



# The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

## Offsite Visits Policy

<b>Policy Type:</b>	<b>Academy Policy</b>
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Local Governing Body</b>
<b>Date Approved by LGB:</b>	<b>20/07/2021</b>
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
<b>Person Responsible:</b>	<b>Head Teacher</b>

**Summary of Changes**

The policy has been amended as follows.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of Change

**General Policy Roles and Accountabilities**

The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) is accountable for all policies across its Academies. All policies, whether relating to an individual Academy or the whole Trust, will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in our prospectus. We are committed to the provision of high-quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured, and talents released.

A Scheme of Delegation for each Academy sets out the responsibilities of the Local Governing Body and Head Teacher. The Head Teacher of each Academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Academy Trust.

All employees of the Academy Trust are subject to the Trust’s policies.

Through our Christian Values we are an inclusive federation which strives to we enable all staff and children to: -

***‘Let your light shine’***

Matthew 5:16

***We aim to become a community which nurtures individuals to develop a sense of belonging, purpose and self-belief in order for all to flourish and shine.***

Our values of respect, responsibility, kindness, courage, hope and forgiveness are clearly illustrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). This powerful message provides a basis to enable our children to flourish and shine as unique individuals.

# Offsite Visits Policy

The Nar Valley Federation has formally adopted, through its Governing Body, the Norfolk 'Guidance for Offsite Visits'. [www.oeapeg.info](http://www.oeapeg.info) and as outline on EVOLVE [www.norfolkvisits.org.uk](http://www.norfolkvisits.org.uk) Further procedures have been agreed with the Governing Body to ensure that this policy is adhered to.

## Aims and purposes of Offsite Visits

The Nar Valley Federation has a strong commitment to the added value of learning outside the classroom and beyond the school premises. It will seek to provide a broad & balanced range of learning outside the classroom opportunities for all its pupils.

Each year the school will arrange a number of activities that take place off the school site and out of school hours, which support the aims of the school. The range of activities which the Governing Body has given its approval includes:

- Out of hours Clubs (music, drama, art, science, sport, homework etc)
- School sports teams
- Regular local visits (places of worship, swimming, other local amenities)
- Day visits for particular groups
- Residential visits
- Adventurous Activities.

## Approval Procedure

The Governing Body has delegated the consideration and approval of offsite visits and activities to the Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC), Mrs Rosemary Ison, NVF Business Manager and the Governing Body has approved this appointment and the EVC has received training by the LA.

Before a visit is advertised to parents the teacher and Academy secretary will approve the initial plan. The Headteacher/EVC will also approve the completed plan and risk assessments for the visit before departure. The Governor for Educational Visits will also be involved in authorisation of a Level 3 visit.

This will be undertaken using EVOLVE as the planning and approval system.

[www.norfolkvisits.org.uk](http://www.norfolkvisits.org.uk)

The School has agreed a policy for categorising its visits in line with NCC guidance i.e.:

Level 3 visits must be approved via Evolve and the LA's on-line approval gained.

**Level 3** = Overseas, Residential or Adventurous visits

Level 2 Day visits approved at school level on Evolve by EVC & Head.

**Level 2** = Day visits not in your establishments list of Level 1. [These must be approved on-line at school level on Evolve].

Level 1 Local regular day visits this establishment has

posted a list of its Level 1 visits in the document library of Evolve & will use in-house systems to record & approve such visits. It confirms that set of standard operating procedures or generic risk assessments existed for these visits.

**Level 1** = Local & regular visits that you have generic risk assessments' & standard operating procedures for.

## Staffing

The school recognises the key role of accompanying staff in ensuring the highest standards of learning, challenge and safety on a school visit.

Staff are encouraged and supported to develop their abilities in organising and managing visits. There will be a system within the school to allow less experienced members of staff to work alongside more experienced colleagues on visits. The selection of staff for offsite visits will be a key priority in the initial approval of any proposed visit. Staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for proposed activities.

The school values and recognises the contribution of volunteer adults and parent helpers assisting with offsite activities and visits. They will be carefully briefed on the scope of their responsibility. Where it is appropriate the school will ensure that DBS screening is available for volunteers.

The appointed Visit Leader will be fully supported in the tasks required to arrange the visit. This will include, as necessary, making time or finances available to conduct an exploratory visit, briefing teachers and/or other staff, accessing training courses, reviewing and evaluating the visit or identifying time when the leader and EVC might work in partnership to undertake planning and risk assessments.

Visit staff will not be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs such that their ability to recognise hazards or respond to emergencies is in any way restricted.

### **Risk Assessment**

The Visit Leader will seek to identify any significant risks from any activity that is under their control and take appropriate steps to ensure all participants are safe. Good practice precautions and safety measures will be taken and this will be recorded in a risk assessment.

### **External Activity Providers**

Where external contractors are involved in organising all or part of the visit, the contract will be made with the school on behalf of the pupils. All payments for the visit will be made through the school accounts.

The Visit Leader will make appropriate checks before committing the school to the contract. This will include seeking assurances about health and safety, and any accreditation and licensing. Wherever possible the school will seek to use holders of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge for which no Providers Contracts or other assurance checks are required.

### **Parental Consents**

Written consent from parents will not be required for pupils to take part in the majority of off-site activities organised by the school as most of these activities take place during school hours and are a normal part of a child's education at school. However, parents will be told where their child will be at all times and of any extra information or measures required.

Written consent will be requested for activities that need a higher level of risk management or those that take place outside school hours.

As part of the parent consent they will be fully informed of the activities and arrangements for the visit. For all residential visits parents will be invited to a briefing meeting where they can ask for clarification of any aspect of the itinerary and organisation of the visit.

The school has policies for Charging and Remissions, Behaviour and Inclusion, which applies to all visits.

### **The Expectations of Pupils and Parents**

The school has a clear code of conduct for school visits based on the school 'Behaviour Policy'. This code of conduct will be part of the condition of booking by the parents. Pupils, whose behaviour is such that the Visit Leader is concerned for their safety, or for that of others, can be withdrawn from the activity. The Visit Leader will consider whether such

pupils should be sent home early and parents will be expected to cover any costs of the journey home early.

### **Emergency Procedures**

The school will appoint a member of the Senior Leadership Team as the emergency contact for each visit. All major incidents should immediately be relayed to this person, especially those involving injury or that might attract media attention.

The Visit Leader will leave full details of all pupils and accompanying adults on the visit with the emergency contact, including the home contact details of parents and next-of-kin, as appropriate.

All incidents and accidents occurring on a visit will be reported back and recorded following normal school procedures for reporting and investigating accidents.

### **Review by the Local Authority**

The school is supported in its arrangements for offsite visits by the County Council. Where necessary the school will seek advice from the Adviser for Outdoor Learning.

All visits that involve an overnight stay, going abroad and any that involve adventurous activities will be sent to the LA for approval prior to departure. The LA will provide an independent reassurance check of the plan and the precautions and safety measures that will be taken. Some sample monitoring will also be undertaken by the LA & the school agrees to facilitate this when & where required. Any advice provided will be fully considered prior to the trip taking place.

### **Charging for Activities and Visits**

The school may invite, but not require, parents to make voluntary contributions for school activities in order to enhance what is otherwise provided. There is no obligation to contribute and pupils will not be treated any differently according to whether or not their parents have made a contribution.

The level of contribution will be calculated for each activity and may include, for example, an element to cover the participation by young people from low-income families or the cost of travel for accompanying teachers. Some activities may not take place if parents are reluctant to support it

The school will comply with the law in relation to charges that may be made for the cost of activities provided outside school hours, within school hours and for board and lodging on residential courses.

The school has a policy on remission of charges stating how much they are prepared to contribute.

**Ratified by Governors: 12/07/2021**

**Signature:**

**Review Due: July 2023**

The policy is the responsibility of the Standards & Curriculum Committee