

North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation

Policy for Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning, Adventurous Activities, and Local Learning Areas.



- * Foston Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School *
- * Langton Primary School *
- * Stillington Community Primary School *
- * Terrington Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School *

At Foston and Terrington Church of England Schools our commitment to promoting sustainability, affirming diversity, embracing community, and inspiring creativity, is rooted in the words of St Paul who wrote, 'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control' (Galatians 5 v 22-23). Our core Christian values, love, joy, patience, and self-control are fostered in the pupils and staff building an ethos where all can flourish.

At Stillington and Langton Primary Schools our commitment to promoting sustainability, affirming diversity, embracing community, and inspiring creativity is rooted in the core values of love, joy, patience, and self-control. These core values are fostered in the pupils and staff, building an ethos where all can flourish.

Agreed by the Governing Board: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026

Foston CE (VC)
Primary School
Foston
YO60 7QB

Stillington Community
Primary School
Main Street
Stillington
YO61 1LA

Terrington CE (VA)
Primary School
North Back Lane
Terrington
YO60 6NS

Langton Community
Primary School
The Green
Langton
YO17 9QP

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 organised, 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 (EVC). They have had the training and experience to enable them to competently discharge their responsibilities as listed in The Employer Policy.

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator is Louisa Cooke

Administrative tasks will be carried out by Louisa Cooke

2. Establishment policy and procedures

For Foston CE (VC), Stillington and Langton Primary School, the NYC Policy for Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities (November 2022) is the employer's policy. Specific local procedures will be in line with, but not duplicate, this policy.

For Terrington CE (VA) Primary School, the NYC Policy for Educational Visits, Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activities (November 2022) has been adopted by the governing body as its policy. The governing body recognises that it is the employer and retains responsibilities for health and safety. It will discharge its duties through the adoption of the policy and retain competent advice, additional approval, and monitoring through North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning. Specific local procedures will be in line with, but not duplicate, this policy.

Where there is conflict with non-statutory guidance or advice from other sources, the employer policy will take precedence with clarification sought from the Executive Headteacher, and if required from North Yorkshire Educational Visits Advisory Service.

Consent

Routine acknowledgement: Whilst it is not a legal requirement to gain parental consent for curriculum activities, written acknowledgement will be gained on enrolment at school for all routine learning visits and activities which are a part of our normal educational provision during the school day, information regarding the nature of the types of visits will be included in our prospectus, on the school website and / or with the acknowledgment request. We will always aim to: fully inform parents via the Bulletin and / 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 via Arbor 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 via the bulletin, North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Model Establishment Educational Visits Policy – November 2022

email, or other written methods the school deems appropriate of the nature of each visit, activity, or series of a similar nature.

Specific consent: Written consent via Arbor will be gained for every individual visit, activity or series of a similar nature which involve a higher level of risk including - residential visits, and adventurous activities. We will fully inform parents via the bulletin, email, or other written methods the school deems appropriate 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 may 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 North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's we have identified a Local Learning Area which includes all the places that we visit and the activities that we undertake routinely. Details of our Local Learning Area 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 a North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's 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 categorised 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: North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's 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 Executive 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.

Additionally, for Terrington CE (VA) School, North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's Governing Body, as the employer, retain approval for visits abroad, all residential visits and all adventurous activities in line with the employer policy. The governing body delegate the approval and / or scrutiny of these visits to North Yorkshire Educational Visits Advisory Service.

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

Executive Headteacher: Visits abroad, all adventurous activities, residential visits, and non-local day visits.

Educational Visits Co-ordinator: Local walking visits, bike ability training, local sports fixtures, day visits and local swimming visits.

Visit planning approval summary table for North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation.

	Planning/Recording Process	Risk Management	Final Approval
On-site/Local Learning Area/Local Area Visits	Recorded on Evolve	LLA risk management supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	EVC
Day Visit outside Local Learning Area	Recorded on Evolve	School risk manages journey and non-provider led activities using LLA risk management supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	EVC/Executive Headteacher
Overseas	Recorded on Evolve	LLA risk management and supplemented by specific documentation necessary	Adviser
Residential	Recorded on Evolve	LLA risk management and supplemented by specific documentation necessary	Adviser
Adventure, provider led	Recorded on Evolve	Provider risk manages activities.	Adviser

		School risk manages journey and non-provider led activities using LLA risk management supplemented by specific documentation where necessary	
Adventure, self-led	Recorded on Evolve	Local Learning Policy/Specific Risk Management	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.

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. Internal visits and materials

Internal visitors maybe organised as part of pupil learning and curriculum enhancements in line with our topics within the long-term plan. Visitors will not be left alone with pupils and teaching staff will remain with them at all times. Visitors procedures will be followed in line with our school policies.

We will make sure that any internal visitors and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality. The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Material of internal visitors will be sought prior to pupil viewing.

8. 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.

North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation are mindful of costing of educational visits and aim to use cost effective methods when organising visits such as: group discounts, booking in advance etc. In order to afford education visits, we may ask parents for a voluntary contribution in order to support funding of educational visit. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund the visit from some other source, then the visit must be cancelled (Charging for school activities DfE - 2018). All pupils will be given equal opportunities to attend organised educational visits for their year group or key stage, even if a voluntary contribution is not provided. Reference should also be made to North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's Charging and Remissions Policy.

9. Inclusion & SEND

We endorse the principles for young people of a presumption of entitlement to participate, accessibility through direct or realistic adaptation 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 the 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 North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's SEND Policy.

10. 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 suitably 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 North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation's Child Protection Policy, and Manual.

11. 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.

12. 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 the employer.

13. Crossing roads

A First find a safe place to cross and where there is space to reach the pavement on the other side. Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Try to avoid crossing between parked cars on a blind bend, or close to the brow of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.

B Stop just before you get to the kerb, where you can see if anything is coming. Do not get too close to the traffic. If there's no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.

C Look all around for traffic and listen. Traffic could come from any direction. Listen as well, because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.

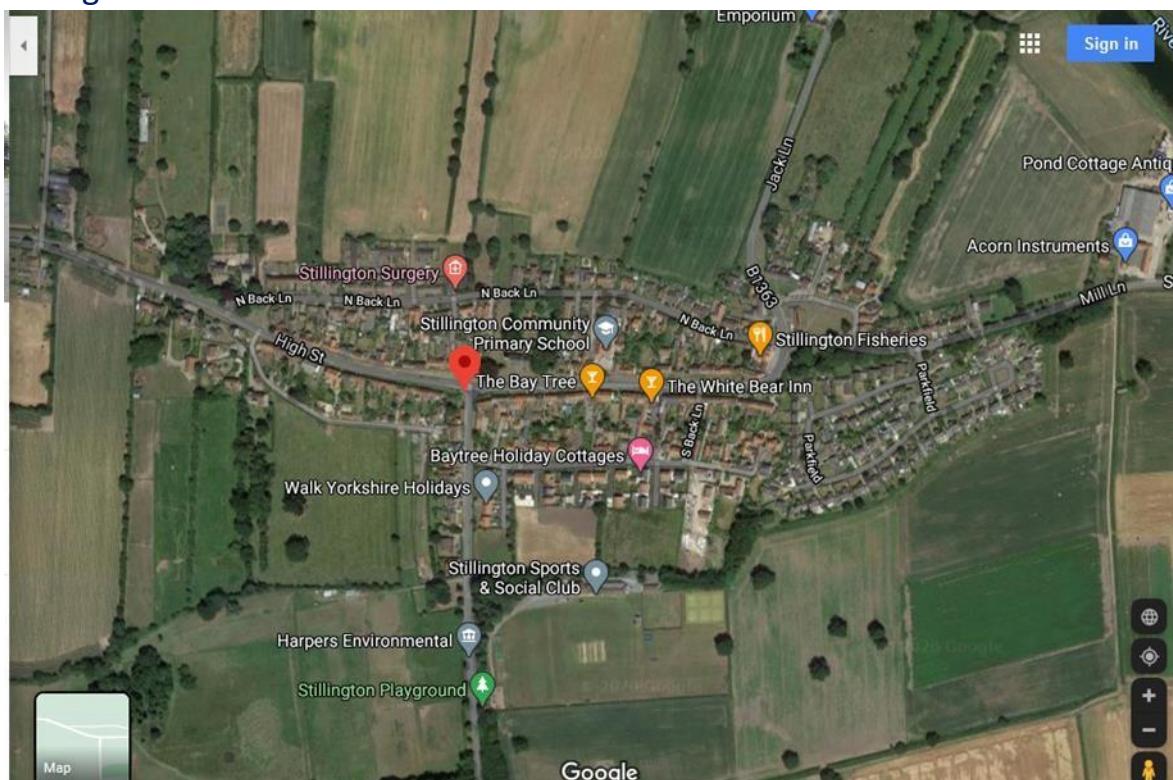
D If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around again and listen. Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain that there is plenty of time. Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.

E When it is safe, adult/adults to tell children to wait while they stand in the middle of road, children to go straight across the road – do not run. Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly. Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic. Do not walk diagonally across the road.

Appendix - Local Learning Area

The boundaries of the localities are shown on the attached maps.

Stillington



Thornton le Clay/Foston



Terrington



This area includes the following frequently used venues:

- Stillington sports and social club
- St Nicholas' Church, Stillington
- Methodist church, Stillington
- Stillington Village Hall
- The Pond {separate risk assessment}
- Bikeability/road safety usually done in and around Parkfield estate {separate risk assessment}
- Terrington Primary School
- Terrington Village Hall
- Terrington Prep School
- All Saints Church Terrington
- Foston Primary School
- Foston Village Hall
- Thornton le clay Methodist church
- All Saints Church Foston

Langton Primary School

Local Learning Area

Boundaries

The boundaries of the locality are shown on the attached map. This area includes the following frequently used venues:



- Langton Church

- Langton Hall
- Village green
- Leafy Glade
- Farm
- General local area for walks and bike ability

We use this extended area on a regular basis for a variety of learning activities, and Visit Leaders are allowed to operate in this area inputting visits on EVOLVE using the Local Learning Area option, provided they follow the Operating Procedure below (in essence a generic risk assessment for routine activities):

Operating Procedure for visits to the Local Learning 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).
- Travelling by bus to other federated and collaborated schools.

These are managed by a combination of the following:

- The Executive Headteacher, Head of School or EVC must give verbal approval before a group leaves. (Although this is not strictly necessary for clearly identified competent staff, where the Headteacher is confident in the operating procedure, and the fact that staff will follow it).
- Only staff judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved. A current list of approved staff is maintained by the EVC and school Admin.
- The concept and Operating Procedure of the 'Extended learning locality' is explained to all new parents when their child joins the school.
- There will normally be a minimum of two adults.
- 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.
- Where appropriate, pupils are fully briefed on what to do if they become separated from the group. (This needs a decision and will depend on the area you are in – return to school, wait where they are, go to x and ask for help, etc).
- All remotely supervised work in the extended learning locality is done in 'buddy' pairs as a minimum.
- Pupils' clothing and footwear is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school.
- 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/walkie talkie is taken with each group and the office have a note of the number.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (eg gloves, goggles)
- If there is a local issue, eg. with drug needles, broken glass etc, in any area, then it should be marked as no-go, and pupils educated to deal with it – it is their home after all, so they need to be able to cope with it!

Table of Amendments:

This table summarises significant changes since the previous (OCT 2022) Policy

Section no.	Page no.	Amendment
	6	<p><i>Summary Table: Local Area Visits option now added – this reflects the option that schools can now record visits as taking place in the Local Learning Area, n.b. this module is activated on a school-by-school basis.</i></p> <p><i>The Final Approval Column for Residential and Provider Led Adventure visits has been amended from Head to Adviser. This change reflects common practice across the UK for the level of approval/checking of these cases.</i></p>