



EXETER ROAD
Thrive, Care, Succeed

Policy for the Management of Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-Site Activities

Policy Date: November 2013

Version: June 2023

**Adopted by the Governors of
Teignmouth Community School
on 11 July 2023**

Next Review June 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy covers all off-site visits and activities organised through the college and for which the Governing Body and Headteacher are responsible. The Governing Body endorses the Devon County Council policy document “Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-Site Activities Health and Safety Policy 2022” (OEVOSA) as the basis for the school’s policy for the management of visits and off-site activities.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to explain how the overall OEVOSA policy will be applied in practical terms at a local level, and in particular, the specific roles, responsibilities and arrangements that will apply at Teignmouth Community School.
- 1.3 This policy also complements and should be read in conjunction with the college’s Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policies.

2. The responsibilities of the governing body:

- To monitor the application of this policy in operational practice through a termly meeting between the link and the EVC. The Link governor will report to the LGB. Where possible the Link Governor will visit or attend an outdoor activity to observe.
- To review the policy every 2 years.
- To amend the policy at such time as there are significant changes to guidance on the management of Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-Site Activities.
- To amend the policy if significant issues are brought to the attention of the governors.
- To review the policy after an incident.

3. The responsibilities of the Headteacher:

3.1 The Headteacher will:

- review accident and incident reports relating to visits and off-site activities to ensure that any lessons are learnt
- ensure that any third-party provider / contractor / coach has been vetted for competence in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA.
- ensure all visits and off-site activities have specific and appropriate educational objectives
- have overall responsibility for the approval of all visits and activities, based on compliance with the OEVOSA document and recognised good practice, even where this task may have been delegated to another named person
- ensure that all off-site visits, and especially residential visits, are carried out with reference to the Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct
- ensure that there is a suitably experienced and competent Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) to oversee adherence to the OEVOSA policy and that the tasks associated with this role are clearly outlined in this policy
- ensure off-site programmes are led by competent staff who are appropriately experienced to assess the risks, manage the activity, and manage the specific group
- provide relevant induction, training and other Continuous Professional Development opportunities for staff involved in the provision of visits and offsite activities
- ensure that for all off-site visits and activities risks have been assessed, the significant findings of these assessments recorded, and any appropriate safety measures implemented accordingly.

4. The responsibilities of the Educational Visits Co-Ordinator (EVC)

- 4.1 Although holding the ultimate responsibility, the Headteacher has delegated specified tasks to a suitably experienced and competent EVC. Name of EVC: Louisa Tidman
- 4.2 The EVC is responsible for carrying out the following agreed tasks and attending the relevant training and update training provided by the Local Authority (LA).
- 4.3 The functions delegated to the EVC are:
- to be the Headteacher contact with the LA over planned visits

- to establish monitoring systems to ensure that educational visits are undertaken in accordance with OEVOSA, and the school specific arrangements named in this policy
- to ensure that the management of visits and off-site activities is informed by an appropriate risk assessment
- to check the Standard Operating Procedures for 'routine and regular' visits and activities – drawn up by trip leader
- to manage and update the Evolve website, including updating staff lists and training records
- to ensure that approval and endorsement arrangements for all visits are in accordance with OEVOSA requirements
- to provide staff with support, advice, and information that they need to comply with OEVOSA requirements
- to ensure that leaders and staff have any relevant qualifications and are competent to lead and support particular visits and activities as outlined in OEVOSA
- to ensure that procedures to inform parents and to obtain their consent where necessary are in place
- to ensure that appropriate emergency arrangements are in place for visits and off-site activities

5. The responsibilities of the Off-Site Visit and Activity Leader.

The Leader will:

- have overall responsibility for the supervision and conduct of the visit or activity
- obtain approval and, where appropriate, LA endorsement for the visit in line with OEVOSA and the specific arrangements of this policy prior to undertaking the activity
- assess the risks to staff, young people and members of the public presented by the visit or activity in order to identify and implement any safety measures.
- carry out specific activities in accordance with the detail of OEVOSA
- use the school planning checklist provided in SharePoint to ensure all procedures have been followed
- vet any third-party provider / contractor / coach for competence in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA
- brief all supervising staff, volunteers and pupils in roles, responsibilities, and expectations
- inform parents about the visit and gain their consent in accordance with arrangements described in OEVOSA

- establish appropriate emergency and contingency arrangements for the planned visit or activity which will include the identification of sufficient First Aid cover
- continually re-assess risks during the activity and make adjustments accordingly

6. Responsibilities of Additional Members of Staff Taking Part in Visits and Offsite Activities

6.1 Members of staff, volunteers and parent helpers should:

- Assist the Visit Leader to ensure the health, safety and welfare of others including young people on the visit
- Take time to understand their roles and responsibilities whilst taking part in a visit or activity.

7. The responsibilities of students

7.1 All responsibilities and expectation of students on off-site visits and activities should be made clear by the Leader or any other member of staff/volunteer and should:

- Avoid unnecessary risks.
- Follow instructions given by the Leader and/or staff member.
- Behave sensibly and keeping to any agreed code of conduct.
- Inform a member of staff of any safety concern.

8. The responsibilities of parents/carers

Parents/carers have an important role in deciding whether any off-site visit or activity is suitable for their child. Subject to their agreement to the activity, the parent/carer should:

- Support the application of any agreed code of conduct.
- Inform the Leader about any relevant medical, psychological or physical condition relevant to the visit.
- Provide an emergency contact number.
- Provide consent in accordance with the requirement of OEVOA.

9. Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The school is committed to a wide variety of outdoor activities, many of which will be repeated over each academic year where the risks will be very similar or the same. Therefore, when visits are 'routine and regular' in that they occur repeatedly each academic year, the measures taken to control these risks are listed in the school specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) documents.
- 9.2 These are the control measures that will apply to all such visits and off-site activities and have been drawn up by the Headteacher and EVC and will be brought to the attention of anyone undertaking the role of Visit Leader.
- 9.3 In assessing the risks presented by a planned visit or activity, the Visit Leader must judge if the SOP are adequate for controlling the risks. For each visit/activity, the SOP document will be generated in either hard copy or electronically and the Visit Leader will either confirm these as adequate for the proposed visit/activity or the additional control measures needed will be listed in the enhanced risk assessment column.
- 9.4 Any activities delivered by school staff falling within the definition of Category B (adventurous), will have a separate stand-alone risk assessment; Adventurous Activities Led by School Staff Risk Assessment.
- 9.5 This process will be undertaken by the Visit Leader who, whilst being supported by the EVC, will be competent and equipped to complete this task. To meet statutory requirements and to ensure sufficient communication with other staff involved, this risk assessment will be recorded using the risk assessment format on Evolve

10. Approval of Off-site Activities

- 10.1 The Headteacher will be responsible for approving all off-site activities subject to assurances that arrangements are in line with this policy and risks are adequately controlled. This includes approving the Visit Leader for each visit or off-site activity.
- 10.2 There are 3 categories of visit: **Category A:** Non-adventurous visits i.e., visits to local places of worship, farms, public places etc. Non-adventurous residential visits i.e., cultural visits to towns/cities etc. **Category B:** Adventurous visits where activities are delivered by school staff (i.e., Ten Tors, kayaking etc) Adventurous day visits led by external providers (i.e., visits to climbing centres,

a pony trekking centre etc) Adventurous residential visits to outdoor centres

Category C: Visits of all types outside the UK

- 10.3 In-line with the requirements of OEVOSA, details of Category B and C visits will be uploaded to the Evolve on-line system to facilitate the approval by the Headteacher ahead of final endorsement by the Local Authority Adviser for Outdoor Education.
- 10.4 The policy of Teignmouth Community School is that Category A visits will be uploaded to the Evolve system to allow Governors, the Headteacher and the EVC to monitor the management of off-site visits.

11. Safeguarding

- 11.1 The safety and welfare of children is paramount. In the event of a safeguarding issue or concern being identified during the trip or visit, the visit leader should follow the school's child protection/safeguarding policy and procedures. All staff and volunteers on the trip should be made aware of these before the trip or activity takes place.
- 11.2 Arrangements should be in place to enable contact with the school's Designated Safeguarding Officer outside normal school hours if necessary. Contact details should be communicated to all staff/volunteers on the trip (as well as the visit leader) in case the safeguarding concern is about the visit leader.

12. The Provision of Training and Information

- 12.1 A copy of this policy, along with the overall OEVOSA document, will be made available to all staff within the school who may be responsible for participating in offsite visits and activities and to any parent requesting a copy. Access will also be made available to the overarching OEVOSA policy, and additional guidance via the Evolve system.
- 12.2 The Headteacher will ensure that staff leading or participating in visits are competent for the activities involved. When required, specific training will be undertaken, and competencies maintained in accordance with the requirements of OEVOSA. This process will be overseen by the EVC, and records of qualifications will be uploaded to the Evolve system.

13. Action in the Case of Emergency

- 13.1 The EVC will ensure that emergency arrangements are in place before approving visits. The Visit Leader will identify these arrangements via a process of risk assessment. Where necessary, this assessment must include the identification of contingency plans.
- 13.2 It will also include the identification of sufficient First Aiders, as well as emergency contact details which must include a school contact for outside normal hours if necessary.
- 13.3 Any accidents and incidents that occur during off-site visits and activities will be reported and recorded in accordance with the school health and safety policy. Accidents and incidents will subsequently be reviewed within the school to identify any learning points.

Submission of Visit Form Timescales

Visit forms must be submitted by the Visit Leader to the EVC in accordance with the following timescales. Failure to meet these timescales may result in the planned visit being postponed or cancelled.

Category A Day Visits – 4 weeks' notice

Category A Residentials – 4 weeks' notice

Category B Adventurous Day visits – 4 weeks' notice

Category B Adventurous Residential visits – 3 months' notice

Category C Overseas visits – 4 months' notice

Amendment Record

Version	Date	Amended By	Nature of Change	Date of Next Review
1	27.11.13	J Shircliff		
2	18.12.17	H Millward	Update policy wording	
3	04.12.18	R Weston	Review and update policy wording	
4	02.03.21	J O'Connell	Review and update. Formatting and amendment from previous Trust responsibility to Governing Body.	As required and no later than June 2023.
5	08.06.23	L Tidman	Review and Update.	Sept 2024 when the LA policy is next updated. Thereafter every 2 years, or sooner as required.