

Stampers Pre-School

Educational visits and outings (reviewed 18.2.16)

Northumberland County Council

Model Policy for the Management of Off-Site Activities

This model policy is provided to schools to help implement arrangements for the management of off-site activities outlined in the Northumberland County Council health and safety policy "Safe Management of Visits and Off-Site Activities 2009".

The model policy should be adapted to describe the particular arrangements in place in individual schools.

Under the heading "The Governing Body" of the above booklet states:

"Governors should agree a policy for the management of off-site activities. This may be done by endorsing the Council policy and should include additional reference to school based or local procedures for:

- approving off-site activities*
- the provision of training and information*
- the management of any significant provision which is particular to the school (e.g. residential centre or mini-bus)*
- action in the case of an emergency*
- reporting accidents and incidents*
- monitoring and reviewing policy and practice."*

For additional advice or comment on the development and application of the attached model policy please contact: Outdoor Education Safety Adviser, 01670 533756 outdooredcation@northumberland.gov.uk

NB. The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 places overall responsibility for health and safety with the employer. Who this is varies with the type of school.

- For community schools, community special schools, voluntary controlled schools, maintained nursery schools and pupil referral units the employer is the Local Authority (LA).
- For foundation schools, foundation special schools and voluntary-aided schools, the employer is usually the governing body.

(From DCSF: Health and Safety, Responsibilities and Powers, December 2001)

Nonetheless, foundation and voluntary aided schools may decide to make use of the Northumberland policy and guidance as necessary.

Model Policy for the Management of Educational Visits
January 2010

Name of school: Stampers Pre-School

1. Introduction

This policy covers all off-site visits and activities organised through the pre-school and for which the Committee and Pre-School Leader are responsible.

The Management Committee endorses the Northumberland County Council policy document "Safe Management of Visits and Off-site Activities" as the basis for the school's health and safety policy for the management of visits and off-site activities.

The Management Committee seeks to ensure that every pupil has access to a wide range of educational experiences as an entitlement. As part of this entitlement the Management Committee recognises the significant educational value of visits and activities, which take place away from the immediate pre-school environment.

The Management Committee aims to enable this pre-school to become an educational environment in which all members of the pre-school community can thrive, regardless of race, religion, culture, gender or individual need. We intend to apply this aim to the planning and management of all visits and off-site activities.

Visits and off-site activities support, enrich and extend the curriculum in many subject areas, encourage co-operation, teamwork and the application of problem solving skills and develop independence and self-confidence.

Outdoor education helps young people to be physically active and to understand how to assess and manage risk.

The management of visits and off-site activities places particular responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of all participants on the Management Committee, Pre-School Leader, the visit leader, members of staff and volunteers, pupils and parents. The preschool also has responsibilities to other members of the public and to third parties. This policy on visits and off-site activities therefore complements the wider preschool health and safety policy.

It is a priority of this preschool that all visits and off-site activities are safe, well-managed and educationally beneficial.

2. Responsibilities of the Pre-School Leader

The Pre-School Leader will:

- ensure all visits and off-site activities have specific and appropriate educational objectives.
- approve all visits and activities, based on compliance with the council and pre-school health and safety policy, relevant Northumberland County Council guidance and recognised good practice;
- 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;

- check that the staffing ratio is suitable for each visit;
- ensure visit leaders have access to a planning checklist, based on the Northumberland policy, and adapted as necessary to meet the particular needs of the school;
- check that risks have been assessed, significant risks recorded and any appropriate safety measures are in place.

3. Responsibilities of the Educational Visits Co-ordinator

In order to carry out the above responsibilities effectively the Pre-School Leader may delegate specified tasks to a suitably experienced and competent Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC). In the case of Stampers Pre-School, the head teacher Miss Claire McKinney will be considered to be the EVC. The EVC will be responsible for carrying out agreed tasks and attending relevant training provided by the Council.

4. Approval of off-site activities

The EVC will be responsible for approving all off-site activities. This includes approving the visit leader for each visit or off-site activity.

A summary of the programme for the following categories of visits, together with a risk assessment, will be sent to the Outdoor Education Safety Adviser, Northumberland Health and Safety Team, for endorsement:

- hazardous outdoor and adventurous activities
- residential visits UK, visits abroad;
- activities where there is significant concern about health, safety and welfare.

The Pre-School Leader will monitor off-site visits and activities and will provide an annual report to the Management Committee at the AGM about the off-site activities which have taken place from the pre-school.

5. Responsibilities of the visit leader

The visit leader will:

- have overall responsibility for the supervision and conduct of the visit or activity;
- obtain the EVC'S approval before any off-site visit or activity takes place;
- follow policy and procedures of the Council and the pre-school;
- assess the risks involved and amend as appropriate any previously recorded risk assessment;
- use the 'visit planning checklist' to ensure all procedures have been followed;
- ensure form SV8 from the policy is completed where commercial, charitable or private are being used for adventurous or residential activities;
- inform parents/carers fully about the visit and gain their consent, where appropriate;
- reassess risks while the visit or activity takes place;
- ensure there is a contingency plan (Plan B) should a significant change to the programme be necessary due to weather etc.
- Ensure outings file is completed. Needs to include risk assessment, who went, where, times in and out, staff and volunteers, any incidents, contact details for the group

6. Responsibilities of additional members of staff taking part in visits and off-site activities

Members of staff, volunteers and parent helpers should:

- Assist the visit leader to ensure the health, safety and welfare of young people on the visit;
- Be clear about their roles and responsibilities whilst taking part in a visit or activity.

7. Responsibilities of children

Whilst taking part in off-site activities pupils also have responsibilities about which they should be made aware by the party leader or other members of staff, for their own health and safety and that of the group. Young people should:

- Avoid unnecessary risks;
- Follow instructions of the visit leader and other members of staff;
- Behave sensibly, keeping to any agreed code of conduct;
- Inform a member of staff of significant hazards.

8. Responsibilities of parents/carers

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

- support the application of any agreed code of conduct;
- inform the party leader about any medical, psychological or physical condition relevant to the visit;
- provide an emergency contact number;
- sign the consent form.

9. The provision of training and information

A copy of this policy and associated pre-school procedures will be made available to all staff within the pre-school who may be responsible for leading off-site visits and activities and to any parent requesting a copy.

The EVC will make additional information available to staff to help ensure the safe management of off-site activities, including the Northumberland policy statement "Safe Management of Visits and Off-Site Activities 2009" and access to the DES website: www.northumberlandvisits.org.uk

Appropriate training will be made available to leaders and other adults taking part in off-site activities in order to reflect identified school health and safety priorities and educational priorities.

The EVC will maintain a record of the qualifications held by staff and volunteers involved in outdoor activities including first aid, life-saving, mini-bus driving and specific hazardous activities.

10. Action in the case of emergency

The Pre-School Leader will ensure that emergency arrangements are in place, known to staff and in line with Council policy, to cover the range of activities undertaken from the pre-school and the times at which they take place. This will include a minimum of two emergency contact numbers for designated members of staff or the Chair of the Management Committee out-of hours. First aid provision and training of staff will be in accordance with good practice.

11. Accidents and incidents

Any accidents and incidents that occur during off-site visits and activities will be reported and recorded in accordance with the pre-school health and safety policy.

Northumberland County Council will be informed of notifiable accidents and incidents. Accidents and incidents will subsequently be reviewed within the school to identify any learning points.

12. Monitoring and review policy and practice

The Management Committee will review this policy:

- Every two years
- At such time as there are significant changes to guidance on the management of educational visits and off-site activities
- Should significant issues be brought to the attention of the Management Committee through the report of the EVC.

This policy has been agreed by Stammers Pre-School Committee:-

Signed.....

Date.....

**No new updated from NCC received
Reviewed May 2013**