twice per year. As part of this system there is an expectation that staff involved in the delivery of regular offsite activity, such as P.E. or Outdoor Pursuits are included in the lesson observation cycle. For further details on the expectations of the lesson observation system please refer to the Education Services Quality Framework, Part 1 – Monitoring.

**Offsite Educational Visits Monitoring:**

Part of the role of the EVC, and/or overseeing Head Teacher, is the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the process described in this policy to engage pupils in offsite educational activities. The school must keep a folder for the documentation of all offsite educational visits, and the EVC should review completed documentation therein on a regular basis to ensure compliance with policy, competence in completion, and evaluate any necessary requirement for change to the process or addressing staff competence issues. A review sheet should be completed and appended to the front of any reviewed documentation, and a record sheet should be kept at the front of the folder to record the dates of review and any actions arising.

Given that all offsite educational activities require authorisation, both at the proposal stage and at completion of planning, this system should ensure that all planning processes and documentation have been effectively completed prior to a visit taking place.

As part of the EVC role, that person should make a random inspection of offsite visits taking place once per term, in order to complete a contemporary evaluation of the visits system in action. A review sheet should be provided for this purpose.

#### **Sub-contracted providers**

The school has no authority to formally inspect or observe activities provided by third party sub-contractors, other than its all-pervading duty of care to the young people and staff supporting them. However, all visit leaders should raise any questions, queries or concerns about the quality, competence, and safeguarding practices of the third party. The Head Teacher/EVC **MUST** look into any concerns so raised and make an informed decision as to the suitability of using that sub-contractor in the future. It may also be appropriate for the Head Teacher to raise those concerns with the sub-contractor directly, and in order to give them feedback as to the school's experience, or even as a formal complaint.

<p><b>NOTE: That any safeguarding concern relating to child protection arising out of a visit <u>MUST</u> be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the School immediately.</b></p>
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### **3. Review**

This policy and procedures will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure continued compliance with The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations and relevant guidance issued by the DfE.

**This document will be next reviewed in May 2023**

### **Links to other policies**

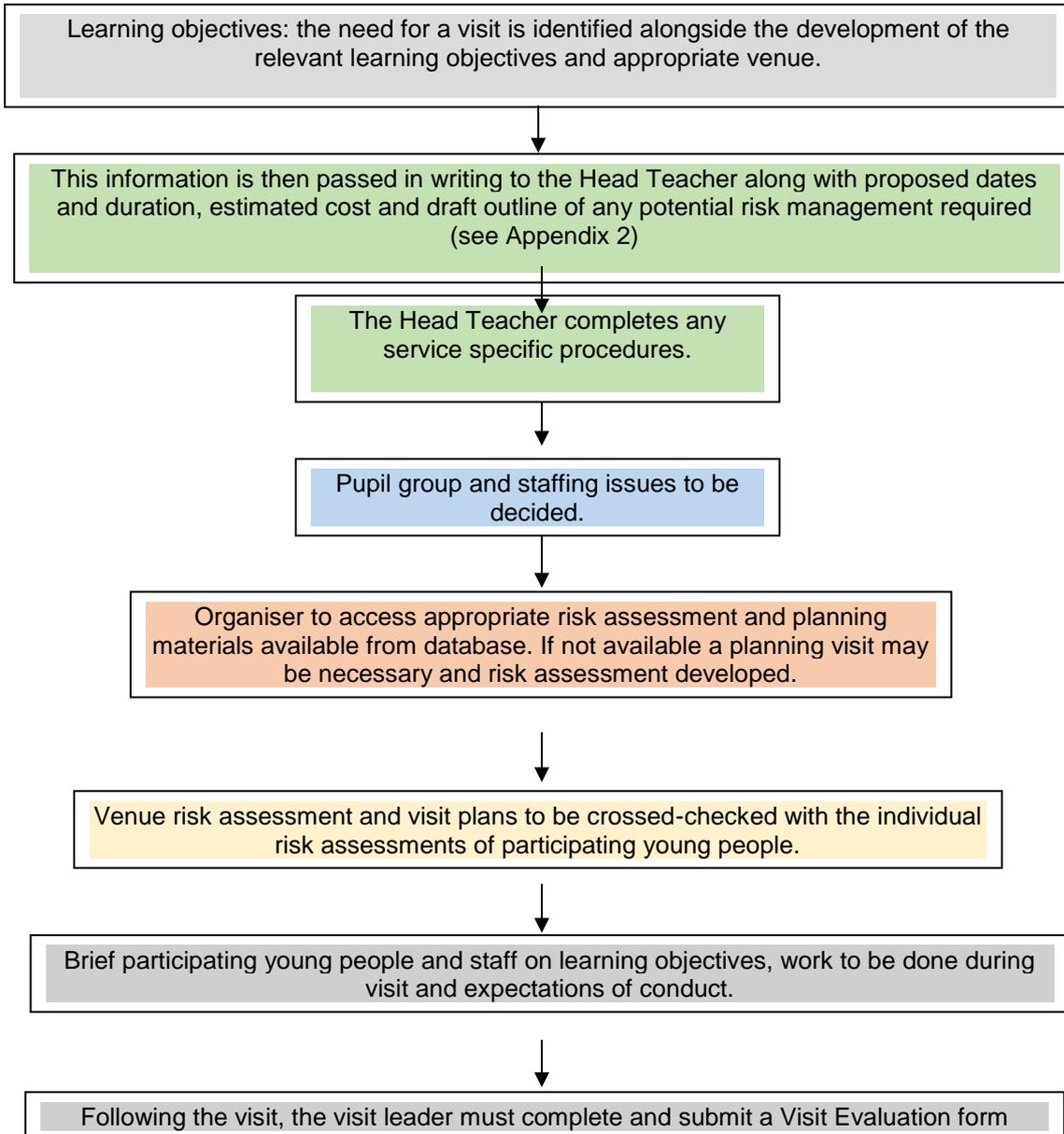
This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies as follows:

- Health & Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy

## Appendices

### Appendix 1:

## **ORGANISING AN EDUCATIONAL VISIT**



## **Appendix 2:**

### **Proposed Off-site Educational Visit Summary**

**Brief outline of proposed activity:**

**Proposed date of visit:**

**Venue:**

**Visit Leader:**

**Students involved:**

**Staff / pupil ratio:**

**Learning outcomes/ objectives:**

**Potential risk factors specific to the activity and proposed risk management strategies:**

**Proposal completed by:**

**Date:**

**Proposal approved:**

**Date:**

**Comments:**

**Signed:**

**(Head Teacher/ EVC)**

## Appendix 3:

### Off-site Educational Visit Checklist

**Brief outline of visit/ activity:**

**Venue:**

**Date:**

**Visit Leader:**

**Students involved:**

**Staff/ pupil ratio:**

#### Checklist:

1. A preliminary site visit has been carried out by:(name and role)  
(date)
  2. A full risk assessment has been completed. The benefits and risks of all aspects of the visit have been considered and the visit plan has an appropriate balance and an acceptable level of residual risk. Y/N
  3. The visit plan and risk assessment have been shared with all staff concerned and they are clear about what they are expected to do in order to manage the risks. Y/N
  4. Evaluation and visit review arrangements are in place. Y/N
  5. Activities are appropriate to the aims of the visit and the nature of the participants. Y/N
  6. Appropriately competent activity leaders are in the Visit Leadership Team or a suitable Provider has been contracted to lead activities. Y/N
  7. There is a sufficient amount of suitable equipment for activities. Y/N
  8. Up to date contact details, medical information, dietary requirements and information about special needs are available and have been shared appropriately with the staff team and any relevant provider staff. Y/N
  9. Participants have been provided with information about what to do and what is expected of them, and, where appropriate, have been involved in the planning and risk benefit assessment process. Y/N
  10. Safeguarding issues are addressed. Y/N
  11. Inclusion and accessibility issues are addressed. Y/N
  12. Environmental factors (weather, daylight hours, temperature, water levels etc) have been considered. Y/N
  13. There is access to first aid at an appropriate level. Y/N
  14. Accommodation, where used, is safe, suitable and appropriate. Y/N
  15. Travel or transport arrangements are appropriate. Y/N
  16. There is a Plan B/alternative options in place, where necessary. Y/N
- There is an emergency plan in place and leaders, helpers, participants, providers and emergency contacts have been given relevant information about it. Y/N
17. My decision is that this visit is appropriately prepared and should take place. Y/N

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION – STAFF SIGNING RECORD**

- I acknowledge that I have read and understood the contents of this policy.
- I acknowledge that by signing this form I hereby agree to abide by the contents of this policy and procedures as part of my working practices whilst in the employ of CareTech Children’s Services, and associated subsidiary holdings.
- I acknowledge that breach of company policy can amount to employee misconduct, and may lead to disciplinary action being taken against me.

Staff Name (PRINT)	Staff Signature	Date

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**