

Risk Assessment and Offsite Educational Visits Policy

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1. Introduction

At Linton School, we recognise the significant educational, social, and personal benefits that arise from learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Offsite visits, Outdoor Education, and enrichment activities play an essential role in broadening learners experiences, deepening their understanding of the curriculum, and fostering confidence, independence, and wellbeing.

This policy sets out the framework for planning, approving, and conducting all offsite educational visits, ensuring that every activity is underpinned by robust and proportionate risk assessment. Our aim is to provide safe, enjoyable, and meaningful experiences for all learners while meeting our legal and safeguarding responsibilities.

Through careful preparation, clear procedures, and ongoing evaluation, Linton School is committed to ensuring that all staff and pupils participate in offsite activities with confidence and clarity.

This document should be read alongside wider school policies, including safeguarding, health and safety, behaviour, EVC and first aid, and applies to all staff involved in the organisation or supervision of offsite activities.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, and volunteers through robust, proportionate, and well-documented risk assessment practices.
- Support high-quality educational experiences that extend and enrich the curriculum.
- Provide a clear framework for decision-making, roles, responsibilities, and required processes relating to offsite visits.

- Maintain compliance with statutory duties and national guidance on health and safety, safeguarding, and educational visits.
- Promote consistent standards across all types of offsite activities, from local walks to residential and adventure-based visits.

2. School Key Contacts

Role	Name
Headteacher/DSL	Sean Di Sora 01772 957062 / 07840803896 Sean.Disora@lintonschool.co.uk
Regional Lead	Richard George 07586038104 Richard.George@cambianguroup.com
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Andy Cavill 01772 957062 / 07840803896 Andy.Cavill@lintonschool.co.uk
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Steph White 01772 957062 / 07840803896 Steph.White@lintonschool.co.uk
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Tim Booth 0300 123 6720 Out of hours: 0300 123 6722

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

3. Purpose

To ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for the elimination of risk or control where this is not practical.

Ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, and volunteers through robust, proportionate, and well-documented risk assessment practices.

Support high-quality educational experiences that extend and enrich the curriculum.

Provide a clear framework for decision-making, roles, responsibilities, and required processes relating to offsite visits.

Maintain compliance with statutory duties and national guidance on health and safety, safeguarding, and educational visits.

Promote consistent standards across all types of offsite activities, from local walks to residential and adventure-based visits.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all offsite activities organised, led, or attended by Linton School staff, including but not limited to:

- Curriculum-linked educational visits.
- Sports fixtures and extracurricular activities taking place offsite.
- Day trips and local area walks.
- Residential visits and overnight stays.
- Outdoor and adventurous activities, whether locally based or delivered by external providers.
- Transition, enrichment, and reward activities involving travel away from the school site.

The policy covers all staff members, volunteers, external leaders, and contractors involved in the planning or supervision of offsite visits. It must be followed in conjunction with other relevant policies, including safeguarding, health and safety, behaviour, first aid, and emergency procedures.

5. 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.'

6. Roles and Responsibilities

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 Headteacher may require authorisation for an Offsite Educational visit to be given by the representatives of the proprietors, the Regional Lead.

Headteacher:

The Headteacher 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 Headteacher 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 Headteacher to ensure that the EVC is carrying out their role effectively, correctly and in accordance with this policy. The Headteacher 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 Headteacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, students and parents/carers are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the Regional Lead 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 school 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 (Tracey Pinder) 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 Headteacher.

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 Headteacher 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 Headteacher with approval of visits and other decisions.
- Supporting the Headteacher 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 Headteacher.

The Visit Leader will be the single contact point for the Headteacher 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.

7. Procedural Requirements

All visits must be planned with proportionate attention to: purpose and outcomes; group needs; supervision model; competence; venue/provider checks; transport; first aid/medical; safeguarding; communications; contingency (Plan B); and emergency planning.

A risk assessment will be needed for certain activities completed by employees. These will include the following:

- Work at height (see Work at Height procedure)
- Work by young and inexperienced persons (see Young Person procedure)
- Work by new and expectant mothers (see New and Expectant Mothers procedure)
- Cash handling



- Workstations (see DSE procedure)
- Hazardous substances (see COSHH procedure)
- Manual handling (see Manual Handling procedure)
- Use of power tools
- Use of hazardous equipment (e.g. running lines, gantries etc)
- Security patrols
- Work by maintenance employees
- Gutter cleaning

Individual Pupil Risk Assessments

- Individual behaviour for pupils
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) & medical needs
- Mobility and accessibility assessments (for pupils using wheelchairs, walkers, etc.)

Environment & Premises

- Playground and outdoor learning spaces
- Specialist sensory rooms (equipment, weight limits, supervision)
- Swimming pools / hydrotherapy pools
- Minibuses and school transport
- Classroom layout and furniture safety
- Maintenance and contractor safety rules

Trips, Visits & Off-Site Activities

- General Educational Visits risk assessment
- Individual pupil-specific adjustments for trips
- Water-based activities
- Farm / animal visits
- Residential trips

Emergency & Crisis Management

- Fire evacuation and refuge point planning for disabled pupils
- Weather-related risks (snow, heatwaves)
- Major incident planning

Who is responsible for completing them?

- The Group Compliance & Regulation Director has overall responsibility for management of health and safety.
- Registered Managers/School Heads will be responsible for ensuring that risk assessments are completed for all relevant tasks.

What needs to be done?

- Only trained employees who have been authorised by the Registered Manager/School Heads can complete risk assessments.
- Identify the activities which need to be assessed. These should all be listed on a risk assessment register.



- There should already be risk assessments and/or care plans for individuals receiving services from Cambian. These will contain specific control measures in relation to the hazards presented by individuals and their control. Relevant employees should understand and follow these control measures.
- There is a bank of generic risk assessments which is held on Cambian Point. This includes a range of maintenance, catering and cleaning related assessments. These assessments should be made specific to site circumstances.
- For specific works activities, including work which is different to that normally completed, use the blank Task Risk Assessment form attached. Remember to sign and date it.
- Ensure that additional risk controls identified are implemented. Remember that physical controls should take precedence over management, PPE and signage.
- Use the risk rating table at Appendix 1, to assist in quantifying the risk and whether it is safe to proceed.
- Where the risk assessment identifies that a task is not safe to proceed, then work should not commence until appropriate control measures have been identified and implemented.
- Explain the contents of the risk assessment to any employees carrying out the relevant work. Ensure they sign the form to confirm they understand the contents.
- Where the work involves designated high risk work, e.g. hot work, then the Permit to Work Procedure will need to be followed.
- Completed risk assessments should be systematically filed and kept for a minimum of three years.
- Each assessment should be reviewed annually and amended as appropriate.

8. Approval and Authorisation Procedures

8a. 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 include the capabilities of the individual pupil members participating in the visit and consider how their own individual needs and risks might (or not) have an effect when applied to the proposed activity or venue. This is done by using the risk assessment for the individual and school 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)

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.

8b. 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 Headteacher 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).

All staff involved in off-site activities are expected to maintain the same high professional standards as when in school. See our Staff Code of Conduct Policy.

8c. 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.

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.'

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.

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.

Accessibility and participation

The school ethos supports inclusion and participation in all areas of school, including off-site visits. We encourage integration through participation with peers. All visits must comply with the Equality Act 2012. Staff must plan early to overcome any accessibility and participation issues. Reasonable adjustments must be made to accommodate any young person with disabilities as long as the adjustments don't unduly impinge on the rest of the group. Expectations of staff must be reasonable, so that what is required of them is within their competence and is reasonable. Staff should discuss any issues with the EVC, the SENCo and where appropriate the Head Teacher or Regional Lead. The views of the young person and the parent/carers should be included in the discussion.

9. Offsite Educational Visits Process

9a. 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 Headteacher /EVC for consideration;
- The Headteacher/EVC will consider the activity summary and decide whether the visit is viable.
- If the visit is considered viable the Headteacher /EVC will give provisional approval;
- If this approval is given, then the Headteacher /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 Headteacher /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 regularly, 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.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL OFFSITE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES MUST UNDERGO THIS APPROVAL AND PLANNING PROCESS PRIOR TO THEM TAKING PLACE

9b. 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 Headteacher 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.

9c. 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.

Behaviour - Young people will be expected to follow the usual school rules while on Off-site Visits. Any inappropriate behaviour will be managed in accordance with our Behaviour Policy, this may lead to the cancelling of the visit. Where possible the young people will be involved in setting up manual tasks so that they can retain some ownership. The school will continue with the mobile phone ban whilst on off-site visits. Any incidents will be recorded and reported on Behaviour Watch.

9d. 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.

9e. 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.

9f. 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 Headteacher 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 Headteacher /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.

9g. 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 (Headteacher / 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.

9h. 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 Headteacher, 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. Any issues to be discussed with the Headteacher.

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.

Off-site work experience:



Linton School works with local businesses to provide work related experience as part of their curriculum. The school will first make contact with suitable/relevant businesses to firstly ascertain if they are willing to work with a local school to provide such experience. Points of contact will be made should they be open to providing this service. A visit will then be made by SLT to the business to assess its suitability and safety of our pupils. A meeting will be held at this time to come to a mutual understanding of the requirements needed for the placement to succeed. Once successfully completed a DBS check will be carried out by our Head Office for any staff working with the pupil(s). Once completed work can begin. Linton staff will transport the pupil(s) to and from the placement unless otherwise arranged with carers/parents and still provide lunch. Only when both the placement and pupil are comfortable will staff leave the premises, this could be after the first day of work or after several weeks. School staff will then make random visits each term to check in with points of contact, this is on top of regular phones to the placement.

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.

NOTE: That any safeguarding concern relating to child protection arising out of a visit MUST be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the School immediately.

10. 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 2027

11. 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