



St Matthew's Primary School

Trips and Visits Policy

Date Policy Written: March 2025

Review Cycle: Annual basis or sooner if required.

Ratified by Governing Board on: 23 March 2026

Next review date: March 2027

This Policy must be read in conjunction with:

Safeguarding Policy, Inclusion Policy, Equalities Policy, Extended School Activities Policy, Discipline/Exclusion Policy, SEND Policy, Attendance Policy, Disabilities Policy, Behaviour Policy, Pupil Premium Policy, First Aid and Administration of medicines Policy, Health and Safety Policy, ICT/Internet Access Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy.

Aims

St Matthew's Primary School has a strong commitment to the added value of learning beyond the statutory school day and away from the school premises. Well-planned and executed educational visits provide our pupils with valuable experiences which enhance their learning at school. Providing a variety of 'real-life' opportunities for our children enables them to achieve a fuller understanding of the world around them through direct experience. Educational visits are an essential element of good primary practice and we encourage all year groups to plan trips in September using a trips and visits colander.

Purpose

This policy sets out the procedures followed by staff in planning and delivering an educational visit and the protocols for recording and monitoring using the appropriate documentation. All staff are expected to follow these guidelines in order to ensure that groups of children can, with parental permission, be taken away from the school site to undertake activities safely.

Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher's are all responsible for the approval of all educational visits via the EVOLVE website. The Headteacher is responsible for notifying any parent whose child is to be excluded from the educational visit for any reason.

Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC)

The Headteacher has nominated one lead Educational Visits coordinator (EVC) who will have undertaken the local authority EVC training course and have significant experience in planning and leading educational visits of all types. The EVC will monitor all visit plans and risk assessments submitted via the Evolve website before forwarding them to the Senior Leadership Team for final approval. Please refer to the following EVC when submitting risk assessments:

- EVC- Rachel Bardon
- Residentials – SLT
- YR and KS1- SLT
- KS2 trips – SLT
- Sports trips- SLT

The EVC lead at St Matthew's Primary School is Rachel Bardon.

Jon Parker (Assistant Headteacher) has also undertaken the EVC training.

Visit organisers / Team Leaders

Team Leaders are responsible for the overall planning, administration and risk assessment of educational visits although may delegate specific tasks to other members of the team if they have an appropriate level of experience.

A group leader of a visit will usually be, in the case of a whole year group, the Team Leader. In the case of a single class visit, the group leader will be the class teacher. A 'deputy group leader' should be identified to take charge in the event of the group leader becoming incapacitated in any way.

As part of the school's induction procedures, class teachers who are new to the school will

shadow an experienced teacher before taking on the role of group leader for themselves and their past experience levels will be checked via EVOLVE by the EVC. The EVC will work in collaboration with colleagues to provide support and advice in planning visits and compiling risk assessments. The EVC will maintain a record of all visits undertaken and accompanying documentation for use in planning future similar visits, via the Evolve website.

Governors

Governors will be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of educational visits, ensuring that visits have a specific and clear objective, the visit planning complies with the school's Health and Safety policy, and that the school is considering the cost-effectiveness of visits. After a visit has happened, all visits will be evaluated by the visit leader on Evolve to ensure that the objectives of the visit were fully met.

Local Authority

The Local Authority commission Active Luton to oversee, approve and monitor Educational visits in Luton using EVOLVE.

Any activities deemed as 'adventurous' require LA approval, these activities include:

- All activities in 'open country' (see below)
- Swimming (except school swimming lessons being delivered in Active Luton Facilities)
- Camping
- Canoeing / kayaking
- Sailing / windsurfing / kite surfing
- Rafting or improvised rafting
- Use of powered safety/rescue craft
- All other forms of boating (excluding commercial transport)
- Water skiing
- Snorkel and aqualung activities
- Hill walking and mountaineering
- Rock climbing (including indoor climbing walls)
- Abseiling
- River/gorge walking or scrambling
- Coastering/coastal scrambling/sea level traversing
- Underground exploration
- Shooting and archery
- Snowsports (skiing, snowboarding, and related activities), including dry slope
- Air activities (excluding commercial flights)
- Horse riding
- Motor sport – all forms
- High level ropes courses
- Off road cycling
- 'Extreme' sports
- Ice skating (rink)
- Theme parks
- Other activities (e.g. initiative exercises) involving skills inherent in any of the above

For the purposes of LA approval, the following activities **are not** regarded as adventurous and therefore do **not** require LA approval. However, these activities must be supervised by a member of staff who has previous relevant experience and who in the opinion of the EVC and Senior Leadership Team is competent to supervise the activity:

- Walking in parks or on non-remote country paths
- Field studies - unless in the environments stated in "open country"
- Tourist attractions
- Pedal go-karts
- Farm visits
- Local traffic survey

- Museum, library, etc.
- Physical education and sports fixtures (other than the above)
- Water-margin activities such as walking along a riverbank, pond dipping etc.

If an activity is deemed as not being adventurous staff must still submit visit plans and risk assessments using EVOLVE to be checked by the EVC and a member of the Senior Leadership Team so that the school has a full record of all trips and visits on EVOLVE.

If when planning trips and visits there is ever any uncertainty of whether an activity needs to be submitted for LA approval then the EVC will contact the Local Authority to check.

Types of visit

St Matthew's Primary School follows the Luton Borough Council Educational Visits Policy Document and Guidance in recognising the different types of educational visits:

Local Visits

Visits **within the Borough of Luton where the mode of transport is walking**. At St Matthew's Primary School these are agreed as the following:

(These visits do not require parental permission or LA approval but still require a risk assessment uploading to EVOLVE)

- People's Park (Picnic)
- Luton Galaxy Centre (Cinema)
- Visits to Luton shopping The Point
- Luton Football Club
- Wardown Museum
- University of Bedfordshire (Luton Campus)
- Local school church
- Train Station
- Luton Library

Visits within Luton using transport

Visits **within the Borough of Luton where the mode of transport is coach, bus or minibus**. At St Matthew's Primary School these have recently included:

- Luton Airport
- Stopsley Baptist Church (Music)
- Stockwood Discovery Centre

(These visits do not require LA approval, but do require parental permission and a risk assessment uploading to EVOLVE)

Distant

Visits **outside the Borough** of Luton where the mode of transport is coach, bus, minibus or train. At St Matthew's Primary School these have recently included:

- The Oval (watch Cricket)
- Wimbledon (watch tennis)
- Wembley Tour
- London Science Museum
- LG Arena
- Celtic Harmony, Hertfordshire

(These visits do not require LA approval, but do require parental permission and a risk

assessment uploading to EVOLVE

Residential, Overseas, Adventurous, Water involvement

At St Matthew's Primary School Adventurous trips and visits have recently included:

- Bedford residential Chellington Centre
- Brighton (seaside visit)

(These visits **must receive** Local Authority approval and parental permission)

Visit planning and risk assessment

Documentation

Visit planning and risk assessments will be recorded on the approved school format. All these documents will be available to all staff via EVOLVE and include:

- Educational visits planning form
- Educational visits Risk Assessment form
- Emergency card (details of Leader, School and LA Duty Emergency Planning Officer)
- Educational visits evaluation form

Risk assessments

Risk assessments will consider the following elements and include where appropriate:

- Appropriate and safe staffing and supervision details
- Ensure the Leader is appropriately experienced to lead (EVC to check)
- Pupil characteristics (behavioural, ability, age, special and medical needs) all carefully considered
- Preliminary visits have happened if appropriate (EVC to check)
- Ensure providers have national accreditation such as LOtC badge (Visit organiser to check and confirm)
- Risks are reduced to 'acceptable' or 'tolerable' levels
- First aid provision has been planned for
- SEND pupils provisions have been planned for
- Activities planned are appropriate for all children to access
- The booking of transport and the journey itself has been thoroughly planned
- Safety checks of driver and transport considered
- Any adventurous activities means the risk assessment will be sent to the LA approval
- All generic risks are listed (trips/falls etc.)
- Site specific risks are listed (escalators etc.)
- Event specific risks are listed (pond dipping etc.)
- Individual risks are listed (related to specific children with a specific need)

When planning any trip or visit please use the following SAGED approach:

Staff - are the staff attending competent and suitable for the planned activities?

Activities - do the activities meet the needs of the children? Meet desired outcomes?

Remember most visit accidents happen in downtime!

Groups – have you considered age/ability/maturity/EAL/medical/SEND?

Environment – where is the nearest hospital? Are you going to a built – up area? Weather?

Facilities? Day/night? Will there be members of the public there.

Distance – How quickly can your emergency school based contact reach you? Does your staff ratio reflect the distance

Preliminary visits

All visits should be thoroughly researched to establish the suitability of the venue. Wherever reasonably practical the visit organiser should conduct a preliminary visit, especially if the venue has not been used for an education visit in previous years. Preliminary visits should take place before completing any plan or risk assessment.

At the discretion of the Headteacher, these visits may take place during the school day or in the teacher's own time. Reasonable expenses incurred may be reimbursed from the school.

Transport

Careful thought must be given to the planning of any transport. The bursar will carry out the administrative tasks involved in procuring transport and communicating fees. Transport costs will be incorporated into the overall trip cost to be paid for by parents via Parentmail. All coaches and buses will be hired from a reputable company. The level of supervision during the journey must be planned for by the visit organiser.

The use of private cars will be avoided wherever possible and will only be used as a last resort. If parents arrange independently to transport their own child then this can be approved if the action for doing so is deemed reasonable by the visit organiser.

Any transport issues or concerns that occur during a visit will be reported immediately to the school bursar, EVC and the Headteacher and reported to the travel company and the Local Authority. If the visit organiser does not feel the transport or driver are safe for any reason they must not board the transport, or if already travelling, ask the driver to stop in the nearest, safest location and call the Headteacher to seek further advice.

Groupings

Year group teams will work together to organise the children into manageable groups, each headed by an appropriate adult (group supervisor). Where possible, St Matthew's staff should be deployed as group supervisors, with parent helpers acting as additional support. Where parent helpers are allocated to specific groups of children, that group should not include their own child to ensure fairness of treatment during the visit. The exception to this is where a parent is attending the trip as a condition that their own child is included for specific reasons.

All group supervisors should carry a list of names for their group at all times and will be responsible for the children in their group. If visits include adventurous activities then the staffs to pupil ratios needs increasing above the usual safe requirement. Mixed gender groups should also have mixed gender staff supports where possible.

All groups need access to first aid. All group supervisors should be competent to exercise appropriate control of the group. Any staff members that are assigned to support any individual children 1:1 must not be included in the overall group staffing ratio as their responsibility does not lie within the wider group.

The Team Leader must refer to the National Guidance: *Ratios and Effective Supervision* *National Guidance* when planning grouping supervision.

Exclusions

Any pupil whose behaviour may be considered to be a danger to themselves or to the group may be excluded from participating in the educational visit. The curricular aims of the

visit for these pupils should be fulfilled in other ways. The Headteacher will be responsible for communicating the exclusion and the reasons for it to the child's parents.

Staff briefing

Prior to the visit the visit organiser will meet with all accompanying adults to brief them on the educational aims of the visit, the itinerary for the day, and their role and responsibilities for the duration of the visit. The visit organiser will also provide all staff with a copy of the risk assessment and discuss it in depth. The EVC must monitor that staff briefings are taking place within year groups.

Pupil expectations

Prior to the visit, the visit organiser will arrange a meeting/assembly with all the participating children, to establish rules and expectations of behaviour. This meeting should also be attended by as many of the accompanying adults as possible. The school Golden Rules will apply on the trip. Any pupil behaving in a way that is unsafe or detrimental to the learning of others may be removed from an activity for a short period of time.

Identification

During all school visits children will wear high visibility jackets with the school logo on so that pupils are easily identifiable to all members of the public. Staff will wear high visibility jackets and children will remain in school uniform for further ease of identification.

Parental consent

Upon admission to St Matthew's Primary School all parents/carers are asked to sign a consent form for their child to participate in local educational visits. This consent form is retained within the pupil's record folder for the duration of the child's attendance at St. Matthew's Primary School. Although this removes the need to regularly request and obtain permission slips for local educational visits, parents/carers will always be notified in writing that a visit will be taking place.

For distant visits or visits that require transport, the school will always request specific written permission of parents/carers via ParentMail.

For residential visits or those involving adventurous activities, as well as requesting written permission, the school will also organise an information sharing meeting with parents.

The visit organiser will liaise with our school administrative support to produce information letters and parental consent forms which will be shared with parents via Parentmail. When a visit involves a cost, parents will be notified in reasonable time and payments will be expected online.

Insurance

The visit organiser will liaise with the school's Business Manager to ensure that the visit is covered by the school's existing insurance policies. Consultation between the Business Manager, the Head teacher and the EVC will determine whether or not additional insurance is necessary.

First Aid

First Aid provision must be considered when assessing the risks of the visit. For adventurous activities, visits which involve overnight stays, or visits abroad it is sensible to have at least one trained first-aider in the group. Qualified first aiders may not be necessary for all off-site activities and visits but a basic level of first aid must be available at all times. The group

leader should have a working knowledge of first aid and all adults in the group should know how to contact the emergency services. For Reception pupils it is a statutory requirement that at least one adult who has a pediatric first aid certificate must accompany children on outings.

The minimum first-aid provision is:

- A suitably stocked first-aid bag
- A person appointed to be in charge of first-aid arrangements

First-aid should be available and accessible at all times. If a first-aider is attending to one member of the group, there should be adequate staff cover for the other pupils. The visit organiser should take this into account when assessing what level of first-aid facilities will be needed. The contents of a first-aid kit will depend on what activities are planned.

Medical Needs

Individual children's medical needs will also be thoroughly planned for. The visit organiser must also check that any transport used does have a first aid kit on board.

'Medical needs' are different to First Aid. Individual children's medical will be thoroughly planned for. Medical needs provision must be considered when planning the trip and be included in any trip's Risk Assessment.

For adventurous activities, visits which includes overnight stays or visits abroad, at least one named person will deal with all medical needs and procedures (not general First Aids). The trip leader should have a working knowledge of children's specific medical needs and all adults should know how to contact the emergency services.

Medical procedures should be available and accessible at the times needed e.g. prescribed medicine or inhalers given in correct dosage at specified/correct time. The trip leader /organiser will take this into account when planning the number of adults needed in any given trip.

Parents will be asked to complete the medical information sheets before a trip and they will hand the medicine to the named person for medical needs on the morning of the trip. Parents must send medicines in, with clear dosage information, in a named container. Records will be completed when a child is administered medication when on a trip. This will include travel sickness medication.

For overnight stays, parents/carers will give consent for pain relief medication or allergy relief medication to be administered if required.

Catering

During the planning process of any educational visit that involves children being away from the school premises during their normal lunch break, the school kitchen manager should be notified at the earliest possible stage.

For shorter local visits that only last half a day arrangements may be made, giving good

notice to the kitchen manager for the children to have a slightly earlier lunch before their departure, or a later lunch upon their return. Any such arrangements must also be relayed to the Senior Leadership Team.

For whole day visits, children whose parents pay for school meals will be expected to bring a packed lunch. Children who receive free school meals in KS2 or have a free school meal in KS1 must be given the opportunity to have a free school packed lunch, although may prefer to bring their own packed lunch on a visit. The visit organiser will liaise with the kitchen manager seven days before the visit and place an order for the appropriate number of free school packed lunches.

Supervision levels

In line with National Guidance, agreed minimum supervision levels for St. Matthew's Primary School are as follows:

	Whole day / Distant visits	Shorter / Local visits:
Reception	1:4 plus 1 per 30	
Year 1 – 3	1:6 plus 1 per 30	
Year 4 – 6	1:8 plus 1 per 30	

The above are just starting points and will need reviewing for each individual trip being planned.

Charging

Parents/carers will be asked to fully contribute to the cost of a day visit. For overnight stays, pupil premium pupils may receive a reduction to their expected contribution. Wherever possible, visits will be made fair and affordable so that all our children have a chance to participate. Year groups can also run fund raising activities and events to lower the overall costs of any planned visits, although this may not always be deemed suitable for every visit that happens.

If there are not enough contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up a shortfall, then the visit will be cancelled and any payments made by parents will be refunded.

In planning a visit, the visit organiser will always communicate costs with the school bursar to discuss ways to lower the overall cost for our parents.

EVOLVE

Luton local authority subscribes to an external service provided by EduFocus called EVOLVE (Educational Visits On-Line Virtual Environment). Visit plans are recorded on the Evolve website by appropriate school staff and monitored by the EVC before submitting for approval by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (and local authority if necessary).

Relevant documents such as risk assessments, itineraries, information letters, evaluations, etc. are uploaded and stored in a database for future use. At St Matthew's Primary School, all categories of visit are processed on Evolve.

Please do not ask venues for written copies of their risk assessments or upload them onto EVOLVE due to legal issues.

Emergency Procedures

All visit organisers will be supplied with an up-to-date Emergency Procedures document prior to any visit by the EVC.

In the event of a significant incident or accident that does not involve serious injury or fatality, and/or is not likely to attract media attention, the visit organiser should seek advice from their establishment emergency contact(s). This will be the Head teacher, deputy or the year groups link Assistant Head.

In the event of an incident that does involve serious injury or fatality, and/or is likely to attract media attention, the visit organiser must activate immediate support from Luton Borough Council using the 24 hour number **01582 546072**

The above contact number should only be used if a critical incident has occurred:

- When any member of the group has suffered a life threatening injury or fatality
- When any member of the group is at serious risk
- When any member of the group has gone missing for a significant or unacceptable period of time

When calling the emergency number staff must ask for the **Duty First Responder**.

Learning Outside The Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge

The decision about the use of an external provider is the responsibility of the visit organiser, EVC, and Head of establishment. The LA does not 'approve' external providers or tour operators. Staff will be asked to use the 'Search by External Provider' on EVOLVE, and liaise with other LA establishments that have used a particular provider.

The visit organiser should consider the requirements under 'best value' when selecting an external provider.

To confirm that all aspects of the operation of the provider are satisfactory, the visit organiser and EVC must ensure that either:

a) The Provider holds an **LOtC Quality Badge**

Or

b) An '**Independent Provider's Form**' has been satisfactorily completed by the provider.

For Providers that hold an LOtC Quality Badge

No further action is necessary, other than to check the suitability of the provider/venue in relation to the intended aims or learning outcomes for the particular group. It is recommended that establishments ask the provider to complete a simplified provider form, identifying key personnel and contact details.

For Providers that DO NOT hold an LOTC Quality Badge

It is recommended to follow the LA procedure:

1. Complete the top section of the Independent Provider's Form (IPF).
2. Send the IPF to the provider (email, fax, post).
3. On its return check that it has been satisfactorily completed.
4. Attach the IPF to the visit in the Attachments section under Independent Provider's form on Evolve.

Important: If the Provider has made any alterations to the wording of the IPF or is unable to comply, then the visit organiser must discuss this with the Provider, and if necessary seek advice from the LA prior to making a commitment with the Provider.

The Independent Provider Form should be sent to the provider at the time of making a provisional booking and no deposits should be committed prior to its satisfactory completion and return.

Key Contacts

Educational Visits Adviser Toni Chivers

Active Education Manager
Toni.chivers@activeluton.co.uk
01582 400272
07771 900133

General Health and Safety Tommy Smythe

07711916074
Tommy.smythe@luton.gov.uk

RPA Insurance

0330 0585566
rpa@topmarkcms.com

Luton Borough Council Emergency Line (24 hour)

0300 300 8089