

Educational Visits Policy



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Review Date September 2021

Educational Visits at Warwick Road

Children learn in many ways. As a school, we recognise that every child's learning journey is different and that we must, therefore, provide as many routes to learning as we can.

We aim always to provide an experience for our children which ignites interest and excitement, generates questions, invites inquiry and provides genuine moments of awe and wonder.

High quality classroom teaching will always provide children with stimulating opportunities to make progress, especially when learning the skills our children need to succeed in life. However, we believe that learning in the classroom is complemented and enhanced by direct experience, particularly when developing knowledge and understanding of the world.

A visit to a gallery or museum will always add an extra appreciation for the work of a famous artist, or a better understanding of period of history. Walking from a river's bank to a valley's head, seeing waterfalls and streams will not only teach about flood plains and the water cycle, but will also bring with it an appreciation of the beauty of nature.

In addition, a shared experience provides a very firm foundation for developing social skills. Working with different people, talking about what you've done and how it felt, learning how to work as a team are all very important parts of a child's social development.

Direct experience very frequently offers the opportunity to develop writing skills, widen reading tastes and solve problems.

We have therefore devised a programme of educational opportunities to complement our work in the classroom. Every half term, we aim provide an experience, sometimes in school but often beyond, which will add extra depth to our learning – something fun, something to see, hear and feel; something to think about, talk about, write about – something to remember.

Day Visits

In the weeks prior to an educational visit, parents will receive letters explaining its purpose and giving details such as departure and arrival times. Any other details specific to the visit, such as advice on appropriate clothing or equipment, will also be included. Children should bring a packed lunch, but those children in receipt of free school meals will be provided with one. Please note that no glass bottles will be permitted for safety reasons and that chewing gum is not allowed during any school activity.

All visits will be thoroughly risk assessed by the organisers and all risk assessments must be agreed by the school's Health and Safety Officer. All sites will be visited prior to school trips and will have a qualified first aider in attendance. More adventurous trips will be, where appropriate, agreed by the Local Authority.

School uniform is generally required, unless stated otherwise. Our uniform identifies our children as ambassadors for the school and our community. We are proud of our children and the high standard of behaviour they demonstrate when they accompany us outside school. Also, children in uniform can be distinguished from groups of children from other schools and helps us ensure that our children remain safe in our care.

Occasionally, a returning group may arrive later than anticipated. The trip leaders will contact school as soon as the likelihood of a delay arises. School will then text parents to advise them of the length of the delay. Please note that we do not send texts unless a trip is likely to be delayed.

Residential Visits

We aim to provide opportunities for residential visits to as many children as possible in Key Stage 2. Residential visits can fulfil a significant number of objectives from the National Curriculum for history, geography, PE and science. They can also provide stimulus for English activities and opportunities to develop mathematical skills. In addition, residential trips help build teamwork, problem solving skills, social skills and self-reliance. They are also a great deal of fun.

Every aspect of a residential visit is thoroughly risk assessed by the organisers. The preparation of a risk assessment will include site visits and will be agreed with the Health and Safety Officer and, where appropriate, the Local Authority.

We acknowledge that, sometimes, children will be unable to attend residential visits. We will, however, work with parents to try to find solutions to any problems preventing attendance.

Attendance

We expect all our children to participate as fully as possible in the life of the school and we therefore expect that all children will be able to attend all our experiences. Occasionally, we do not receive parental consent for children to attend. The reasons vary, but some of the most common are set out below:

Problem: Parents are unaware of the trip, because children have lost or misplaced letters and are worried about the consequences of telling someone.

Solution: Please be assured that we do realise that our children are still very young and sometimes need help with their personal organisation. We're quite happy to provide extra letters where needed.

Problem: Parents want to discipline their children by not allowing them to go on a trip.

Solution: A visit is an integral part of a child's learning experience. Although they ought to be enjoyable, they're not a treat. Not being allowed to go has adverse consequences for learning beyond the day itself.

Problem: Parents have given a child the choice of whether or not they wish to go.

Solution: Children are not always the best people to make fully informed choices about what they do and don't do. Some children, if offered the choice, would prefer not to participate in a number of aspects of school life. Our job is to provide them with a broad and balanced curriculum, to encourage them to try new things, conquer fears, build their confidence and their expectations of themselves and prepare them for an adulthood in which they can make their own decisions.

Problem: It's too expensive.

Solution: Talk to us. We may be able to help.

Children who do not attend educational visits:

- Will miss significant opportunities to learn on the day.
- Will be denied the chance to develop their social skills, oracy, writing skills and their knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Will be unable to participate fully in any class based work arising from the experience.
- Will be expected to attend school as normal.
- Will be provided with revision work to be undertaken in another classroom.
- In short, as well as raising costs for other parents and incurring extra costs in terms of time and effort for our staff, children who do not attend will be significantly disadvantaged. For this reason, we assume that all children will attend. Where we do not receive parental consent by the week preceding a visit, we will contact parents to discuss ways in which we can help.

Summary

We recognise that when we take your children anywhere, that you are entrusting us with the safety and well-being of the most important people in the world. We take that responsibility very seriously. We are committed to doing everything possible to provide your children with an experience which is educational, enjoyable, memorable and, above all, safe.