

Draft Policy: January 2024

Educational Visits Policy

Ratified by B of G – February 2024

Acting Principal: Mrs Kielty



Holy Child Nursery School  
40 Slievegallion Drive  
Belfast BT11 8JP

Website:  
[holychildnurseryschool.co.uk](http://holychildnurseryschool.co.uk)  
Tel: 028 9062 7732

# Holy Child Nursery School

## Educational Visits

### Policy

Off-site visits are activities arranged by or on behalf of the Holy Child Nursery School, which take place outside the Nursery School grounds. The principal and staff believe that off-site activities can supplement and enrich the curriculum of the Pre School by providing experiences which would otherwise be impossible. All off-site activities must serve an educational purpose, enhancing and enriching our children's learning experiences.

In this policy we seek to establish a clear and coherent structure for the planning and evaluation of our off-site visits, and to ensure that any risks are managed and kept to a minimum, for the safety and health of all children at all times. Within these limits we seek to make our visits available to all pupils, and wherever possible to make them accessible to those with disabilities.

## **Aims**

The aims of our off-site visits are to:

- enhance curricular and recreational opportunities for our children;
- provide a wider range of experiences for our children than could be provided on the Nursery School site alone;
- promote the independence of our children as learners and enable them to grow and develop in new learning environments.

Risk Assessment will be carried out by the Principal prior to the visit and first aid equipment will be taken on the day.

We will ask parents/carers to give consent in advance of such outings and will offer opportunities for parents/ carers to accompany their child and the Nursery School on the outing.

The Principal and staff are involved in the planning and management of off-site visits. The Principal will:

- ensure that risk assessments are completed;
- assign competent staff to lead and help with trips;
- ensure a safe ratio of adults to children by inviting parents/carers to accompany us
- make safeguarding rules clear to staff and parents/ carers
- organise related staff training;
- make sure that all necessary permissions and medical forms are obtained;
- keep records of visits and ensure there are regular generic assessments of the risks (for example road-crossing)

All off-site activities must take place in accordance with the EA's instructions.

It is our policy that all children should be able to participate in educational visits. Where a child with a disability is eligible for a trip, we will make every effort to ensure that s/he is included. We may seek guidance from parents to help us adapt our programme, and we will make any reasonable adjustments to our itinerary to include a child with disabilities. If necessary we will ask the child's parent/carer to accompany us. Any such adjustments will be included in the risk assessment.

## **Risk assessment**

A comprehensive risk assessment is carried out by the principal before the proposed visit. It will assess the risks which might be encountered on the visit and will indicate measures to prevent or reduce them. The risk assessment should be based on the following considerations:

- What are the hazards?
- Who might be affected by them?
- What safety measures are needed to reduce risks to an acceptable level?
- Can the group leader put the safety measures in place?
- What steps will be taken in an emergency?

It is important to take into account the probable weather conditions at the time of year proposed for the trip, and the principal should take careful account of the facilities available, with due regard to the proposed size of the group. They should also assess the site's suitability with regard to the age and any particular needs of the children. They will also consider the venue's own approach to security and to health and safety.

### **Communication with parents**

The parents of children taking part in an off-site activity should be provided with all appropriate information about the intended visit. Parents must give their permission before a child can be involved in any off-site activities. This is normally done during the registration process.

### **Further health and safety considerations**

All adults (including parental volunteers) accompanying a party must be made aware, by the principal of the emergency procedures which will apply. The Principal will provide each adult with a copy of the risk assessment.

The safety of the party, and especially the children, is of paramount importance. During the activity the principal must take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that safety. This involves taking note of any information provided by medical registration forms and ensuring that children are both safe and well looked after at all times.

### **Visit plan**

The visit plan for intended educational visits must include the following:

- risk assessment;
- general information;
- travel schedule;
- Educational objectives of visit
- full plan of activities;
- intended arrangements for supervision;
- general communications information;
- first-aid boxes, inhalers, Epi-pens if needed, and individual prescribed medicines.

- Additional clothing for children who may have intimate care needs.

### **Operational procedures for outings**

The same standard of care and interaction with the children is expected of staff, volunteers and students on outings.

The staff's prime responsibility on outings is to ensure the safety of the children.

However, they will be expected to balance this responsibility with ensuring that children have the maximum opportunity to experience and explore new environments, to socialise and to have fun.

### **Procedures where a child is lost on an outing**

- If the Nursery's policies and procedures are being observed the likelihood of a child being lost is small.
- Each adult will be responsible for a small group of children.
- Procedures will be clearly outlined at the start of the day, eg, always stay with the class group, only staff may accompany a child to the toilet, etc.
- Very occasionally a child may become separated from the group on an outing or become lost.
- With careful planning and co-operative working amongst staff, children should not be out of sight of an adult during an outing.
- If it is realised that a child is no longer with the group, staff should look carefully all around without leaving the group.
- Ensure each adult can account for their key children.
- Parents of child are informed immediately.
- The police will be informed, and all the children will be returned to the Nursery School.
- The Principal will complete an incident report.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy was developed by the Acting Principal, in conjunction with all staff and the Board of Governors. It will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review schedule.

Agreed at the Governors Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Signed: **Mrs Sharon Mc Gleave** (Chair of Governors)