

## **Excursions and Outings Policy for St. Francis Special School.**

This Policy was drawn up by the School Staff and ratified by the Board of Management of St Francis Special School. It was designed to promote better organisation, safety and educational value in school outings.

Excursions are an enjoyable and important part of the educational process. They will increase motivation for Learning and promote the environment, local and otherwise, as a valuable learning resource.

The aims of the school outings are to develop the child's full potential, to develop social and independent living skills, to make learning more interesting, to make use of the Environment and occasionally to promote Parental involvement.

Weather permitting, the pupils will be taken on school tours, nature walks, visits to local shops and public buildings, visits to areas of religious and historical interest, various public parks etc. Sometimes children may attend concerts, plays or films as part of the educational process. Some pupils are taken on regular social outings – especially teenagers. Buses may sometimes be hired and Parents may be asked to contribute towards the cost of same. Sometimes a bus may be organised to transport all the group to a venue. Other times, Parents may be requested to help out in the provision of transport. School funds and sponsorship may be used to subsidise excursions.

Supervision: Health and Safety are very important considerations on such outings. All Pupils are expected to comply with the instructions of the Staff and the high standard of co-operation is expected from all involved.

Usually, swimming sessions are held in the Complex of St Mary of The Angels. However, occasionally, Pupils may be transported to another swimming-pool. Parents/Guardians will be requested to complete appropriate forms giving their permission for swimming and outings allowing participation in sporting and recreational activities. Once these forms have been completed and signed by the Parents/Guardians, the Board of Management of St Francis Special School understands that permission has been granted for such outings while the Pupil attends St. Francis Special School, unless the Parents/Guardians withdraw such permission in writing.

The School Staff will strive to involve as many Pupils as possible in outings and excursions, have regard to Health and Safety matters. Parents will be informed of infrequent excursions (as opposed to regular scheduled outings) in advance.

This Policy has been approved by the Board of Management of St. Francis Special School.