



Learning Outside the Classroom Policy

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Introduction

Clapham and Patching CofE primary School provides a wealth of opportunities for its children to learn and develop through Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) activities and visits. We recognise and celebrate the key role they play in the development of an active curriculum. This encompasses both on-site and off-site learning, residential activities, environmental studies, sports, physical and cultural activities and adventurous activities. Through our core values of Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Community and Excellence we aim to ensure every member of our school community regularly accesses LOtC activities throughout their curriculum and that LOtC is considered as a very important part of our school life.

The value of LOtC activities and visits are well recognised by the Governing Body and fully supported throughout the school by all staff. It is emphasised that a culture of safety must prevail and there is a need for careful planning and adherence to statutory procedures. The safety culture is such that children and young people are encouraged and supported to recognise hazards and manage risk in a way that supports their learning and development. Learning Outside the Classroom must be well managed with information communicated and responsibilities recognised as with any other learning that takes place within the school.

This document outlines the specific policies and procedures for Clapham and Patching CofE Primary School. It supplements and follows the advice and guidance contained within the following significant publications:

- WSCC's Regulations and Notes of Guidance for Learning Outside the Classroom Activities and Visits.
- WSCC's Adventurous Activities Reference Document.
- The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance Health and Safety on Education Visits www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits
- OEAP National Guidance www.oeapng.info.
- DfE advice on health & safety: responsibilities and duties for schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-advice-for-schools>
- The Health and Safety Executive statement: "School Trips and Outdoor Learning Activities –Tackling the Health & Safety myths. available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/school-trips.pdf>

Roles and responsibilities

The **Governing Body** satisfies itself that the appropriate procedures, risk management processes and control measures are in place and that the documented guidance notes are being followed. All residential experiences need to be approved by the Governing Body. Such approval must be recorded in the minutes of the Governing Body.



The **Headteacher** Justine Chubb is delegated by the Governing Body to approve all LOtC activities and off-site educational visits of a low risk, local, daily or regular nature. This is recorded through use of the Local Area Visit form on EVOLVE/ an Internal Permission/Cover Arrangements/Checklist form.

The **Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC)** Justine Chubb ensures that all LOtC activities and visits follow the correct procedures. She will approve the Visit Leadership Team for every visit and monitor the risk management processes to ensure good practice. In addition, the following responsibilities and duties are undertaken:

- Support the Visit Leader in identifying the purpose and outcomes for the visit and the selection, training and briefing of appropriate supervising adults and volunteer helpers. It is important to consider the continuing professional development needs of staff engaged in these activities.
- Ensure that Disclosure and Barring Scheme disclosures are in place, where necessary.
- Arrange Emergency Contact Duty Officer and draw up proper procedures to be followed in such an event
- Keep records and make reports of incidents, accidents and 'near misses'.
- Review and regularly monitor policies and procedures.
- Liaise with the Outdoor Education Adviser where necessary to ensure the proposed visit complies with the WSCC policies for Learning Outside the Classroom.

The **Visits Leader** is responsible for identifying the purpose and outcomes for the visit. Significant hazards and their control measures will need to be recorded and attached to the EVOLVE visit form (available at <http://www.westsussexvisits.org>).

This will take account of:

- Generic hazards.
- Event specific hazards as identified from a pre-visit or through knowledge or experience of the environment, accommodation, the competence of the staff team, the group and other factors such as transport.
- On-going hazards identified by the professional staff responding to changing circumstances and the success of planned activity and procedures. The participants and staff will be fully briefed on the purpose, outcomes and the risk management process.
- All policies that exist within the school that must be applied when working off- site, for example safeguarding, behaviour policy, managing medicines etc.



Guidance notes for LOtC activities and off-site visits

To ensure good practice and compliance with the necessary regulations it is expected that:

All Visit Leaders will familiarise themselves with the published advice and guidance.

Further information is available from the EVOLVE website (www.westsussexvisits.org).

Training for staff will be arranged by the school to include all aspects of supervision, on-going risk management (including being prepared to stop an activity that has become too hazardous) and how to deal with an emergency. Access to such training is also available through the Outdoor Education Adviser.

In order to plan LOtC activities and visits the EVC should be involved in discussing plans at an early stage. Routine or local visits such as sports fixtures also need to be planned. It may be possible to approve a series of events on a termly basis. No financial commitment should be agreed until all relevant approvals have been achieved. See

Parental Consent and contact details must be available for the Emergency Contact and the Visit Leader to take on the visit. This can include digital copies and may utilise IT solutions including the EVOLVEgo App.

The Local Area Visit Form available on EVOLVE is used to approve regular, low risk or routine visits such as sports fixtures.

An EVOLVE Visit form must be completed for all residential visits, visits abroad, visits out of county and or for all adventurous activities whether on-site or off-site. The form will need to be submitted to the LA, four weeks in advance of the activity or visit date and before the school becomes financially committed. Residential visits need the Governing Body's approval. School Journey Insurance should be purchased for educational visits and evidence should be attached to the EVOLVE form. Visit Leaders should avoid duplicate of cover being provided by a tour operator, or external provider.

The OE2 form provides information on what WSCC expects an external provider to provide and deliver. It should be sent to any provider being considered for the first time and attached to the EVOLVE form as evidence of the planning process. Please note WSCC 'check' a number providers who are regularly used by WSCC establishments, these providers are listed on EVOLVE as 'checked' in addition providers who hold the LOtC Quality Badge are considered as suitable to offer activities and have achieved a nationally recognised accreditation.

On return the Visit Leader must report to the EVC and, where necessary, an evaluation report should be completed to support any learning about a 'near miss' or where an incident took place. If such a form was completed at the venue, there is a need to place such an occurrence on the record at the 'home' establishment.



In addition, it is highly recommended that an evaluation of the visit's purpose and outcomes is carried out to review the learning achieved and educational value. If it is possible, within 28 days, to record this through the EVOVE visit form.

Risk management forms should be completed and attached to the EVOLVE form when risks are perceived as significant. External providers will have their own risk management documents that can be used to help in this process. For certain activities an Adventurous Activity Licence is legally required (see www.hse.gov.uk/aala). If this is the case, the provider's licence number should be quoted instead of copies of their risk assessment documentation.

Providers that hold a Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) Quality Badge have been externally assessed and are acceptable as a 'checked' provider on the EVOLVE site.



Appendix I

