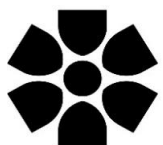


Educational Visits Policy

Approved by:	Trust Board	Date: June 2025
Adopted by:	LGCs	Date: June 2025
Last reviewed on:	N/A	
Next review due by:	Summer 2028	



Contents

Contents	2
1. Aims and scope	2
2. Legislation and guidance	3
3. Roles and responsibilities	3
4. Planning and preparation	5
5. Risk assessment	6
6. Volunteers	7
7. Communication and consent	8
8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting	8
9. Charging and insurance	9
10. Residential visits	9
11. Review	10
12. Links with other policies	10
Appendix 1: risk assessment template	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix 2: volunteer code of conduct	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Context, Aims and Scope

The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust (LWCET) values educational visits as an essential aspect of our pupils' personal and academic growth. All visits should nurture our core Catholic values, including inclusivity, respect, and faith. We strive for educational visits that promote academic learning, social development, cultural awareness, and life skills. Each visit, regardless of its nature, should be aligned with our commitment to providing an enriching and inclusive experience for all students.

Educational visits are activities arranged by, or on behalf of, a school within our Trust, which require pupils to leave the school premises, having been authorised to do so by the headteacher or other designated member of staff.

Educational visits are a valuable way to supplement and enhance classroom learning by exposing pupils to real-world environments where academic concepts come to life. These experiences broaden their educational horizons and provide enriching social and cultural interactions that deepen their understanding of diverse communities. In addition, they cultivate essential life skills, promote independent learning and critical thinking, and lay a strong foundation for lifelong curiosity and personal growth.

This policy sets out our approach to planning and operating educational visits, to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff, and to make sure that our visits are available to all pupils. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff, pupils and volunteers when it comes to visits.

This policy applies to activities taking place within and outside of normal school hours, including weekends and holiday periods. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Visits to places of interest in the local area
- Day visits to places such as museums and other cultural and educational institutions as well as regular visits to local places of interest such as the church.

- Sporting activities
- Adventurous and recreational activities
- Residential trips organised by the school
- Trips abroad organised by the school

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#), and the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)

Sections of this policy are also based on the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Headteacher

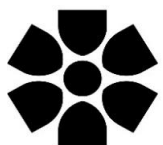
The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Appointing an Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) – this may be the Headteacher themselves where appropriate
- Approving staff requests for educational visits, including having final authority for visits of less than 24 hours
- Working with the Local Governing Committee (LGC) to approve residential visits lasting more than 24 hours
- Ensuring that staff involved in educational visits, including the EVC and visit leaders, have received appropriate training and support
- Note: In some schools, the Headteacher may also act as the EVC. Where this is the case, they must ensure they fulfil the full remit of the EVC role as outlined below, in addition to their Headteacher responsibilities.

3.2 Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC)

Each school will appoint a member of staff to act as the EVC. The EVC is responsible for:

- Supporting and guiding staff in the planning and organisation of educational visits
- Assessing the competence of staff to lead visits and designating an appropriate Visit Leader for each trip
- Assessing the suitability and safety of external providers
- Advising the Headteacher and LGC during the trip approval process



Little Way Catholic Educational Trust

- Undertaking and maintaining up-to-date training relevant to the role
- Evaluating visits after they take place – including planning, risk assessments, and outcomes – and using learning to improve future practice

Dual Role: The EVC role may be held by the Headteacher, a Deputy Headteacher, or another senior member of staff with appropriate experience and capacity. The person fulfilling this role must have sufficient authority and knowledge to carry out the duties outlined above.

3.3 Trip lead

Every educational visit will have 1 member of staff designated as the trip lead. The trip lead will:

- Make a preliminary visit in order to find out about safety, toilets etc. where possible.
- Plan the proposed visit, taking into account the health and safety risks to pupils, staff and volunteers
- Assign staff and volunteer roles, as needed and within agreed ratios
- Make sure the school has accurate and up-to-date information about the trip destination, to be used in risk assessments
- Make sure the needs of everyone taking part are considered, including co-ordinating any additional support needed
- Make sure parents and carers are given accurate information about educational visits, including any costs or necessary equipment not supplied by the school or a third party
- Communicate key details about the visit and all locations to staff, pupils and parents/carers, including roles and responsibilities and expected behaviour
- Make sure staff and volunteers are capable and able to fulfil their roles at all times while responsible for pupils and others

3.4 Staff

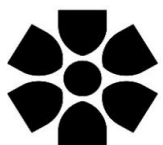
Staff have a responsibility to make sure all pupils and staff who take part in visits are kept safe and understand the proper way to prepare for trips, as well as how to act while taking part. Staff will:

- Seek and obtain approval for all educational visits from the headteacher
- Carry out any required risk assessments and work with the trip lead
- Communicate with parents and carers and make sure trips are inclusive of all pupils' needs
- Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them
- Help manage pupil behaviour and discipline as required while on the visit
- Share any concerns or worries with the trip lead and others, as appropriate

3.5 Parents and carers

By agreeing that pupils can take part in educational visits, parents/carers agree that they will:

- Provide all information required, such as emergency contact details and health/medicine information if applicable
- Sign and return consent forms and any other documentation required in a timely manner



- Share any concerns or information about the pupil that may affect or impact their ability to safely take part in the trip

3.6 Volunteers

Volunteers attending school trips, including parent volunteers, agree to:

- Follow the directions of staff and act accordingly
- Behave appropriately and model good behaviour for pupils
- Report any concerns to the trip lead or other staff present as soon as possible
- Make sure pupils under their supervision are acting safely and appropriately, and raise any issues with staff as soon as possible

3.7 Pupils

Our school behaviour policy also applies to all educational visits. This includes the expectation that pupils will:

- Follow instructions given to them while on the trip
- Dress and behave as expected for the length of the trip
- Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others, reporting any concerns to a staff member or trip supervisor

Pupils will always be reminded of each school's behaviour expectations before going off-site for a visit, and will be expected to uphold the school's behaviour policy at all times.

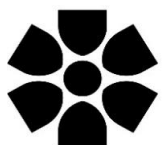
4. Planning and preparation

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by the Headteacher and based on factors including:

- Cost (including any potential cost to parents/carers)
- Timing in the school year and any potential clashes
- Educational purpose and value
- Disruption to the normal running of the school
- Health and safety considerations
- Staff-to-pupil ratio
- Inclusion and accessibility

As part of the planning stage, information will be gathered by staff proposing the visit, including:

- Location and travel distance
- Travel plans or options
- Full cost breakdown, including multiple options where available
- Resources, including staffing, volunteers, and physical supplies
- Accommodation options, where needed
- Insurance detailed, where needed



- Risk assessment plans and first aid provision
- What safety measures can be put in place in order to reduce any risks

In cases where a trip involves activities for more than 24 hours, an overnight stay and/or travel overseas, the headteacher will seek approval of the governing board.

Once the risk assessment has been approved by the headteacher, staff will communicate with parents/carers and provide trip information.

Written parental consent will be required for trips that take place outside of normal school hours, and for any trips requiring a higher-than-normal level of risk assessment.

Consent for ordinary trips within the school may be sought by the school either on a trip by trip basis or upon a child's entry to school.

We will evaluate each visit after its conclusion, from the planning through to the visit itself, to continually improve the planning and experience of our future visits.

4.1. Inclusion

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all pupils, regardless of background or ability, can participate in educational visits so long as it is safe for them to do so. Schools will make reasonable adjustments to ensure students with SEND or medical needs have the necessary support. This may include adjusting the visit itinerary, providing additional staff support, or modifying the venue to accommodate specific requirements. All medical information and any special needs considerations will be thoroughly reviewed as part of the risk assessment process.

SEND

If a pupil with a disability or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or any other specific needs (e.g. medical conditions including allergies) is participating in the visit, they will have the same support that is available to them during the school day.

We will adjust the trip programme where necessary, working with parents/carers to provide additional support, making reasonable adjustments to itineraries, providing additional support staff, and other adjustments as appropriate.

Additional risk assessments may be carried out to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils.

Challenging behaviour

In some cases, it may be reasonable and necessary to prevent a pupil with challenging behaviour from going on a trip to protect their safety and the safety of the other pupils attending.

We will consider all reasonable options to help the pupil go on the trip safely, such as adapting the trip itinerary and increasing staffing numbers so the pupil can be supervised on a 1:1 basis.

5. Risk assessment

We will carry out a full risk assessment at least 2 weeks before the start of all trips.

This will be completed using the individual school's risk assessment template or portal and approved by the EVC. In absence of these, appendix 1 may be used. Existing risk assessments or those provided by the destination itself might also be used to support this process.

The risk assessment will include any specific medical issues and allergies (for staff and pupils), the role of additional support on the visit, specified activities to be carried out, as well as risks associated with transport to and from the destination.

Where practical, staff may make a preliminary visit to the trip destination as part of the planning and risk assessment process,

Trip leads will raise any concerns or questions about potential risks and safety measures with the headteacher and, where appropriate, third party vendors.

Every risk assessment will be approved by the EVC and a copy taken on the visit.

5.1 Staff ratios and first aid

Risk assessments for each visit will ascertain the safe level of supervision required. On all educational visits, we will make sure:

- All staff and volunteers are briefed on the risk assessment prior to the trip leaving the school
- At least 1 supervising adult able to administer first aid is present on all trips
- For EYFS trips: at least 1 qualified paediatric first aider is present on all trips
- Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the school's first aid and health and safety policies
- All supervising adults will be made aware of any medical issues or allergies at the start of the trip
- Adults without a DBS check will not be left alone with pupils at any time
- The trip lead will take regular headcounts and/or rollcalls

Suggested ratios are below but these will always be guided by the needs of the children attending the trip and the nature of the trip itself:

Foundation Stage = 1 adult to every 4 children

Years 1-3 = 1 adult to every 6 children

Year 4 = 1 adult to every 10 children

Year 5-6 = 1 adult to every 15 children

5.2 Transport

Transportation for trips will be organised by the school, in line with our safety procedures. We will make sure pupils, staff and volunteers are transported safely and efficiently, with the required first aid provision.

Unless previously agreed with parents, transport for visits will leave from, and return to, the school site.

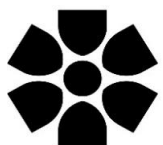
5.3 Use of external organisations

As part of the risk assessment process, we will check that any external organisations providing an activity have appropriate safety standards and liability insurance.

This includes checking that organisations hold the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge. Where an organisation does not, we will check additional details as outlined in the DfE's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#) to make sure it's an appropriate organisation to use.

We will have a written agreement in place with each external organisation outlining what everyone is responsible for during the activity.

6. Volunteers



Where appropriate, parents and carers may be asked to volunteer to attend and supervise pupils alongside staff members on trips. Where more parents/carers volunteer than required on the visit, those invited to attend will be selected as fairly and transparently as possible, whilst taking into consideration:

- The needs of the pupils going on the trip
- The setting and circumstances of the trip
- Volunteers' skills, attitude and past behaviour, including previous volunteer experience

Parents/carers selected to volunteer will be informed at least 2 working days before the trip where this is possible and asked to confirm their attendance. They will also be asked to confirm they agree with the expected behaviour. See appendix 2 for our volunteer code of conduct for educational visits.

Volunteers will receive a full briefing from staff members on the day of the visit, prior to departure, including on their responsibilities, expected behaviour, the process for raising concerns, emergency procedures and contact details, and the expected timetable of the trip.

Where practical and as required by the nature of visits (i.e. when volunteers may be left with children without staff members present), volunteers may be asked or required to undergo safeguarding checks, including DBS checks.

At no point will volunteers on whom no safeguarding checks have been carried out be left alone with pupils or given sole responsibility for the care of a pupil.

7. Communication and consent

We will contact the parents and carers of pupils invited to take part in an educational visit as far in advance of the trip as possible. Communication will be via the usual route for each Trust school and information provided will include the date, travel times, destination, purpose of the visit, and the size of the group attending.

We will also communicate:

- Times and details of travel, including drop-off and pick-up times and location
- Pupil-to-staff ratios and staff qualifications, where relevant
- Clothing and equipment required, and whether this is provided by the school
- Expected behaviour and consequences of pupils' failure to meet these standards

Where required, parents/carers will be asked to provide written consent for educational visits by signing and dating a form to be returned to the school either in paper form or electronically.

Because most visits during the school day will be part of the curriculum, we will not always need written consent. However, we will always inform parents/carers as above about any off-site visits, and give an opportunity for them to withdraw their child.

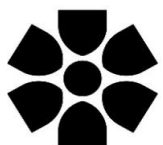
Parents/carers will also be asked to provide current and relevant medical information and dietary requirements, as well as emergency contact numbers where they can be reached.

In the case of overseas trips, they will be asked to provide passport information and European Health Insurance Card or UK Global Health Insurance Card information, if available.

8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting

Generally, emergency planning will be defined as planning for:

- Serious and unexpected risk



Little Way Catholic Educational Trust

- Serious and life-threatening injury
- Individuals going missing
- A serious breach of safeguarding expectations

The trip leader will be familiar with these plans for each visit.

In the case of an emergency, the trip leader or other supervising adult will contact the school office. The school office will then contact parents/carers as required, and inform them of changes to plans or cancellations of trips and/or alternative travel plans. This will form part of a wider communication plan that covers how routine communications should be handled in such situations.

One member of staff will always accompany a pupil seeking medical treatment.

In a case of a pupil being unaccounted for, the trip leader will search the area while another member of staff remains in charge of other pupils. In the unlikely event that a pupil cannot be found within 30 minutes, the trip leader will contact the school office who will notify the parents/carers. The trip leader will then contact the police and provide them with the relevant information so they can take over the search, staying with them to comfort the pupil when found. The remaining staff and adults will return to the school with the rest of the pupils.

All incidents and accidents will be reported in line with our health and safety policy, including required reporting to Ofsted and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Smaller incidents, accidents or near misses that do not require external reporting will still be covered by an internal report, to include steps that can be taken in the future to avoid similar incidents.

There will also be a clear process for evaluating all visits and trips once they have been concluded from the planning through to the visit itself. This will help with evaluating whether planning worked and to learn from any incidents that took place.

9. Charging and insurance

We will follow our school's charging and remissions policy at all times.

Parents/carers won't be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place during school hours. They also won't be asked to pay for any educational visit that takes place outside of school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination, or religious education.

Where necessary, we may ask for a voluntary contribution to the costs of educational visits, but this will be entirely optional (except for residential visits) and will not affect pupils' ability to take part fully in the trip. It may however be necessary to cancel a trip if adequate contributions are not made.

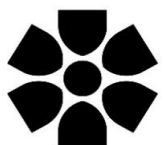
We will make sure adequate insurance is in place for all trips, including, but not limited to: cancellation insurance for contracts with external providers, travel insurance, accident and medical cover, and loss of luggage and other personal items.

In line with the Trust's core offer to tackle disadvantage, schools will work with parents/carers to give as much time as possible to make contributions towards a trip. This includes putting payment plans in place if it is helpful to parents who would like to make a contribution.

10. Residential visits

The headteacher, together with the governing board, will approve all residential trips longer than 24 hours.

The planning and preparation laid out in this policy will apply to residential visits as well as 1-day visits. In addition, the trip lead will make sure:



Little Way Catholic Educational Trust

- Staff have received any necessary training
- All necessary permissions and medical forms are obtained at least 2 weeks before the start of the trip
- All adults, including volunteers, have had adequate safeguarding checks. Where appropriate – e.g. if the volunteer will be in direct unsupervised contact with pupils – this will include relevant DBS checks

Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission at least 1 month before the first day of the visit. Information shared with parents will include:

- The dates and time of departure and return to school
- The full address and contact details of the destination
- Planned activities and options
- Meal provision
- Costs and optional charges, including deposits and the date by which this must be received, in line with our charging and remissions policy (this will include information about exemptions)
- Clothing and equipment provided, and what pupils must bring themselves
- Public health requirements, including any required vaccinations
- Accommodation options and arrangements
- The names of staff attending

For visits abroad, we will make sure that any organisation providing activities holds the LOfC Quality badge or similar local accreditation. We will follow the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas travel guidance](#) and [foreign travel advice](#) when organising these visits.

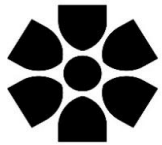
11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Trust board in consultation with the Headteacher and LGC of each school.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Charging and remissions policy
- Behaviour policy
- Child protection policy
- First aid policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special educational needs (SEN) policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy



Appendix 1 – RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Trip destination:

Children and adults involved:

Assessor:

Checked by:

HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED AND HOW?	WHAT ARE YOU ALREADY DOING?	DO YOU NEED TO DO ANYTHING ELSE TO CONTROL THIS RISK?	ACTION: WHO?	ACTION: WHEN?	DONE
E.g. slips and falls caused by wet floor	Pupils and staff	Appropriate footwear to be worn, first aid kit to be carried at all times	Follow additional instructions from destination staff as appropriate	Trip leader	Duration of trip	

Appendix 2: volunteer behaviour and code of conduct

This code of conduct sets out the expected behaviour for volunteers attending school trips. Volunteers should read and agree to these expectations while acting on behalf of the school. If you feel you cannot agree with this code, please speak to the trip leader or Headteacher at the earliest opportunity and withdraw from the trip.

Volunteers agree to:

- Remain professional and respectful with staff and pupils at all times
- Listen to and act on instructions from staff
- Dress appropriately for the trip
- Arrive at the agreed time and remain until the trip is concluded and they are told they may leave by staff
- Pay attention to potential dangers and raise concerns with staff
- Act responsibly and demonstrate good behaviour to pupils
- Report any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a pupil to staff as soon as possible

Volunteers agree not to:

- Exchange contact details with pupils unless told to by a member of staff
- Engage in physical contact with pupils unless appropriate or required
- Share inappropriate personal information (i.e. personal beliefs, religious views, relationship status, political views)
- Use demeaning, offensive, abusive or insensitive language
- Smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) for the duration of the visit
- Allow themselves to be left alone with a pupil unless previously agreed with staff
- Take photographs or record pupils without the permission of pupils and staff
- Use mobile phones in the presence of the children unless specifically asked to by a member of staff

Signed.....

Print Name

Date