



MARATHON SCIENCE SCHOOL



Educational Visits and School Trips Policy

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Next Review: September 2026

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Statement

Visits and trips can be empowering and highly engaging learning opportunities and providing rich cultural capital experiences for all pupils and especially for those who are disadvantaged.

They are also effective ways of motivating pupils, and they can 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 and real-world setting.

The school 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 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'

This policy should be used in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality and Diversity 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 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 governing 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 Trust's Complaints Procedures 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 headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- Appointing an Activities Coordinator, liaising with the governing board as necessary to ensure the correct appointment is made.
- Liaising with the Activities 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 Activities 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.

The Activities 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.
- Working 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 any problems are raised in a meeting with the governing 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 headteacher.

- Completing all essential documentation for the trip, including a risk assessment.
- Informing parents of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity at least four weeks in advance of 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.

4. 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 CPD.

5. 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 checked by the Activities 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.

6. 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

7. Vetting Providers

When considering external providers for activities, the Activities 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 Activities 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.

8. 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 and Diversity 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.

9. Safe Use of Minibuses and Seatbelts

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.

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.

10. Parental consent

Parental consent is already taken in the admission process.

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.

11. Staffing Ratios

There will be sufficient staff to cope in an emergency and generally. Our staffing ratios will be determined by the type of trip, start and end time of the trip, the group of Pupils and their needs, and the staff members on the trip.

12. Insurance and Licensing

When planning activities of an adventurous nature in the UK, the Activities 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.

13. 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 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 headteacher will keep written records of any incidents, accidents and near misses.

Media enquiries will be referred to the headteacher or, if they are not available, the deputy headteacher or the clerk to governors.

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 an item of clothing which clearly shows the school logo. Failing this, pupils will be given a badge with the school logo on, which must be worn at all times. To ensure pupils are easily identifiable they must wear an item of clothing which clearly shows the school logo. Failing this, pupils will be given a badge with the school logo on, which must be worn at all times.

14. 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 in accordance with section six of this policy.

The Activities 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 SEND, the Activities Coordinator 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 section 15 of 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 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 accordance with point 13.9, 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 headteacher, 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 Activities 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 Activities Coordinator to ensure similar incidents can be avoided in the future.

15. Pupils with SEND

Where possible, activities and visits will be reasonably 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.

16. Finance

The financial procedures outlined in the school's Charging and Remissions 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 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. 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 headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The headteacher will consult the governing board on the matter, taking into account the cost to the school, including alternative provision costs.

In the event that a pupil cancels their place on a trip, it is at the headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents. The headteacher will consult the governing board on the matter, taking 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.

Where a pupil has previously cancelled a space on a school trip and received a full refund, the school has the right to refuse to allow the pupil to attend future trips and visits.

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 and including a small contingency.

Any excess of expenditure will be subsidised by the school fund.

17 Abroad Trips

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

Validity of passports and visa requirements will be 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, 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 town/city's local news at the start of each day of the trip, to ensure their planned activities are safe to go ahead.

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

When using external providers abroad, the school will check whether the provider holds an equivalent of the 'Learning outside the Classroom Quality Badge'. If no such equivalent can be ascertained, the school will make checks in the same manner as paragraph 7.2 prior to agreeing to use the provider.

18. 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. Evaluation form has to be filed after each school trip by the responsible staff.

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

Risk Assessment Form:

Can be filled from the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Gq2NpyA6yW>

MARATHON SCIENCE SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL VISITS BY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER.

The group leader should complete this form as soon as possible once the preparations are complete. The group leader should have already received approval of the proposed visit in principle and should have regularly updated the head teacher on the progress of the preparations. The group leader should obtain parental consent forms.

When approval is given, a copy should be retained by the Headteacher and another by the group leader. The headteacher should be informed of any subsequent changes in planning, organisation, staffing. If required, the headteacher should seek approval from the school governors or Local Education Authority.

* Required

1. Group leader: *

2. Purpose of visit and specific educational objective *

- ☐ Career Days Trip
- ☐ Educational Trip
- ☐ Extracurricular activity trip
- ☐ Other

3. Places to be visited: *

4. Date of departure: *

5. Departure time: *

6. Date of return: *

7. Arrival time: *

8. Transport Arrangement *

- ☐ Public Transport
- ☐ School Bus
- ☐ Organising company/agency (if any)
- ☐ Other

9. Purpose of visit and specific educational objective *

- ☐ Career Days Trip
- ☐ Educational Trip
- ☐ Extracurricular activity trip
- ☐ Other

10. Proposed cost and financial arrangements:

11. Insurance arrangements for all members of the proposed party, including voluntary helpers: Include the name of the insurance company. Insurance Cover, Policy No and Address:

12. Accommodation to be used: Name, Telephone Number, Name of head of centre (if available):

13. Details of the programme of activities: *

14. Details of any hazardous activity

☐ Adventure Park

☐ Paintball

☐ Water Sports

☐ Climbing / Trekking

☐ Snow Sports

☐ Other

15. Names, relevant experience, qualifications and specific responsibilities of staff accompanying the party:

16. Names, relevant qualifications and specific responsibilities of other adults accompanying the party:

17. Name, address and telephone number of the contact person in the home area who holds all information about the trip in case of an emergency: *

- ☐ Head of Boardin Halil I.Sarikaya +44 7402 101660 (SE8 5RQ London)
- ☐ Housemaster of Hackney Alpkan Keskin +43 660 6587935 (E2 8AX London)
- ☐ Housemaster of Lewisham Selman Dural +44 7713 605203 (SE8 5RQ London)
- ☐ Mehmet Durmaz +44 7912 250994 (E2 8AX London)
- ☐ Hilmi Gokbas +44 7543 715442 (SE8 5RQ London)
- ☐ Other

18. Benefits of the trip to the young people involved *

- ☐ Broaden their horizons
- ☐ Bring subjects to life
- ☐ Independent thinking
- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Confidence, self-esteem

- ☐ Teamwork
- ☐ Increase motivation

19. Existing knowledge of places to be visited and whether an exploratory visit is intended:

20. Composition of the group:

☐ Year 11

☐ Year 10

☐ Year 9

☐ Year 8

☐ Year 7

21. Size of the group: (Number of boys with year groups) *

22. Size of the group: Adult to pupil ratio *

23. Information on parental consent *

	Done	Not Done
Consent from from all parents	☐	☐
Information sent to parents	☐	☐

24. Names of pupils with SEND provision/identified students or medical needs:

25. Issues during transport

- ☐ Students informed about predetermined stops for toilet needs
- ☐ Seat Belt must be worn all times by law
- ☐ Shouting outside is not allowed and will cause consequences.
- ☐ Disruption is not allowed and will cause consequences
- ☐ Other

26. Question

	Group	Transport	Site / Environmnt	Activity arrangmnt	Alternative Plans	...
No Remote supervision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult Student Ratio	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Seat belts worn all time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disturbing others	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

27. In case of emergency

- ☐ Accident: Firstaid box
- ☐ Serious fight: Separate them. No activities.
- ☐ Not listening instruction: Shadow with a staff
- ☐ Lost: Center routine followed, Report management
- ☐ Other

28. Supervision at the activities

- ☐ Students informed about agreed meeting point and meeting time
- ☐ Information given about what to do emergency
- ☐ Id card, badge or passports to show police
- ☐ No remote supervision of students
- ☐ Other

29. Hazard and Risks

- ☐ Students informed about agreed meeting point and meeting time
- ☐ Information given about what to do emergency
- ☐ Id card, badge or passports to show police
- ☐ No remote supervision of students
- ☐ Other

30. Assessment and Action plan prepared by *

31. Next Assessment due date:

EVALUATION OF THE VISIT

(To be completed by the group Leader for the future reference)

32. Please rate

	5 stars	4 stars	3 stars	2 stars	1 star
Pre-visit organisation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Travel arrangements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Content of program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Instructions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Suitability of environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accommodation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Food	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Evening activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

33. Date

34. Group leaders full name and Signature: