

Educational Visits Policy

Date written: January 2020

Reviewed: 2023

To be reviewed January 2026

Vision

The Pioneer Academy promotes and achieves excellence by ensuring the very best care and guidance for every child within our family of schools. It recognises the importance of outstanding teaching and learning by actively encouraging creativity and innovation, whilst having consistent standards of behaviour and attendance. Treating everyone as equal, whilst celebrating diversity, is a non-negotiable; protecting all through safeguarding, health and safety and welfare is paramount.

Overview

The Pioneer Academy (TPA) aims to ensure every child has the chance to try things out, to get a taste of the world around them, to see and do things that they wouldn't normally do, or go to places they wouldn't normally go. School visits and inspiring visitors are an entitlement to every child who attends a school within The Pioneer Academy. This is part of each school's role to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development and prepares our pupils for the opportunities and experiences of adult life.

The Pioneer Pupil Passport sets out a promise to each child;

'... we want you to benefit from important opportunities and life experiences. Your Pioneer Pupil Passport will help you track different cultural, sporting, natural and skill based experiences.

We hope these opportunities will leave you enriched for the future and provide you with fond memories as well.'

All leaders, managers and governors within TPA understand that visits and trips can be effective ways of motivating pupils, and they can often offer unique educational experiences. The school aims to ensure that pupils are engaged in their learning and are given opportunities to explore this in a more practical setting.

Each year, each school will arrange a number of activities that take place off the school site and/or out of school hours, which support the aim of providing opportunities that enrich the curriculum, enabling the children to have first-hand experience of a wide range of topics and activities.

When planning and implementing a programme of varied visits, visitors and trips, TPA expects each school to undertake robust risk assessments. TPA takes the health, safety 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.

This policy applies to all staff, governors and trustees.

Approved by:	Trust Board
Approved on:	
Review date:	
Responsibility for review:	Director of Education to recommend to Board of Trustees

Legal framework

This policy has been created with regard to relevant legislation including, but not limited to:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

This policy has also been created with due regard to the following guidance:

- 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'

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, away-day or residential holiday organised by the 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

Key roles and responsibilities

- The **Trust Board** is responsible for:

The overall implementation of this policy.

Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.

Ensuring educational trips and visits positively impact on pupils' lives, teaching them new life skills and providing new experiences.

Promoting good safeguarding practices to ensure the safety of pupils when partaking in extra-curricular trips and activities.

- The **Head Teacher** is responsible for:

The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.

Appointing an educational visits coordinator, liaising with the Trust Board as necessary to ensure the correct appointment is made.

Liaising with the educational visits coordinator and communicating information regarding any planned trips to parents.

Liaising with the governing 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 educational visits coordinator is competent to oversee the coordination of off-site education, and arranging for training to be undertaken as necessary.

Completing 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 educational visits coordinator, ensuring a whole-school 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.

[Where a school does not have an educational visits coordinator, the Head Teacher should undertake their duties until one can be appointed.]

- The **educational visits coordinator** has overall responsibility 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.

Liaising with the local outdoor education adviser to help staff assess and manage risks.

Ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy.

Conducting risk assessments 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 parents and staff to ensure the day is well organised and safe.

Appointing an appropriate member of staff to be the designated leader of the trip.

Ensuring that the requirements of this policy are carried out across all schools.

Ensuring that any problems are raised in a meeting with the governor with special interest in parents, pupils and the community and where appropriate the School board.

- The **designated leader** in charge of the trip is 'in loco parentis' and has a duty of care to all pupils on the trip. They are also responsible for:

Checking the schedule is free on the school calendar prior to planning an educational visit.

Identifying the educational purpose of the extra-curricular trip or activity and presenting its benefits to the Head Teacher.

Completing all essential documentation for the trip, including a risk assessment, with the Head Teacher.

Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity two weeks in advance of the trip.

Distributing permission slips to parents two weeks prior to the trip and chasing up any permission slips that have not been returned one weeks prior to the trip.

Understanding and operating safeguarding measures throughout the planning, organisation and delivery of the extra-curricular trip or activity.

Delegating responsibilities to other staff members on the school trip.

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.

- **Staff** are responsible for:

Adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in extra-curricular trips and activities.

Ensuring the safety of the pupils is maximised throughout any educational visit or activity.

Liaising with the designated leader to understand personal responsibilities and ensuring the smooth running of the school trip or activity.

Ensuring that any outdoor space visited, e.g. a park and playing field, is kept clean and free from litter during the trip.

- **Pupils** are responsible for:

Following instructions from staff while on school trips.

Keeping pride in their presentation, understanding that they are representing the school whilst on an education trip.

Ensuring that, during visits to outdoor spaces, they keep the area tidy and free from litter.

Behaving in a manner which matches the ethos of the school, and for following the behaviour rules set out in the school's **Behaviour Policy** with regards to this policy.

Training of staff

- Staff will receive training on this policy as part of their induction.
- Staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

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 **educational visits coordinator** during the planning of the trip, to ensure pupil and staff safety.
- Adventure 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 school 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 in a letter home.
- When planning an educational trip or activity, the School Board will ensure the trip does not discriminate against a particular individual, group of pupils or single school.
- Residential School trips will be agreed upon at School Board level before any formal plans have been implemented. Any disputes relating to pre-planned educational trips or activities will be discussed and resolved at School Board level.

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

Vetting providers

- When considering external providers for activities, the educational visits coordinator 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 **educational visits coordinator** 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 school's standards, they will not be considered.

Equal opportunities

- The school 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 school's Equality Policy.
- Due to the popularity of some extra-curricular trips and activities, the school offers places on a first come, first served basis.
- Any individual, staff or otherwise, shown to be taking preference over one pupil or a group of pupils will be subject to formal disciplinary action.
- 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.

Safe use of minibuses and seatbelts

- 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 **educational visits coordinator** will contact the LA for guidance on which licence is required.
- Drivers will complete the relevant form from the **school 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 school 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 school.
- The following staff members hold the required licence and have completed specific training which allows them to drive the academy minibus:

Name	School
Janet Stringer	South Norwood Primary School

Parental consent

- Parental consent is not generally required for off-site activities that take place during school hours.
- 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.

Staffing ratios

- There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Our minimum staff to pupil ratios are as follows:
 - Other residential: **1:8**
 - High risk: **1:2**
 - Day trip visits: **1:6 Year 1-3, 1:10 Year 4-6**

Insurance and licensing

- When planning activities of an adventurous nature in the UK, the **educational visits coordinator** 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 school office**.

Accidents and incidents

- In the case of accidents and injuries while on a school trip in the UK, the school'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 Head Teacher 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 **Head Teacher** will keep written records of any incidents, accidents and near misses.
- Media enquiries will be referred to the **Head Teacher** or, if they are not available, the **Deputy Headteacher**
- Staff will use guidance as set out in the **Critical Incident Policy**, in particular the 'after a critical incident' 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, e.g. a terrorist attack.
- 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 **the school sweat shirts**. Failing this, pupils will be given a badge with the school logo on, which must be worn at all times.

Missing person procedure

- **The school 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.
- The **educational visits coordinator** 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 special educational needs and/or disabilities, the **educational visits coordinator** will ensure an adult is with them at all times and that the visit is adequately modified to suit the pupil's specific needs.
- 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 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, 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 trip leader will ensure the safety of the remaining pupils and staff by taking a register to identify who is missing.
 - The 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 trip leader will contact the **Head Teacher**, 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 **educational visits coordinator** 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 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 educational visits coordinator to ensure similar incidents can be avoided in the future.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

- Where possible, activities and visits will be adapted to enable pupils with SEND to take part.
- 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.

Finance

- The financial procedures outlined in **TPA's Charging and Remission Policy** will always be followed when arranging trips.
- The school 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 religious education.
- Money for school trips will always be paid directly to the school. 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, a refund is given to parents.
- In the event that a pupil cancels their place on a trip, it is at the Head Teacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The Head Teacher will take into account the pupil's reasons for cancelling their place, whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip, and whether the space on the trip can be offered to someone else.
- The school 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.

Evaluating trips and visits

- Following an educational trip/visit, the **educational visit coordinator** will meet with 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.

Monitoring and review

- The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the **Head Teacher**.
- Each **School Board** will review this policy annually.
- The **Director of Education** will gather feedback from each School Board and prepare an annual report for the Trust Board.
- The scheduled review date for this policy is **February 2020**.

Appendix A - 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,

_____ in class _____.

- 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**.....

Appendix B - 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 4.30 pm from _____ <input type="checkbox"/>			

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 school'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: _____

Trips Procedures 2023/24

Prior to the trip

- Trips will initially be booked by SLT to ensure they match the curriculum/ the TPA passport and the budget. Each class will take part in a trip or experience each half term
- All staff to check the Yearly calendar for each half terms trip or experience
- Pre-trip reccy to be completed (most venues offer free entry for this – if not BM will pay)
- Risk assessments need to be completed and **MUST** be discussed with the HT/EVC minimum 2 week prior to trip with time for changes to be made.
- Risk assessment to be added to evolve following this discussion along with all other aspects of EVOLVE a minimum of one week prior to the trip.
- Letter to parents to be drafted by Trip Leader / shared with HT/EVC and once approved sent to the office and the parents **at least a week prior to the trip. Letter cannot go out prior to trip being approved on Evolve.**
- All reply slips to be collected by the class teacher. No child will go on a trip without written consent.
- Reminder letter with visuals for the trip to be sent (where appropriate and definitely for SEND children the day before the trip – see example below)
- Risk assessments final sign off by HT on the day of the trip – printed copy – including exit form handed to the office on the way out to be filed.
- If teachers have concerns about taking a specific child on a trip, this must be discussed with the HT **minimum two week prior to the trip** so that plans can be put in place including additional risk assessments if required.
- All trips are paid for in one trip contribution at the beginning of the year. This will be chased initially by class teachers and then by the admin team
- On every occasion when children are taken off site, Class Teachers **MUST** complete the Off Premises Exit Form and hand this in to the school office.
- Letters of permission need to be sent and collected even for local trips covered on admission form.

On the day - Adults	On the day - Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wear high vis vest- Have adults spread amongst the children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full uniform (unless a specific reason for

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always have 2 adults in the road crossing children - Smart attire as in school (unless a specific reason for not – i.e. a muddy activity) - Mobile phones should only be used to contact school and should not be used other than this - No adult should leave their class or group at ANY time other than to go to the bathroom. The group must then be covered by another school adult - Always walk on the outside of the children (road side) - Think carefully about groupings and adult support - Hand a copy of the completed risk assessment and exit form to the office as you leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not – i.e. a muddy activity) - Always walk on the left and let members of the public pass - Walk in a line in pairs (unless it is a very thin pavement) - Voices should be kept down particularly on public transport - Same expectations in school as out and about
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**PLEASE GIVE A COPY OF THE REVERSE TO
ALL PARENT/ CARER/ ADULT HELPERS PRIOR TO THE
TRIP**

School trip volunteer guide

Thank you so much for offering to help on our exciting trip.

Here are some tips to ensure the trip runs smoothly and that everyone is kept safe:

- You will be allocated a group of children together with a list of their names. Please do regular headcounts to ensure your group is still together.
- When walking children should walk in twos on the side nearest the road, with your children further away from the road.
- Please refrain from using your mobile phone. In case of an emergency where you need to use your phone, please let a member of staff know so they can remain with your group while you use your phone.
- Please do not take photos even of your own child.
- Members of staff are responsible for all first aid, please let one of them know if this is required.
- If you have any concerns about anything a child says or does on the trip, please let a member of staff know. Please maintain confidentiality, only discussing issues with a member of staff.
- If a child needs the toilet, please let a member of staff know.
- Please do not give any child food or buy them anything from any shop or outlet.

Above all, if you are unsure of anything at all, please talk to a member of staff. We will be pleased to answer any of your questions and address any concerns.



16th November 2023
Our Trip to The Golden Hinde



**This is what The
Golden Hinde looks
like**

Tomorrow, we are going to The Golden Hinde, please ensure your child has the following...

- Packed lunch
- Bottle of water
- Back pack to carry their packed lunch and water
- Dressed in full uniform, comfortable shoes for walking and water proof coats
- We will be returning by 3.15pm

The day will look like this

Please discuss the day with your child

First



Then



After



Then



Finally

