



# Policy: Management of Offsite Visits

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## 1. Rationale

RKLT place great value on opportunities to learn outside the classroom. These visits may be directly linked to the curriculum or may focus on developing the students' interpersonal skills, confidence and independence. Visits are carefully considered to ensure that they are diverse and affordable, so that all students can have opportunities in different environments with their peers and friends. Combined with their experiences in school this will further contribute to our students becoming healthy and proficient individuals who can succeed in the competitive world in which we live.

## 2. Purpose

- To ensure that every student has the opportunity to benefit from educational visits.
- To ensure all visits are safe, purposeful and appropriate to meet the educational needs of students taking part.
- To enable the RKLT to identify appropriate responsibilities, training, support and monitoring for Governors, the Headteacher, staff, helpers, students and providers involved in educational visits.
- To meet DfE Health and Safety advice and legal requirements.
- To ensure where appropriate further advice is sought from RKLT's appointed Consultant for off-site visits.

## 3. Provision of Employer Policy

RKLT has formally adopted the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) National Guidance" as "Red Kite Learning Trust Employer Policy". This OEAP National Guidance can be found on the following website: [www.oeapng.info](http://www.oeapng.info)

RKLT employees are strongly advised to read this policy in conjunction with information from the [www.oeapng.info](http://www.oeapng.info) website. Some key documents are hyperlinked from OEAP NG to this policy for convenience. However, all involved should read and ensure they understand the information relating to their role in the National Guidance.

It is a legal expectation that employees must work within the requirements of their employer's policy; therefore, RKLT employees must follow the requirements of "OEAP National Guidance", as well as the requirements of this Policy Statement.

If any advice differs between the RKLT Policy and the OEAP NG recommendations, the RKLT policy will take precedence.

## 4. Scope and Remit

The OEAP National Guidance document Basic Essentials - Status, Remit and Rationale the roles of employers and employees who choose to take students on Educational visits. In summary, it applies to employees whose work involves direct supervision of young people undertaking experiences beyond the boundary of RKLT. This applies regardless of whether or not the activities take place within or outside of normal working hours, including weekends and holiday periods.

For a more expansive explanation of legal expectations, all users of the guidance are strongly recommended to read the OEAP National Guidance document Underpinning Legal Framework.

## 5. Ensuring Understanding of Basic Requirements

As an employer, RKLТ is required to ensure that its employees are provided with:

- appropriate guidance relating to off-site visits;
- employer-led training courses to support the guidance to ensure that it is understood;
- suitable systems and processes to ensure that those trained are kept updated;
- access to advice, support and further training from the appointed Consultant who has proven expertise and professional understanding of the guidance, the training and expectations set by current good practice.

The appropriate guidance for the management of off-site visits for RKLТ is the [OEAPNG website](#).

Appropriate members of the Trust Board and Local Governing Boards (LGB) should take part in relevant training that prepares them for the responsibilities they hold for the management of Learning Outside the Classroom/Offsite Visits and Activities. A record of training should be kept by the Educational Visit Coordinator (EVC).

The relevant training courses for RKLТ employees are:

- EVC Training – schools should each have an EVC.
- EVC Revalidation – RKLТ is required to ensure that their EVC’s attend a formal revalidation session in the form of a 2-hour meeting annually.
- Visit Leader Training (VLT) - Before planning a visit, Visit Leaders must be given appropriate training which is proportionate to the experience of the Visit Leader and nature of the trip. Revalidation of VLT is not required. However, to meet OEAPNG requirements regarding leader competence, leaders must be current in their knowledge of expectations of good practice. Regular monitoring of visits may also flag a need for further training.

Where an employee experiences a problem finding appropriate information, requires clarification or further help and guidance, they should contact their establishment’s EVC who will be supported by the Outdoor Education Consultant nominated by the trust. The nominated Consultant for the RKLТ is:

Dave Barham DBC Ltd

All new staff must receive off-site visit training before they can lead their own trip. Staff then wishing to lead their own visit should first participate in other visits. Over a period of time, they should become specifically competent and knowledgeable of RKLТ policy and procedures. They should have been involved in the planning of previous visits, and understand the role and responsibilities of the Visit Leader and accompanying adults. They should also have experience of the ongoing monitoring of the visit and an evaluation of the visit after the event.

Once the member of staff has received appropriate VLT training and they are deemed competent by the Head and EVC they can then lead their own visits. The first visit must be planned with the support of a designated experienced mentor.

## 6. Approval and Notification of Activities and Visits

The RKLТ uses an online database system for record keeping and approval called [Exeant](#).

Formal Approval for all visits is delegated to the Headteacher of each school with the exception of all visits abroad, residential and adventure activities which must gain Formal Approval from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Visit Leaders must gain both Initial Approval and Formal Approval.

Initial Approval - this represents agreement that the idea is appropriate and detailed planning can commence.  
Process:

1. Enter a "New Visit" on Exeant – an online system for the management of school visits.
2. EVC will consider and give or refuse Initial Approval via Exeant
3. Should the visit be granted Initial Approval the Visit Leader is to complete all detailed planning and enter on Exeant
4. EVC to check submission detail on Exeant and forward to Headteacher if all planning detail is appropriate
5. All visits requiring Trust approval (ie., Employer Approval – residential, adventure and/or overseas) will go to the CEO for Formal Approval

### **NO VISIT CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT FORMAL APPROVAL VIA EXEANT**

All visits should be entered by the Visit Leader and submitted for Initial Approval at least four weeks prior to the day of the visit wherever possible. However, in the case of complex visits such as a residential or visit abroad, it is essential that Initial Approval is sought before any contract is signed with the provider and before any financial transactions are made, as such pre-authorisation must be sought at least twelve weeks prior to the visit and may need to be completed many months before the visit. Before Initial Approval is granted the Visit Leader and Deputy Leader must clearly be stated, and any additional members of staff if known.

Any RKL standard operating procedures for the signing of contracts on behalf of the RKL must be followed. The contract for any RKL commissioned visit must rest between the RKL and the contractor (i.e. the provider) and not parents.

A facility exists on Exeant for multiple visits of the same type to be applied for and given formal approval as part of a rolling programme of activity over a period of time e.g. sports fixtures, swimming etc.

Upon return to school an evaluation must be completed, also using Exeant.

## **7. Risk Management**

As an employer, RKL has a legal duty to ensure that risks are managed - requiring them to be reduced to an "acceptable" or "tolerable" level - and not to eliminate risks. This requires that proportional (suitable and sufficient) risk management systems are in place, requiring RKL to provide such support, training and resources to its employees as is necessary to implement this policy.

The risk management of an activity should be informed by the benefits to be gained from participating. RKL uses a "Risk-Benefit Assessment" approach, whereby the starting point for any risk assessment should be a consideration of the targeted benefits and learning outcomes. This appreciation of the benefits to be gained through participating provides objectivity to a decision that any residual risk (i.e. the risk remaining after control measures have been put in place) is "acceptable". The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) endorse this approach through their [Tackling the health and safety myths](#) documents and advocate that it is important that young people are exposed to well-managed risks so that they learn how to manage risk for themselves.

There is no legal requirement to produce a risk assessment in a particular format but there is a legal requirement for the process to be recorded and for suitable and sufficient control measures to be identified for any significant risks i.e. those that may cause serious harm to an individual, or harm several people.

A risk assessment must be carried out for all off-site visits, but for straight forward activities in familiar territory, a generic risk assessment may be sufficient. An event-specific written risk assessment must be carried out

for all other visits. Generic risk assessments are available, these can be adapted to be event-specific and uploaded to Exeant.

Refer to OEAP NG documents: "[Risk Management](#)"

## **8. Emergency Planning and Critical Incident Support**

A critical incident is an incident where any member of a group undertaking an off-site activity:

- has either suffered a life-threatening injury or fatality;
- is at serious risk;
- has gone missing for a significant and unacceptable period.

The emergency procedure must be school specific and include the CEO. Visit leaders must be aware of this procedure and know that their role is solely in the management of students should an incident arise. Management of parents and press should lie with senior management who are based at school and not on the visit.

The emergency telephone numbers should be carried by leaders at all times during an off-site activity but should only be used in the case of a genuine emergency. Under no circumstances should these numbers be given to young people or to their parents or guardians.

## **9. Monitoring**

RKLT will ensure that sample monitoring of the visits and LOtC activities is undertaken. Such monitoring will be in keeping with the recommendations of OEAP National Guidance. There is a clear expectation that monitoring will be carried out by the establishment's EVCs and their senior leadership team.

Refer to OEAP NG document: "[Monitoring](#)".

## **10. Assessment of Leader Competence**

OEAP National Guidance provides clear advice regarding the assessment of leader competence. It is an expectation of RKLT policy that all visit leaders and their assistants have been formally assessed as competent to undertake such responsibilities as they have been assigned. A Visit Leader can be deemed competent if they hold relevant qualifications, have attended appropriate training and have evidence of appropriate experience.

Refer to OEAP NG document: "[Approval of Leaders](#)"

## **11. Role-specific Requirements and Recommendations**

OEAP National Guidance sets out clear and detailed responsibilities and functions of specific roles. These are:

1. [Employer](#)
2. [Headteacher](#)
3. [Educational Visits Coordinator \(EVC\)](#)
4. [Visit Leader](#)
5. [Assistant Leader](#)
6. [Parents](#)

Refer to individual OEAP NG documents headed as above.

## 12. Requirements and recommendations for the Red Kite Trust Board

The Red Kite Trust Board is legally responsible for the activities that take place in their establishments. This includes a common law duty of care towards their employees and participants in the activities, and duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974) (HSWA) and other legislation. See OEAP National Guidance documents [3.1a “Requirements & Recommendations for Employers](#) and [3.2a “Underpinning Legal Framework and Duty of Care”](#).

## 13. Charges for Off-site Activities and Visits

RKLT must take account of the legal framework relating to charging, voluntary contributions and remissions as set out in sections 449 to 462 of the Education Act 1996.

In brief RKLT cannot charge for:

- education provided during school hours
- education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at school, or part of religious education
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit

The restrictions on charging do not prohibit the school from seeking voluntary contributions. It must be made clear to parents that there is no obligation to contribute, and students will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution. However, it must also be made clear whether the venture is likely to be cancelled if there are insufficient contributions.

Further details and examples can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document [Charges for Off-Site Activities and Visits in an Educational Establishment](#).

### 14.a Safeguarding

Students participating in off-site visits must be protected from harm in the same way in which they are in school. Staff must understand their statutory safeguarding responsibilities and know how to respond to any safeguarding issue whilst away from the school or home. Further details can be found in the [RKLT Safeguarding and child protection policy](#).

All staff on a visit must have a clear understanding of any needs of the students. Prior to the trip departing the list of students must be checked by the Year Manager and DSL. Any significant needs must be addressed and documented in an individual risk assessment. Time must be allowed, especially for residential or overseas visits, to make any necessary changes to the visit such as the addition of an extra member of staff.

RKLT employees or volunteers who work frequently or intensively with, or have regular access to young people, must undergo an enhanced DBS check as part of their recruitment process.

For the purposes of this guidance:

- frequently is defined as "once a week or more";
- intensively is defined as 4 days or more in a month or overnight.

However, it must be clearly understood that a DBS check (or other vetting procedure) in itself, is no guarantee as to the suitability of an adult to work with any given group of young or vulnerable people.

The placement of an adult within a situation of professional trust (where young people could be vulnerable to physical or mental exploitation or grooming) should always be on the understanding that an overview based

on a common-sense risk-benefit assessment process has been considered.

Further details can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document "[Vetting Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\) checks](#)"

Mobile phones, smartphones and social media can be very useful in organising visits. For example, they can be used for keeping parents informed about the progress of a residential visit, about changes in arrangements such as travel times, or in the event of an emergency. They can also present some challenges and risks, of which staff should be aware. Staff should use the existing policies when informing students about appropriate use of social media whilst on off-site visits.

## **14b. Participant Information and Data Protection**

It is essential that the visit leadership team has access to up-to-date information such as emergency contact details, medical and dietary requirements. Sensitive information should be kept secure but accessible and understood by those who need it. This information could be printed or electronic. Either way the individuals' confidentiality must be protected and personal information securely disposed of when it is no longer needed. Any printed summaries must be kept in an envelope clearly marked as confidential. Staff must not use their own phone to access student details. If they wish to carry information on a device then a school smart phone or ipad must be used.

## **14.c Requirement to Ensure Effective Supervision**

In general terms, the Law does not prescribe activity-specific staffing ratios; but it does require that the level of supervision and group management is "effective".

Effective supervision should be determined by proper consideration of:

- age, aptitude, experience (including the developmental age) of the group
- gender issues
- ability of the group (including special learning needs, behavioural, medical and vulnerability characteristics etc)
- availability of prompt outside assistance
- nature and location of the activity including the type of activity, duration, skill levels involved, as well as the time of year and prevailing conditions
- staff experience and competence
- communication between sub groups

Further details on buddy systems, remote supervision, down time, night time supervision and supervision abroad can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document [Group management and Supervision and Ratios and Effective Supervision](#).

## **15. Preliminary Visits and Provider Assurances**

All visits should be thoroughly researched to establish the suitability of the venue and to check that facilities and third party provision will meet group expectations. Such information gathering is essential in assessing the requirements for effective supervision of young people. It is a vital dimension of risk management.

Wherever reasonably practicable, it is good practice to carry out a preliminary visit. Consultation with the EVC should clarify the circumstances where a preliminary visit is a requirement.

It is good practice for Visit Leaders to take full advantage of the nationally accredited, provider assurance schemes that are now available, thus reducing bureaucracy.



Examples of such schemes include:

- a. The CLOtC Quality Badge
- b. AALA licensing
- c. Adventuremark
- d. Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) Gold Badge
- e. National Governing Body (NGB) centre approval schemes (applicable where the provision is a single, specialist activity).

RKLT takes the view that where a provider holds one of the above accreditations, there should be no need to seek further assurances regarding risk assessments for the activities that the provider is delivering. Should a provider not hold one of the above accreditations then the visit leader must ask the provider to complete and sign a Provider Statement. A new provider statement must be obtained every 12 months.

RKLT will ensure however that leaders complete a risk benefit assessment and record any significant findings for any aspects of a visit which they are leading or responsible for. This will usually include periods and activities that the school staff take responsibility for, transport to and from the venue plus any stops or visits en route.

Further information can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document [Using external providers and facilities](#) and [Selecting External Providers and Facilities](#).

## **16. Insurance for Off-site Activities and Visits**

Employer's Liability Insurance is a statutory requirement and RKLT holds a policy that indemnifies it against all claims for compensation for bodily injury suffered by any person employed by it. This cover extends to those persons who are acting in a voluntary capacity as assistant supervisors. RKLT also holds Public Liability insurance, indemnifying it against all claims for compensation for bodily injury from persons not in its employment, as well as for the accidental loss of, or damage caused to, property. Employees (as agents of the employer) are indemnified against all such claims, as are voluntary helpers acting under the direction of the employer's staff.

Visit and Activity leaders should discuss their plans with the EVC to seek clarification of the above, including any circumstances requiring early notification of specialist activities to the RKLT insurer.

The Trust also has a comprehensive policy of insurance which in addition to providing cover for injury also provides limited insurance in respect of theft, damage or loss to property.

Students should be encouraged not to take valuable items on school visits. It should be made clear to parents that any valuable items are the responsibility of the student. If an item is lost, stolen or damaged, then it is the student's responsibility to notify the Visit Leader immediately. It is the Visit Leader's responsibility to ensure that any loss or theft is reported to the police as soon as possible. It is preferable that this is achieved with the local police whilst the trip is in progress if at all possible.

Failure to report the matter immediately is likely to lead to the insurance refusing to pay a claim. The Visit Leader should keep a comprehensive record of how the item was lost, damaged or stolen, when the pupil reported it to them and where, when and to whom any report was made and any crime reference number obtained.

Upon return to school it is the parent's responsibility to complete a claim after being provided with a claim form. The Visit Leader should support the parent by providing that form and any necessary information such as any crime reference number that will be required by either the school insurance or the parent's own insurers.

Further information can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document: [Insurance](#) and [RPA membership rules](#).

## 17. Inclusion

Every effort should be made to ensure that off-site visits are available and accessible to all, irrespective of special educational or medical needs, ethnic origin, gender or religion.

RKLT takes all reasonably practicable measures to include all young people. The principles of inclusion should be promoted and addressed for all visits and reflected in establishment policy, thus ensuring an aspiration towards:

- a. an entitlement to participate
- b. accessibility through direct or realistic adaptation or modification
- c. integration through participation with peers
- d. EVCs and Visit Leaders should be aware of the extent to which inclusion is or is not a legal issue.

Under the Equality Act 2010, it is unlawful to:

- e. treat a disabled young person less favorably;
- f. fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled persons are not placed at a substantial disadvantage without justification.

The Equality Act 2010 also includes gender reassignment, sex and sexual orientation as protected characteristics. This means that protection from discrimination for many transgender people is enshrined in law. However residential visits in particular may involve the most significant issues, particularly around accommodation and showers/toilet facilities. In summary, it is not possible to make hard and fast rules; decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, taking all the factors into consideration.

Further information can be found in the OEAP National Guidance documents [Inclusion](#) and [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) and [Transgender Young People and Visits](#).

## 18. Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations

The EVCs and Visit Leaders should have a basic understanding of where and when the provision of adventurous activities is legally regulated.

The Activity Centre (Young Persons Safety) Act (1995) established the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations and the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA), initially responsible to the DfES. The scheme is now the direct responsibility of HSE and operated through the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS).

The intention of the regulations is to provide a regulatory framework to protect children, parents, teachers and schools when using providers of defined adventurous activities in closely defined environments. The regulations and supporting inspection regime provide a formal process of professional inspection to accredit that providers have effective safety management systems and processes, meeting a national standard.

The definitive source of advice on the Licensing Regulations is to be found in the Health and Safety Executive publication: "[Guidance to the Licensing Authority on Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations 1996](#)" Leaders should be aware that the AALA license is an assurance of safety systems. It does not accredit educational or activity quality.

Any requirement by RKLT staff to lead adventurous activities are to be cross referenced with the Adventure Activity Leadership Qualification Matrix to guide and support Initial and Formal Approval decisions made by the EVC, Headteacher and CEO.

Further information can be found in OEAP National Guidance document [Adventurous Activity Licensing Regulations](#).

## 19. Good Practice Requirements

All staff and helpers must be competent to carry out their defined roles and responsibilities. To be deemed competent, a RKLTL Visit Leader, or Assistant Leader must be able to demonstrate the ability to operate to the current standards of recognised good practice for that role. See [Approval of Leaders](#).

Staff participating in off-site activities and visits must be aware of the extent of their duty of care and should only be given such responsibilities as are in keeping with the guidance. It is particularly important that careful consideration of competence issues is applied to both newly qualified and newly appointed staff. RKLTL should view the original documents and certificates when verifying leader's qualifications, and not rely on photocopies. Where a member of staff or Volunteer is a parent (or otherwise in a close relationship to a young person taking part in the visit) they should be made aware of the potential for their relationship to compromise the Visit Leader's plans for group management. The Visit Leader should directly address this issue as part of the Risk-Benefit assessment.

Further information can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document [Good Practice Basics](#).

## 20. Transport

Careful thought must be given to planning transport to support off-site activities and visits. Statistics demonstrate that it is much more dangerous to travel to an activity than to engage in it. Visit leaders must follow the specialist guidance provided in the OEAP National Guidance. All national and local regulatory requirements must be followed.

The level of supervision necessary should be considered as part of the risk management process when planning the journey, giving proper consideration to issues of driver-distraction when considering what supervision is required for the specific group of passengers being transported in a minibus. All staff must hold a valid MIDAS certificate when transporting students in a minibus.

The Visit Leader should ensure that coaches are hired from a reputable company and this is achieved by asking the company to complete [8.1s coach/minibus provider statement](#).

Transporting young people in private cars requires careful consideration. Where this occurs, there should be recorded procedures and staff must have Business Use on their insurance for all planned journeys. Young people should not be allowed to drive other young people to off-site activities or on educational visits.

Refer to OEAP NG documents [Transport 4.5a to 4.5f and 8.1s](#).

## 21. Planning

Planning should reflect RKLTL's procedures and requirements and the consideration of legal and good practice requirements, ensuring:

- a. All staff (including any adult volunteer helpers) and the young people to be involved, have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, including their role in the risk management process.
- b. Those in a position of parental authority have been fully informed and, where appropriate, formal consents have been obtained.
- c. Proportionate assurances have been obtained from any providers (making full use of national schemes that accredit that assurances have already been obtained by credible inspection regimes).
- d. Designated emergency contact(s) have been identified that will work on a 24/7 basis where required.
- e. All details of the activity provision are accessible to the emergency contact throughout the period of the activity.

To reduce bureaucracy and encourage activity, Visit Leaders need take account of the legalities regarding a requirement for formal consent. When an activity is part of a planned curriculum in normal curriculum time and no parental contributions are requested, then a formal consent is not necessary. However, in the interests of good relations between the establishment and the home, RKLTL require that those in a position of parental responsibility are fully informed. Written or online consent must be given for every visit that is residential, adventure, requires a journey away from the local area using a vehicle and/or takes place outside the normal school day.

## **22. Medication**

Planning arrangements for visits and activities should be sufficiently flexible to support the inclusion of pupils with medical conditions, unless evidence from a clinician states that this is not possible.

The conditions of employment of some staff, including teachers, may not include managing or administering medicines. The Visit Leader should ensure that they have sufficient staff members accompanying a visit who have either volunteered to manage medicines, or who are employed to do so as part of their duties. Staff should be properly trained to manage medicines – but in many cases such training need only involve familiarisation with the employer’s policy and reading instructions from a parent or doctor, or on a medicine packet, or perhaps a demonstration of how to use an epinephrine auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen). Staff may also need to be provided with information about how to deal with medical conditions which require management in addition to the administration of medicine, such as diabetes.

Further information can be found in the OEAP National Guidance document [Medication](#).

## **23. Near miss and accident reporting**

Upon return to school an evaluation must be completed using Exeant. Any incidents or near misses must be reported to the employer, with details of how the risk of this happening again could be prevented or reduced.

All Accident Forms are with the Principal First Aider and will be filled in either by her or under her supervision. The Principal First Aider will liaise with the Schools Health & Safety team, Senior Leadership Team, the Governors and HSE regarding Accident and Riddor Reporting.

## **24. Substance misuse**

At the pre-trip parents/carers’ meeting, the rules for tobacco, vaping, alcohol or other drugs must be made explicit. Abuse of privileges could result in the student being sent home at the parents/carers’ expense. They would be contacted immediately and an appropriate plan implemented. The student could be banned from future visits. All visits are non-smoking. The use of illegal substances is governed by the specific country unless the UK law is more stringent.

### **Alcohol (students)**

The use of alcohol by students is not allowed on all School Visits including Residential visits.

### **Alcohol (staff)**

The use of alcohol by adults is not allowed as each has a continuous responsibility for the welfare of the group and should always be in a position to respond to any emergency at any time. Being alcohol free is the only certain way of ensuring that one’s actions cannot later be criticised as being influenced by drink should any enquiry follow. Young people must always be supervised by alcohol-free staff, either directly or remotely. Alcohol misuse by adults will be considered a disciplinary matter.

### **Smoking, Including e-cigarettes (students and staff)**

- Non-smoking should be the norm on school visits. Adults (staff) should not smoke in face to face situations with children and young people.
- The purchase of tobacco products as gifts should be disallowed and parents/carers advised accordingly.
- Any tobacco products which are confiscated for the safety of individuals or a group must be returned to their parents/carers at the end of a visit or trip unless the parent/carer has consented to their disposal by other means.

### **Solvents**

- Students must not take aerosols, cigarette lighters and solvent based products with them on visits or trips.
- Students and parents/carers should be advised that cigarette lighters and refills are not acceptable presents for a child to buy as a gift.

### **Drugs including cannabis**

- Although other countries may have varying interpretations of the law, for example permitting small amounts of cannabis for personal use, school groups should be guided and abide by UK law (unless the law of the country is more stringent). Staff should be especially vigilant in countries which have legalized the recreational use of cannabis such as Canada and Germany. Staff should check the Foreign Office website before departure.
- People should not knowingly allow premises they own, manage or have responsibility for, to be used by any person for the supply of a controlled drug or the administration or use of any controlled drug which is unlawfully in that person's possession. It may be held that teachers or other adults are responsible for premises wholly or substantially used by their students, even where ownership of the property lies elsewhere.
- Students, parents/carers and all members of any party making a visit to any location should be informed that the possession, use or supply (which includes sharing) of any controlled substance is not acceptable and that any contravention of this may result in disciplinary and/or legal action including an individual or individuals being sent home at their own expense.

## **25. Carrying a Knife**

Students must not have in their possession any knife or sharply bladed article save for items necessary for the visit activity e.g., a folding pocket knife for Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions.

## **Standard operating procedures (Harrogate Grammar School)**

### **APPENDIX A - Consent**

Consent may be given in the following ways:

- a. If a visit is within the school day, incurs no charge and students can walk to and from the venue or activity, then parental consent is not required.
- b. If the visit is beyond the school day and/or requires additional transport (such as a coach or minibus) then online consent must be obtained via a secure parental account.
- c. If a charge for a visit is made then the act of an online payment is classed as giving consent. If the visit is adventure, residential or overseas then parents must be informed about the details of the activity and online consent given via a secure account.

It must be made clear to parents that any changes to emergency contact, medical details or individual needs must be provided in writing to the Visit Leader well in advance of the departure date.

For some off-site visits it is beneficial to operate on a rolling program basis. A rolling program visit would typically involve the same students to the same destinations over the course of one academic year. Full details of the activity would be provided to parents before the activity commences and written parental consent must be obtained. Any rolling program is subject to the same RCLT policy and OEAP National Guidelines. Examples include local PE fixtures, Harrogate hospital visits as part of the Medical Package or local area Debating competitions.

### **APPENDIX B - Ensuring Consistency with other School Procedures and Policies**

It is important for any Visit Leader to conform to other relevant school procedures and policies. In particular those of:

- d. The Finance Department including insurance, the setting up of an online payment and supply cover.
- e. The kitchen, especially if a large number of students will be absent.
- f. The Year Manager and DSL, to discuss any individual student needs.
- g. The use of transport for example the school minibus or staff car.
- h. The Safeguarding Policy.
- i. The Substance Use and Misuse Policy.

### **APPENDIX C - Disciplinary Action for Students**

It is the responsibility of the Visit Leader to ensure that all students and parents are fully briefed on expectations regarding behaviour. High standards of behaviour are essential to ensuring the safety of all concerned with a visit and the reputation of the school in the local community and beyond.

Any pupil who has faced a fixed term exclusion or serious disciplinary matter will not be permitted on a residential or overseas visit unless there are extenuating circumstances. Should such a pupil be allowed on a visit a contract detailing expectations must be signed by a parent and the risk assessment adjusted to incorporate mitigation measures.

Should a pupil's behavior significantly deteriorate following acceptance on a visit then the pupil may be withdrawn from the visit at the parent's expense. This must be made clear in the initial introductory letter to parents when advertising the visit.

Upon return to school the Visit Leader must complete an evaluation form using Exeant which will bring any issues to the attention of the EVC. If a student has misbehaved to the extent that their conduct was considered

to have posed a risk to themselves, others or damage to property then the student must be disciplined accordingly.

- j. If in view of the Year Manager, Visit Leader and EVC, the incident is considered not very severe, then a letter will go home from the Visit Leader making parents aware of what occurred. The letter must be copied to the Year Manager and the matter is now closed.
- k. If the incident is severe and further action is required, the incident will be managed by the Year Manager and Head. A letter will go home and the student will be disciplined accordingly.
- l. Any students not taken on whole year group visits will be supervised in school. Arrangements will be made with the Cover Manager. The Visit Leader must make the Cover Manager aware of these students.