

Three Counties Academy Trust



Educational Visits and School Trips Policy

#G1

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Statement of intent

Three Counties Academy Trust understands that visits and trips can be effective ways of motivating our pupils, and they can often offer unique educational experiences. The Trust aims to ensure that pupils are engaged in their learning and are given opportunities to explore this in a more practical setting.

The Trust takes the health and wellbeing of our staff and pupils very seriously. This policy has been designed in line with DfE and HSE guidance and details our responsibilities for pupils and staff members while out on educational visits and school trips.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'
- DfE (2013) 'Driving school minibuses'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Policy and Procedures
- Conduct for Learning (Behaviour) Policy
- Business Continuity Plan
- Health and Safety Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Minibus Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy
- DBS Policy

2. Definitions

'In loco parentis' means that the group leader of any school trip or educational visit has a duty of care over the pupils in place of a parent.

'School trip' means any educational visit, foreign exchange trip, away-day or residential holiday organised by the Trust or school which takes pupils and staff members off-site.

'Residential' means any school trip which includes an overnight stay.

Activities of an **'adventurous nature'** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Trekking
- Caving
- Skiing
- Water sports
- Climbing

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Trust Board is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy
- Ensuring that this policy complies with the Equality Act 2010
- Ensuring educational trips and visits positively impact on pupils' lives, teaching them life skills and providing new experiences

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy
- Appointing an Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC), liaising with the LA appointed visits lead for the Evolve system as necessary
- Liaising with the EVC and communicating information regarding any planned trips to parents
- Liaising with the Trust Board regarding the organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities, including settling any disputes
- Being part of the approval process for extra-curricular trips and activities
- Ensuring the EVC is competent to oversee the coordination of off-site education and arranging for training to be undertaken, as necessary
- Completing or reviewing relevant paperwork, including risk assessments, for extra-curricular trips and activities
- Ensuring suitable safety measures are in place prior to each trip or activity
- Overseeing the work of the EVC, ensuring a Trust approach is adopted when planning and coordinating extra-curricular trips and activities
- Ensuring there are contingency plans in place in the event of a member of staff being absent on the day of the trip or activity

The EVC is responsible for:

- Overseeing all issues and controls regarding extra-curricular activities and trips
- Liaising between all appropriate parties, including the local outdoor education adviser, during the planning and organising of extra-curricular activities and trips
- Ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy
- Partaking in relevant additional training to ensure they remain up to date with relevant educational trip information and health and safety guidance
- Overseeing the planning of the educational trips, by ensuring all essential documentation, including risk assessments, is up to date and appropriate for completion by the Designated Trip Leader
- Appointing an appropriate and competent member of staff to be the Designated Trip Leader for each trip if required to do so
- Ensuring the competency of the Designated Trip Leader, in consultation with the Executive Headteacher/Head of School, by organising training for staff and volunteers
- Ensuring that the requirements of this policy are carried out across all schools

The Designated Trip Leader selected to be in charge on an individual trip is 'in loco parentis' and has a duty of care to all pupils on the trip. They are also responsible for:

- Identifying the educational purpose of the extra-curricular trip or activity and presenting its benefits to the Executive Headteacher/Head of School
- Undertaking any relevant training or courses which are arranged by the EVC
- Completing all essential documentation for the trip and ensuring it has been approved by the EVC
- Conducting a risk assessment prior to school trips and educational visits to ensure pupil and staff safety
- Creating an itinerary prior to an educational visit or school trip and distributing it to pupils, parents, and staff to ensure the day is well organised and safe

- Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity a minimum of four weeks in advance and distributing permission slips to parents
- Implementing safeguarding measures throughout the planning, organisation and delivery of the extra-curricular trip or activity
- Ensuring all adults on the trip are aware of their responsibilities and that the necessary checks have been carried out on volunteers in line with the DBS Policy
- Ensuring all information is available and accurately loaded via the Evolve site (https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/evco10/evchome_public.asp?domain=herefordshirevisits.org.uk) and has passed all levels of checking before the trip departs

The Designated Deputy Trip Leader supports the Designated Trip Leader and will assume the Designated Trip Leader's responsibilities if the Designated Trip Leader is no longer fit to lead the trip, e.g., is unwell at short notice. They are also responsible for supporting the Designated Trip Leader in completing all their relevant responsibilities by assuming any delegated tasks.

Staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities
- Ensuring they are competent and comfortable with their delegated responsibilities, undertaking training where necessary
- Ensuring the safety of the pupils is maximised throughout any educational visit or activity

Volunteers on the trip are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities
- Supervising and ensuring the safety of pupils by following the procedures outlined by the Designated Trip Leader

4. Planning school trips

Prior to planning a school trip, the following guidance will be read by the organisers:

- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety on educational visits'
- HSE (2011) 'School trips and outdoor learning activities'

A thorough risk assessment will be conducted by the Designated Trip Leader during the planning of the trip, to ensure pupil and staff safety.

When partaking in adventure trips, activities will always be identified at the planning stage and never added during the trip. When planning water sport activities, the need for instructors and lifeguards will be taken into account, particularly when using facilities which may not have a trained lifeguard present.

The Trust will do everything in its power to ensure that all pupils are given an opportunity to participate in school trips, for example, organising two trips with a smaller group size or finding a venue which can cater for all pupils. Where there is a maximum capacity of pupils for a trip,

places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This will be clearly communicated to parents.

When planning an educational trip or activity, the Trust Board or Local Governing Body where delegated will ensure the trip does not discriminate against a particular individual, group of pupils or single school. School trips will be agreed upon at Board level before any formal plans have been implemented. Each school will have an equal opportunity to participate in a pre-planned trip or activity. Any disputes relating to pre-planned educational trips or activities will be discussed and resolved at Board level.

5. Risk assessment process

Our risk assessment process is designed to manage risks when planning trips, while ensuring that learning opportunities are experienced to the fullest extent. The individual carrying out the risk assessment process will have the skills, status and competence needed for the role, understand the risks involved, and be familiar with the activity.

The process is as follows:

- Identify the hazards
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- Record findings and implement them
- Review assessment and update if necessary

A risk assessment will be conducted for each school trip before it is undertaken to identify hazards and control measures specific to the trip. Evolve carries a range of pre-prepared risk assessments for Trust staff use, however, these must be reviewed in full and applied specifically to the planned trip or visit.

6. Vetting providers

When considering external providers for activities, the Designated Trip Leader or EVC will check whether they hold the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge' to indicate they meet nationally recognised standards.

If a provider does not hold the badge, the Designated Trip Leader or EVC will check the following to ensure they are a suitable organisation to work with:

- Their insurance arrangements
- Their adherence to legal requirements
- Their control measures
- Their use of vehicles
- Staff competency levels
- Safeguarding policies
- The suitability of their accommodation
- Any sub-contracting arrangements in place
- The presence of necessary licences

If it is deemed appropriate to engage with an external provider, a written agreement will be created outlining what each party is responsible for. If an organisation does not meet the Trust's standards, they will not be considered.

7. Equal opportunities

The Trust promotes values of equality and does not discriminate against any individual or group of pupils when organising a trip. The extra-curricular trips and activities offered to pupils will provide new experiences and develop life skills. Extra-curricular trips and activities are organised, managed, and conducted in accordance with the Trust's Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.

Trips are allocated on the following basis:

- Where a trip has the places for the number of pupils who wish to attend then all pupils will be offered a place
- Where a trip is oversubscribed, the school will seek to secure extra capacity so that all pupils can attend. Where this is not possible then all pupils who have returned their permission slips and payments within a period of 7 days (not including school holidays) will be drawn by way of a lottery until all places available have been allocated, remaining pupils will be entered onto a waiting list in the order they were drawn in any such lottery

To accommodate this system, no place on a school trip is guaranteed until parents have received confirmation from the school that the place is secured.

Where possible, pupils will be given the opportunity to contribute to the planning and organisation of extra-curricular trips and activities.

For school trips that require additional payment, the fee will be reasonable, and help will be provided where possible for pupils who cannot afford the initial fee in line with our Charging and Remissions Policy.

8. Transport

The health and safety officer is responsible for arranging the annual maintenance of the minibuses, including MOTs and road tax. The use of minibuses will be organised in accordance with the Minibus Policy.

The driver will have a current driving licence, be aged 25 years or over and hold a full licence in at least a category D PCV in order to drive on a domestic school trip. Category B PCVs may be acceptable in certain circumstances, as outlined in the Minibus Policy. Before driving abroad, the EVC will contact the LA for guidance on which licence is required. Drivers will complete the relevant form from the Trust Finance Office and supply a photocopy of their driving licence.

If passengers are paying a charge, the minibus permit must be clearly displayed in the vehicle. Internal damage to the minibus is the responsibility of the individual or organisation using the minibus. The Trust will decide who is responsible for covering the cost of any repairs. The minibus will carry strictly one person per seat and seatbelts must be worn at all times. Fines

incurred will be paid by whoever was driving the minibus at the time the offence was committed.

Start and finish mileage, along with any potential risks, defects or damage identified, will be reported upon return to the Trust. A list of Trust staff permitted to drive Trust minibuses is maintained by the Chief Financial Officer

9. Parental consent

Parental consent is not generally required for off-site activities that take place during school hours but is often sought as a courtesy.

Written consent **is** required for:

- Activities of an adventurous nature
- Residential trips
- Foreign trips
- Trips outside of school hours

If preferable and appropriate, parents may complete an annual consent form at the start of any academic year which gives consent for their child to be involved in any and all activities, both on and off-site, that take place at any time, including the school holidays. Separate consent will be sought for trips which require payment. Parents will be informed of activities by letter and will have the opportunity to withdraw their child from taking part.

10. Staffing ratios

There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Our minimum staff to pupil ratios are as follows:

Primary

- Abroad: 1:8
- Other residential: 1:10
- High risk: 1:8
- Day trip visits: 1:10

Secondary

- Abroad: 1:10
- Other residential: 1:10
- High risk: 1:8
- Day trip visits: 1:12

11. Insurance and licensing

When planning activities of an adventurous nature in the UK, the Designated Trip Leader or EVC will check that the provider of the activity holds a current licence. Insurance will be organised for every trip, no matter how short, to ensure adequate protection and medical cover is in place. Parents will be informed of the limits of any insurance cover.

Where a crime is committed against a member of the party, it will be reported to local police as soon as possible.

Medical expenses will be recorded and stored in the Trust Finance Office.

12. Accidents and incidents

In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip in the UK, the Trust's accident reporting process will begin, as detailed in the Health and Safety Policy. In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip abroad:

- Organisers will cooperate fully with local emergency services and understand that any injury or death of a member of staff or pupil outside of Great Britain may be subject to the law of the land where the accident occurred
- The first point of contact within the UK will be the Executive Headteacher who will contact the family of the injured person
- Pupils will be asked not to contact friends or parents in the UK until the family of the injured person can be contacted
- The British Embassy/Consulate will be informed
- The insurer will be notified

The Executive Headteacher will keep written records of any incidents, accidents and near misses.

Media enquiries will be referred to the Executive Headteacher or, if they are not available, the Chief Financial Officer or the Head of School.

Staff will use guidance as set out in the Business Continuity Plan, in particular the 'initial response' section, to ensure the safety of pupils and staff should anything happen, e.g., a terrorist attack. Staff will be briefed on how to react and respond should an emergency situation occur. Relevant risk assessments will be undertaken before the trip, including for points of interests such as museums and hotels. Pupils and staff are informed of an evacuation plan before entering trip venues; this should include an agreed rendezvous point, to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

To ensure pupils are easily identifiable, they must wear identifiable school uniform or a lanyard and identifier badge, which must be worn at all times.

13. Missing person procedure

The Trust places pupil and staff safety as its top priority when participating in school trips, either domestically or abroad.

Before embarking on the trip, extensive risk assessments are undertaken in accordance with this policy. The Designated Trip Leader or EVC will communicate with the venues of the school trips to ensure the correct group sizes are planned for each setting.

When travelling with a pupil with SEND, the Designated Trip Leader will ensure an adult is with them at all times and that the visit is adequately modified to suit the pupil's needs in accordance with this policy.

Everyone on the trip will be provided with a contact sheet for all members of staff, in the event they are unable to locate their group. All staff members and pupils will be required to carry mobile phones with them at all times. If a pupil doesn't own a mobile phone, they will be paired up with a pupil who has a mobile phone.

Upon arriving at every venue, the Designated Trip Leader will identify a rendezvous point where pupils and adults should go if they become separated from the rest of the group. Pupils and staff will wear school branded clothing or carry supplied identification, in order to make them easily identifiable.

Regular head counts of all pupils and staff will take place throughout the day to ensure all persons are present at all times.

In the event someone goes missing whilst on a school trip domestically or abroad:

- The Designated Trip Leader will ensure the safety of the remaining pupils and staff by taking a register to identify who is missing
- The Designated Trip Leader will immediately identify at least one adult to start looking for the person and another adult to contact them via phone, these people will look for the person until, where necessary, the police arrive
- Where possible, the venue will be notified of the missing person to help ensure the person is found quickly
- If the person cannot be contacted or located within 10 minutes, the local police, or relevant authorities, e.g., the British Embassy, will be contacted
- If the police are called, the Designated Trip Leader will contact the Executive Headteacher or Head of School, or other available person, back at the school and inform them of what has happened.

If the police, or another authority, is called to an incident where someone is missing, they will oversee locating the person and will advise on factors including, but not limited to, when to contact next of kin.

If the missing person cannot be found, the group will return to school. If this is not possible, e.g., when a trip is taking place abroad, the EVC will make arrangements to ensure the group's safety, e.g., by changing venues or cancelling visits.

If a member of the party has gone missing and is subsequently found, the Designated Trip Leader will:

- Review the group sizes and staffing ratios to ensure no one becomes separated from their group
- Review whether more registers should be conducted throughout the day
- Assess which venues they attend to ensure they are suitable for the group
- Make recommendations to the EVC to ensure similar incidents can be avoided in the future

14. Pupils with SEND

Where possible, activities and visits will be adapted to enable pupils with SEND to take part. The SENCO will liaise with pupil's parents, where appropriate, to consider what reasonable adjustments may be necessary.

Where this is not possible, an alternative activity of equal educational value will be arranged for all pupils. Pupils with SEND will be accompanied by a responsible adult during the extra-curricular trip or visit.

15. Finance

The financial procedures outlined in the Trust's Charging and Remissions Policy will always be followed when arranging trips.

The Trust will act in accordance with the DfE's guidance document 'Charging for school activities' (2018) and, therefore, will only charge for trips which are classed as an 'optional extra'. This is education provided outside of school time which is not:

- Part of the national curriculum
- Part of a syllabus for an examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
- Part of religious education

Money for school trips will always be paid directly to the school and collected by the Trust Finance Office. Under no circumstances should school trip money be processed through personal accounts.

All letters to parents regarding school trips will include a clause explaining what will happen in the event that the trip is cancelled, or a pupil cancels their place on the trip.

In the event that the trip is cancelled due to unforeseeable circumstances, it is at the Executive Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Executive Headteacher will consult the Trust Board on the matter, taking into account the cost to the Trust, including alternative provision costs.

In the event that a pupil cancels their place on a trip, it is at the Executive Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Executive Headteacher will consult the Trust Board on the matter, taking into account the pupil's reasons for cancelling their place, whether the Trust will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip, and whether the space on the trip can be offered to someone else. Where a pupil has previously cancelled a space on a school trip and received a full refund, the Trust has the right to refuse to allow the pupil to attend future trips and visits.

The Trust will take a common-sense approach to refunds and cancellations, ensuring that all pupils are treated equally. Any charge made in respect of pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the trip divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Once trip arrangements are booked and confirmed, if contributions to a trip exceed the total cost of the trip, a refund will be given where the excess is greater than £1 per pupil. Any excess of expenditure will be subsidised by the school fund or by the Trust.

16. Trips abroad

When planning school trips abroad, the Trust will consider the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's guidance 'Safer adventure travel and volunteering overseas' (2015) and, where an activity poses significant risks, the Trust will also consult the British Standard for adventurous activities outside the UK.

Validity of passports, visa requirements and other entry requirements, e.g., vaccination status, will be researched and dealt with within three months of the initial notification of the trip, to avoid problems when the trip is due to take place.

Staff and pupils will be taught about the culture and values of the country they are visiting, to ensure they understand and respect the values of the citizens.

Before the trip the EVC will check the travel advice for each country the trip will visit to ensure no visa or permit is needed and to check any other regulations or time limitations.

Staff and pupils will be made aware that they must not have spent over 90 days in the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein, within a 180-day period if they intend to participate in any trips within these countries.

Before the trip, the relevant healthcare and travel insurance checks will be conducted to ensure attendees are covered for medical issues or accidents.

Pupils and staff will be informed if they need to apply for a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to ensure they can access state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in the EU.

Before the trip, staff are trained in spotting suspicious behaviour and remaining vigilant whilst abroad. Before the trip, pupils will be taught how to remain vigilant in the country they are visiting, particularly about advances from strangers.

Registers will be taken at the start and end of each day, as well as before, during, and after events, and at regular intervals whilst on days out to ensure the whereabouts of pupils are known at all times.

Staff will check the location's local news at the start of each day of the trip, to ensure their planned activities are safe to go ahead. A minimum of two members of staff attending the trip will have at least an intermediate understanding of the destination country's language.

At the start of the trip, all pupils and staff are provided with an emergency contact sheet, this includes the Designated Trip Leader's school mobile phone number, as well as emergency numbers and phrases for the country they are visiting.

When using external providers abroad, the Trust will check whether the provider holds an equivalent of the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge'. If no such equivalent can be ascertained, the Trust will make checks prior to agreeing to use the provider.

17. Evaluating trips and visits

Following an educational trip and/or visit, the EVC will meet or canvass any staff members present on the trip to assess the success of the trip in respect of both educational value and safeguarding effectiveness.

Based on this assessment, recommendations will be made to improve future trips and visits.

18. Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the Executive Headteacher, Chief Financial Officer and the EVC. The Trust Board will review this policy annually.

Signed by:

_____ Executive Headteacher Date: _____

_____ Chair of Trustees Date: _____



Annual consent form for all educational visits and school trips

Please sign and date the form below if you are happy to give consent for your child,

_____,

- a) To take part in school trips and other activities that take place outside school premises; and
- b) To be given first aid or urgent medical treatment during any school trip or activity if necessary

Please note the following important information before signing this form:

- The trips and activities covered by this consent include:
 - All visits, including residential trips, which take place during the holidays or over a weekend
 - Adventure activities at any time
 - Off-site sporting fixtures outside the school day
 - All off-site activities for nursery schools
- The school will send you information about each trip or activity before it takes place
- You can, if you wish, tell the school that you do not want your child to take part in any particular school trip or activity
- Written parental consent will not be requested from you for the majority of off-site activities offered by the school – for example, year-group visits to local amenities – as such activities are part of the school’s curriculum and usually take place during the normal school day

Please complete the medical information section below (if applicable) and sign and date this form.

Medical information

Details of any medical condition that my child suffers from and any medication my child should take during off-site visits:

.....

.....

Signed.....

Date.....



Consent form for specific educational visits and school trips

Educational visits consent form			
Pupil details		Visit details	
Name:		Destination:	
Year group:		Date:	
Date of birth:		Time:	
Home telephone number:		I acknowledge the need for my child to behave responsibly <input type="checkbox"/>	
Please detail below if your child suffers, even mildly, from any medical condition such as epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, heart condition, allergies, bed wetting or physical weakness. Also, if your child has suffered from any contagious or infectious diseases during the past three months, please detail these. All information will be treated in confidence.			
When did your child last have a tetanus injection?			
If your child is taking medication, please give details, including whether it can be self-administered:			
Is your child allergic to any medication? YES/NO. If yes, please specify:			
Please give details of any special dietary requirements and the type of pain/flu relief medication your child may be given if necessary:			
Family doctor:		Telephone number:	
Address:			
I am happy to let my son/daughter make their own way home <input type="checkbox"/>			

I will collect my son/daughter at _____ (am/pm) from _____

I give permission for my child to participate in the above school visit and I have read all the information given. I further consent to my child being given any urgent medication or surgical treatment which may be considered necessary by the medical authorities during the school visit. I understand that my child is covered by the Trust's liability insurance, and that I am able to take out my own additional insurance if I wish. I will inform the school of any change in the circumstances outlined above.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent's name in BLOCK capitals:

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please give an alternative contact name and telephone number in case we cannot reach you in an emergency:

Emergency contact one

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Relationship to pupil: _____

Emergency contact two

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Relationship to pupil: _____