Educational Visits Policy

Policy

Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities – Bedale High School

Headteacher

Chris Stokes

Procedure Review Dates

Review Date	Changes made	By whom	Date shared with staff
July 2025	New Policy	CST	July 2025
October 2025	Name changes and Visit planning approval summary table in line with NYES template.	CST	November 2025
October 2026	Updated local learning area information	ACE	October 2026

Date ratified by Governors	Review Date
October 2026	October 2027

Introduction

This policy sets out the establishment procedures within which all employees must operate. Further details can be gained by referring to the Employer Policy as detailed in Section 2.

Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability, or circumstances.

Learning beyond the classroom is the use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning. It is about getting children and young people out and about, providing them with challenging, exciting, and different experiences to help them learn.

It is about raising achievement through an organized, powerful approach to learning in which direct experience is of prime importance. This is not only about what we learn but importantly how and where we learn. It is not an end in itself but a vehicle to develop the capacity to learn. Good quality learning beyond the classroom adds much value to classroom learning.

1. Scope and responsibilities

This policy applies to all educational visits, outdoor learning and adventurous activities carried out with young people. It does not apply to work-experience placements, work related learning or alternative provision.

The Headteacher has appointed an Educational Visits Co-Ordinator. They will have the training and experience to enable them to competently discharge their responsibilities as listed in The Employer Policy.

The Educational Visits Co-Ordinator is: Andy Childe

Administrative tasks will be carried out by: Amy McDougal

2. Establishment policy and procedures

Consent

Routine acknowledgement: Whilst it is not a legal requirement to gain parental consent for curriculum activities, written acknowledgement will be gained on enrolment for routine local visits and activities which are a part of our normal educational provision during the school day and information regarding the nature of the types of visits will be included with the acknowledgment request. We will always aim to fully inform parents by letter or email of the nature of each visit, activity, or series of a similar nature, remind parents that they have acknowledged this, and give opportunity to update information and emergency contact details. On occasions a curriculum opportunity may become available at short notice, and we will always aim to notify parents that their child will be off-site, but this may not be possible.

Non-routine consent: Written consent which may be electronic via Parent Pay will be gained on enrolment for those visits which are non-routine visits and activities and those visits which fall outside of normal hours. We will fully inform parents by letter or email of the nature of each visit, activity, or series of a similar nature.

Specific consent: Written consent which may be electronic via Parent Pay will be gained for every individual visit, activity or series of a similar nature which involve a higher level of risk including but

not limited to longer journeys, residential visits, and adventurous activities. We will fully inform parents by letter or email of the nature of each visit, activity, or series of a similar nature.

Medical information: We will use the medical information on record in our Student Information Management system alongside any updated information which parents will be given the opportunity to provide for most visits and activities. Where visits or activities involve a higher level of risk it may be appropriate for separate medical information and consent forms to be completed.

Staff competence

Records will be kept of induction, training, relevant qualifications and competence using the 'My Details' section of Evolve.

To ensure sustainability of important visits deputy leaders will be appointed in order that contingency plans can be put in place should a visit leader be indisposed.

EVC Training

The Educational Visits Co-Ordinator will attend appropriate training and revalidation as required by the employer.

Visit Leader Training

Visit leaders will be approved by the Headteacher and will have attended appropriate training as required by the employer.

3. Planning and approval procedures

Visit leaders should follow the employer policy, establishment policy, guidance, local procedures, and standard assessments of risk.

Risk management is a vital part of planning and assessing benefits and risk associated with visits and activities. Sensible risk management relates to identifying significant hazards and mitigating against risk through appropriate control measures. It is not a paperwork exercise but a dynamic process before and during a visit or activity in order that young people can be kept safe from harm. At Bedale High School we have identified our Local Area Visits which include all the places that we visit and the activities that we undertake routinely. Details of our Local Area Visits are contained within the appendix which includes generic risk assessment. Wherever the need arises additional risks and significant findings will be recorded using event specific risk assessment.

External providers: Wherever possible visit leaders will gain credible assurances of health & safety management systems and quality provision through a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. Alternatively, assurances will be gained through a Provider Statement as detailed in the employer policy.

4. Visit Planning and Management System

Evolve is the North Yorkshire Council web-based system used to facilitate the efficient planning, management, approval, and evaluation of visits. All staff that lead or accompany visits can access their own account which is set up by the Educational Visits Co-Ordinator.

The default option is a day visit within the United Kingdom. Visits can be further categorized, as follows:

- On-site or local learning area
- Joint visit
- Overseas
- Residential
- Adventurous (provider led)
- Adventurous (self-led)

Visits will be recorded as detailed in the summary table below.

Approval of visits will be made as detailed below. Initial approval in principle will also be gained as required in the employer policy.

Governing Body:

> The governing body has a strategic role to set the vision and direction of the school and has responsibility for its educational and financial performance. To enable this, it will hold the Headteacher to account by oversight of learning beyond the classroom opportunities to ensure that the educational experiences are of high quality, that best value is obtained, and financial regulations are adhered to.

Adviser: Visits abroad, residential and all adventurous activities regardless of leadership or location. (As detailed in guidance).

Headteacher: Visits abroad, all adventurous activities, residential visits, and non-local day visits, Local walking visits,

local sports fixtures.

Visit planning approval summary table for Bedale High School.

EVOLVE Classification	**Planning/Recording Process**	**Risk Management**	**Final Approval**
On-site/Local Area Visits (LAV)	Recorded on Evolve	School risk manages routine risks e.g. road crossings, moving around public places, the journey etc., and if a provider is being used any non-provider led activities using LAV risk management supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	EVC/Head
Day Visit outside Local Learning Area	Recorded on Evolve		EVC/Head
Overseas	Recorded on Evolve	As above plus the school **also** risk assesses down time activities.	Adviser

Residential	Recorded on Evolve		Adviser
Adventure, provider led	Recorded on Evolve	As per On-site/Local Area Visits and Day Visits outside Local Learning Area.	Adviser
Adventure, self-led	Recorded on Evolve		Adviser

5. Incident Management

In the case of an incident during a visit all members of staff will follow the establishment's incident management plan as detailed in the appendix.

6. Monitoring of visits and procedures

Governors will monitor the implementation of this policy by acting as a critical friend in monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the policy.

The Educational Visits Co-Ordinator will ensure that there is a system in place for appropriate monitoring of visits and activities.

7. Charges for Off-site Activities and Visits

Charges for educational off-site visits and adventurous activities, including charges for visits and transport, requests for voluntary contributions and remission of charges are made in line with DfE guidance. Reference should also be made to the school's charging and remissions policy.

8. Inclusion & SEND

We endorse the principles for young people of a presumption of entitlement to participate, accessibility through direct or realistic adaption or modification and integration through participation with peers.

We acknowledge that it is unlawful to treat a young person with a protected characteristic less favourably or fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that young people with protected characteristics are not placed at a substantial disadvantage without justification.

We also acknowledge that expectations of staff must be reasonable, so that what is required of them (to include a young person) is within their competence and is reasonable. Reference should also be made to Bedale High School's SEND policy.

9. Safeguarding

Safeguarding procedures should be considered as part of the planning process with additional consideration for residential visits. Visit Leadership Teams should:

- As part of planning, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and other staff to identify any relevant safeguarding issues
- Have access during a visit to the DSL (or trained deputy) either directly or through the Base Contact.

Any volunteers who accompany any visit or activity will be vetted and be directly supervised by a member of staff. If they are to have significant unsupervised access to young people, then an enhanced DBS disclosure will be obtained and they will undergo induction and training in their role and responsibilities as detailed in employer and school policies and local procedures. Reference should also be made to Bedale High School's safeguarding policy.

10. Insurance

Young people participating in visits and activities will have annual travel insurance provided under an annual Schools Journey Insurance policy. Any differences to this will be notified to parents/carers as appropriate before any consent or payment is made.

11. Transport

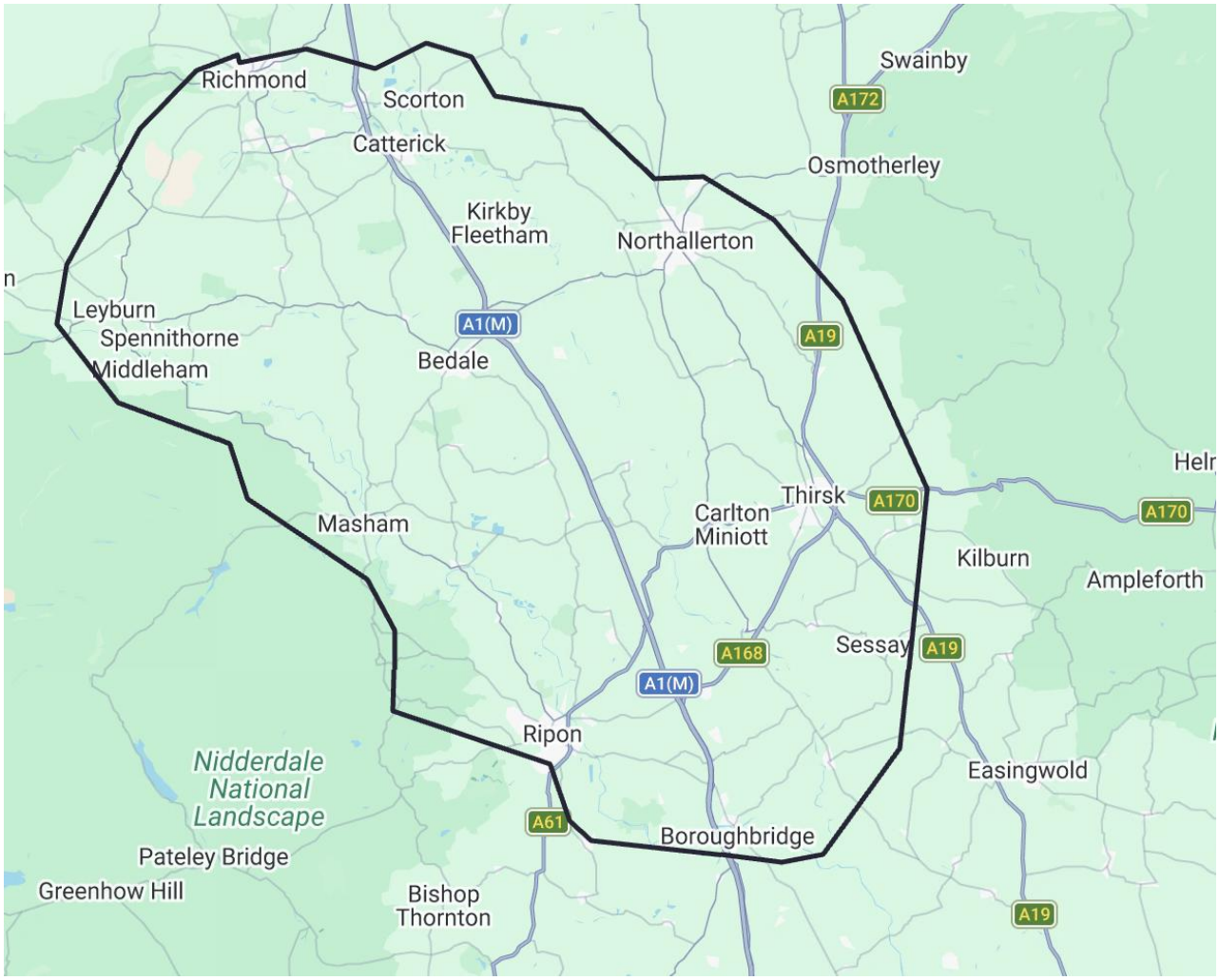
Careful thought must be given to planning transport to support off-site activities and visits. Statistics demonstrate that it is more hazardous to travel to an activity than to engage in it and staff must follow any specialist guidance provided by your employer.

Appendix - Local Area Visits

Operating Procedure for visits to the Local Area

Boundaries

The boundaries of the locality are shown on the map below; this area includes routinely used venues such as local secondary schools/venues for sporting fixtures, primary collaboration events etc.:



We use our Local Area on a regular basis for a variety of learning activities, and visit leaders are allowed to operate in this area by inputting visits on EVOLVE using the Local Area Visits option, provided they follow the Operating Procedures below.

Standard Operating Procedure for visits in the Local Area

The following are potentially significant issues/hazards within our extended locality:

- Road traffic.
- Other people / members of the public / animals.
- Losing a pupil.
- Uneven surfaces and slips, trips, and falls.
- Weather conditions.
- Activity specific issues when doing environmental fieldwork (nettles, brambles, rubbish, etc).

These are managed by a combination of the following:

- Visit Leaders must complete the appropriate documentation (including a Risk Assessment) on EVOLVE and the visit must be approved by the EVC before a group leaves.
- Only staff who have completed the Visit Leader training and are judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved.
- There will normally be a minimum of two adults where the visit lasts beyond the normal school day.
- Staff are familiar with the area, including any ‘no go areas’, and have practiced appropriate group management techniques.
- Pupils have been trained and have practiced standard techniques for road crossings in a group. Staff are reminded that it is illegal to stop traffic.
- Pupils are fully briefed on what to do if they become separated from the group.
- All remotely supervised work in the extended learning locality is done in ‘buddy’ pairs as a minimum.
- Weather and environmental conditions will be assessed and group management plans adjusted. This may involve postponement or cancellation.
- Pupils’ clothing and footwear is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school based on activity and weather considerations.
- Staff are aware of any relevant pupil medical information and ensure that any required medication is available.
- Staff will deposit in the office a list of all pupils and staff, a proposed route, and an estimated time of return.
- A school mobile is taken with each group where students are not with a member of staff for a duration of the visit, and the office have a note of the number.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (e.g. gloves, goggles).