



THE CONSORTIUM  
ACADEMY TRUST

Shaping Positive Futures

# Educational Visits and Offsite Activities Policy

The Consortium Academy Trust (TCAT)  
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee  
Company Number 07665828

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*\*NB – This document can only be considered valid when viewed on The Consortium Academy Trust website. If the copy is printed or downloaded and saved elsewhere the Policy date should be cross referenced to ensure the current document is referenced. The linked policies can be viewed at [www.consortiumtrust.co.uk](http://www.consortiumtrust.co.uk)*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The Consortium Academy (the “Trust”) takes the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff and learners very seriously and is fully committed to providing its learners with exciting opportunities that build confidence, develop skills and promote curriculum excellence. Visits and activities outside the classroom help to bring the curriculum to life by providing opportunities for deeper subject learning, increasing learners’ self-confidence and helping them to develop their risk awareness thus shaping their positive future.

## **2.0 Aims of this policy**

- to enable schools to provide a programme of activities and visits that supports, extends and enriches the school curriculum and encourages the development of life skills for learners
- to define procedures that safeguard the health, safety and welfare of our learners and staff on trips and offsite activities
- to actively promote outdoor activity

## **3.0 Legal framework**

This policy was written with reference to relevant legislation and guidance, including but not limited to:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Department for Education (DfE) (2018) ‘Health and safety on educational visits’
- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (2011) ‘School trips and outdoor learning activities’
- DfE (2013) ‘Driving school minibuses’
- Working Time Regulations (1998)
- Outdoor Education Advisers Panel national guidance
- DfE (2018) ‘Charging for school activities’

## **4.0 Key roles and responsibilities**

### **4.1 The Trust Board is responsible for:**

- ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation
- handling complaints regarding this policy in line with the Trust’s Complaints Policy
- promoting good safeguarding practices to ensure the safety of learners when partaking in extra-curricular trips and activities
- subscribing to an appropriate advisory service and system (this will be supported by the Trust Business Team), through which a competent Outdoor Education Advisor or other post holder is available to guide, advise and support the Trust, its schools, learners and staff.

### **4.2 The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- the day-to-day implementation and management of this policy
- where required, completing CPDL with the relevant body to ensure they have the necessary skills to review trip and off-site activity information
- ensuring educational trips and visits make a positive impact on learners’ lives, teaching them new life skills and providing new experiences
- ensuring that educational trips and visits and off-site activity have an explicit link to the curriculum, personal development or social and emotional development

- final approval for all school educational visits and offsite activities
- liaising with the Chair of the Local Governing Board when necessary, regarding the organisation of extra-curricular trips, including settling any disputes
- appointing an Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC)
- ensuring the EVC has attended the relevant and appropriate training course for Educational Visits Coordinators; has relatable experience in running educational visits and is capable of overseeing the coordination of off-site education
- ensuring the EVC maintains their skills and knowledge by attending relevant training and CPDL sessions
- being satisfied that all paperwork, including risk assessments, are complete, accurate and relevant to the event
- ensuring suitable safety measures are in place prior to each trip, visit or activity
- ensuring functioning school-provided mobile phones are available for Emergency Contact Person(s)
- liaising with, and overseeing the work of the EVC, ensuring a whole-school approach is utilised when planning and coordinating educational visits and offsite activities
- The Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) is provided at Trust level to cover all activities which follow this policy and abide by appropriate risk assessment. However, where the visit is 'out of the ordinary' the Headteacher should seek advice on cover from the Director of Business.
- ensuring there are contingency plans in place in the event of a member of visit staff being absent on the day of the trip or activity
- Further information and guidance is available in the following link <https://oeapng.info/head-manager/>

#### **4.3 The Educational Visits Coordinator has overall responsibility for:**

- overseeing all issues and controls regarding educational visits and offsite activities
- liaising between all appropriate parties, including the Outdoor Education Adviser (or other appropriate post holder), during the planning and organising of educational visits and offsite activities
- working with the Outdoor Education Adviser (or other appropriate post holder) to help staff assess and manage risks
- ensuring the systems and procedures for dealing with educational visits adhere to the requirements of this policy
- checking paperwork, including risk assessments, are complete, accurate and relevant prior to educational visits and offsite activities taking place
- ensuring that all external providers have sufficient public liability cover
- ensuring learner and staff safety is considered as part of the risk assessment and advising staff on additional measures as appropriate
- provide annual refresher training for trip and visit leaders and all staff who undertake trips and visits or off-site activity
- conduct 'spot checks' as appropriate at visits or off-site activity to review successful implementation of risk assessments
- Debrief staff on their return where there have been identified 'near missus' or incident to ensure that lessons are learned and staff well-being is considered.
- Further information and guidance is available in the following link <https://oeapng.info/evc/>

#### **4.4 The designated Trip Leader is 'in loco parentis' and has a duty of care to all learners on the trip. They are also responsible for:**

- checking the schedule is free on the school calendar prior to planning an educational visit

- in consultation with the School Business Manager, ensuring the financial viability of all proposed trips and off-site activities
- identifying the educational purpose of the extra-curricular trip or activity and presenting its risks and benefits to the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and where necessary, the Local Governing Board
- completing all essential documentation for the trip, including risk assessments, and submitting this, prior to the trip, to the EVC, Headteacher, and when necessary, the Outdoor Education Advisor (or other appropriate post holder) in good time, as set out in the school's guidance for educational trip and visits  
*\*'good time' is identified as Category 1 and 2 (Day visits) – at least 3 weeks before Departure/Category 3, 4 and 'A' (UK Residential/Overseas/High Risk) at least 6 weeks before departure*
- the designated Trip Leader has a specific responsibility to consider the unique and individual circumstances of each trip, and particular consideration must be given to ensure that Specific Visit Risk Assessments are carried out and control measures addressing the individual circumstances of the trip and the specific needs of the attending learners and staff are in place
- informing parents/carers of the proposed extra-curricular trip or activity
- distributing permission slips to parents/carers prior to the trip and chasing up any unreturned permission slips as and when necessary
- understanding and operating safeguarding measures throughout the planning, organisation and delivery of the educational visits and offsite activities.
- delegating responsibilities to other staff members on the school trip, and ensuring they understand their roles and responsibilities
- ensuring all adults on the trip are aware of their responsibilities and that the necessary DBS checks have been carried out on volunteers in line with the Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- fulfilling attendance responsibilities on the day of the trip for safeguarding purposes
- communicating effectively with parents/carers about the details of the trip and confirming arrival/departure information for overnight visits.
- Further information and guidance is available in the following link <https://oeapng.info/visit-leader/>

#### **4.5 The Emergency Contact Person is responsible for ensuring:**

- they are contactable for the duration of the visit or activity
- that the school-provided mobile phone is used for the purpose of emergency contact
- the phone used as the point of contact is charged and has adequate mobile reception
- they have copies of all contact information for learners and staff (including a next of kin) on the visit, and all school and Trust staff that may need to be contacted in the event of an incident
- they have access to all the relevant documents for the trip as per EVOLVE

#### **4.6 Staff whilst on visits are responsible for:**

- adhering to this policy and applying its principles when participating in educational visits and offsite activities
- ensuring the safety of learners and colleagues is a priority throughout all educational visits and offsite activities
- ensuring they understand their delegated roles and responsibilities
- liaising with the designated leader ensuring the smooth running of the school trip or activity

#### **4.7 Learners are responsible for:**

- following instructions from staff while on school trips
- having pride in their school and understanding that they are representing the school whilst on an educational trip
- behaving in a manner which matches the ethos of the school and follow the behaviour rules set out in the school's Behaviour Policy

## **5.0 Health and Safety**

**This is of primary importance on all trips and visits.**

- the individual school's EVC is available to guide, advise and support colleagues with the planning of trips and activities
- using EVOLVE, the online system for the planning, approval and management of educational visits, sports fixtures and extra-curricular activities, the member of staff leading a visit or activity should obtain formal "outline approval" from the individual school's Headteacher as a first step
- the Headteacher of the organising school must approve all trips and activities in advance. Staff who wish to run a trip must submit the appropriate forms for approval in good time to allow considered and thorough assessment by the Headteacher. Timescales for approval are set by individual schools, and specific information can be found in their own trip guidelines documents
- the EVC and Headteacher will check all relevant paperwork, including risk assessments and permissions prior to the trip. For routine visits and sports fixtures, these must be checked at the beginning of the academic year, prior to any visits taking place. These risk assessments and permissions must be checked in the event of any accident or incident
- For routine visits and sports fixtures, time must be allocated for all staff involved to be given time to thoroughly read, question and sign the common risk assessment
- staff planning residential visits, visits abroad and trips of a hazardous nature, should where appropriate, seek advice from the Outdoor Education Adviser (or other appropriate post holder) and should plan in time to do this as per their school's own guidelines
- risk assessments must be completed for all visits and must include control measures for learners with medical care plans, special educational needs, behaviour and safeguarding concerns
- the school should nominate at least two school-based 24-hour Emergency Contact Persons (ECP) for all trips that include time outside the school day; one of which should be a member of the leadership team. The ECP must have access to all the relevant documents for the trip as per EVOLVE
- for all trips that take place during school hours, the Trip Leaders and learners' contact details must be left at Reception/in the School Office

**The Trip Leader must ensure that the following items are easily accessible by all attending staff for the duration of the visit:**

- an agreed emergency plan
- copies of the signed and approved risk assessments
- parent/carer emergency contacts
- care plans for any learners who have one
- details of how to contact the ECP
- a first aid kit, accident book and access to a First Aider
- an school issued mobile phone
- information on where and how to access the above appears in each school's trip guidance documents for staff

- learners will be expected to conform to the school's Behaviour Policy when taking part in trips and visits. The school Headteacher reserves the right to refuse participation on any trip by any learner whose behaviour would be a cause for concern and could endanger themselves or others
- where appropriate, learners will carry ID cards with details of how to contact the group leader in an emergency
- all incidents, accidents and near misses must be reported in line with the Trust's Accident and Incident Reporting Policy

## **6.0 Serious Incidents Emergency Response**

Information and guidance on managing accidents and emergency responses on trips and visits is in the site-specific school Serious Incident Policy and guidelines. Refer to Appendix A: Emergency Response Flowchart.

For all accidents and injuries while on a trip in the UK, the Trust's accident reporting process will begin.

In the case of all accidents and injuries while on a trip abroad:

- organisers will cooperate fully with local emergency services and understand that any injury or death of a member of staff or learner outside of Great Britain may be subject to the law of the land where the accident occurred.

In the case of a significant injury or fatality

- the Trip Leader will contact the ECP, who will contact the Headteacher.
- the Headteacher will contact the Trust's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or in their absence any member of SLT and if necessary, the police. In the event of a fatality, the recommended guidance is for specially trained members of the police to initially contact the family
- the CEO will inform the Local Authority, the Crisis PR team where necessary, and mobilise support for the school.
- no contact should be made with the media without prior approval of the CEO or in their absence any member of SLT
- learners will be asked not to make any contact friends or parents/carers until the family of the casualty has been informed (specific focus on the use of social media)
- for overseas visits, the Trust will contact The British Embassy/Consulate
- the Trust will notify the insurers immediately
- staff will be provided guidance on immediate ways to respond to the emotional needs of the children and young people on this visit
- on the visit return the Trust will make arrangements to meet the visit and support the school to liaise with parents

## **7.0 Staffing selection and supervision ratios**

Effective supervision is of the utmost importance in maintaining the safety and welfare of the children and young people on educational visits. There are no legal requirements regarding staffing ratios, the choice of staff and the decision regarding supervision ratios is a matter of judgment for the Headteacher and SLT, after consultation with the EVC and Trip Leader and the Outdoor Education Advisor (or other appropriate post holder) if necessary, and having taken into account:

- the risk assessment and control measures
- nature of the activity involved
- duration of the trip or off-site activity
- ability of the learners

- age of the learners

Guidance on appropriate staffing ratios quoted by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) 2013

- KS5 may be able to sue a lower ratio
- 1 adult to every 15-20 learners in Year 7 and above
- 1 adult to every 10-15 learner in KS2
- 1 adult to every 6 learners in KS1
- 1 adult to every 5 children in EYFS

The rationale to determine the staffing ratio should be identified on the Risk Assessment by the Trip Leader and will then be approved by the Headteacher.

However, under normal circumstances at least 2 adults will be present. It should be made clear that in all instances a 'teacher' must take overall responsibility for the trip or off-site activity. There may be circumstances when volunteers, adult relatives or friends of staff attend a visit. In cases where the visit is a day or less in duration, a risk assessment should be used to determine if DBS clearance is a requirement, otherwise all adults must have an up to date and relevant DBS which must be seen, verified and logged by the school office.

Where there is a gender mixed group of learners the staffing team will make every effort to represent this, this must be the case on an overseas visit.

Under no circumstances will an ECT be allowed to be a trip leader.

## **8.0 Safeguarding**

The Trust will ensure that all adults involved in the supervision of children and young people during school-related activities (including visits) are suitable to work with children and pose no threat to the children and young people in their care. Normal safeguarding checks must be carried out in line with national guidelines and the Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Concerns about possible safeguarding issues or poor practice by a member of staff, volunteer or other adult must be reported to the Headteacher immediately.

## **9.0 First Aid**

There will always be a First Aider accompanying the visit. Where this is not possible and the trip or off site activity is being hosted by a provider, the trip leader must seek confirmation that there is a trained First Aider available at the visit site.

## **10.0 Vetting Providers**

As part of the overall risk assessment process, and in keeping with their legal duty of care, the Trip Leader must take reasonable steps to check that any accommodation that is used, and all venues that the group plans to visit, are suitable, satisfactory, and acceptably safe.

When planning a visit, the Trip Leader (and other group leaders) will wherever possible, undertake an exploratory visit to inspect and familiarise themselves with the booked accommodation and venues to be visited.

The EVC must check:



- insurance arrangements – service providers have adequate levels of cover for each trip
- service providers meet their legal requirements
- service providers have risk assessments and control measures in place
- staff competency levels are appropriate for service / activity undertaken
- service providers have Safeguarding policies in place
- service providers have appropriate and suitable accommodation for the group

There are a number of relevant quality marks that will give staff the confidence that providers are offering a high quality and safe provision, for example Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge [www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk](http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk) or further details can be found at the Outdoor Education Advisor Panel National Guidance <https://www.oeapng.info>. Providers running high risk activities such as kayaking, climbing or sailing for example must have an AALS license which should be requested.

In addition recommendations from previous visits can be sought through your EVC.

### **11.0 Consent**

Consent is a requirement for off- site activities during school hours.

Written parent/carer consent will be obtained for adventurous activities, residential trips, foreign trips and trips outside of school hours.

Separate parent/carer consent will be sought for all trips that require payment.

No learner will be included on an educational trip or visit without prior written consent of the appropriate parent/carer. For regular activities such as PE fixtures in the local area, blanket consent for the whole school year of each learner will be obtained from the parent/carer. For existing learners who represent the school at away fixtures, PE staff will ensure that a “blanket” consent is obtained. For all other off-site activities, the Trip Leader will ensure that a consent form is included with the information sent to parents/carers, prior to each activity. Such consent must always be in writing, freely given and positive.

### **12.0 Trips abroad**

The Trip Leader will check validity of passports, visa requirements and vaccinations within six months of the initial notification of the trip, to minimise problems when the trip is due to take place.

Before the trip, staff and learners will be briefed on identifying suspicious behaviour and remaining vigilant whilst abroad.

Registers will be taken at the start and end of each day, as well as at appropriate times throughout the day, i.e. before, during, and after events to ensure the whereabouts of learners are known at all times.

Wherever possible, two members of staff attending the trip will have an intermediate understanding of the destination country’s language.

At the start of the trip, all learners and staff are provided with an emergency contact sheet, this includes the Trip Leader’s mobile phone number, as well as emergency numbers and phrases for the country they are visiting.

When travelling within the European Union additional consideration must from December 2020 be given to medical cover and visa which may be required as well as new guidance around passport expiration.

### **13.0 Charging**

Information on charging for trips and visits is in the Trust's Charging and Remissions Policy.

The school will act in accordance with the DfE's guidance document 'Charging for school activities' (2018) and, therefore, will only charge for trips which are classed as an 'optional extra'.

This is education provided outside of the school day, which is not:

- part of the national curriculum.
- part of a syllabus for an examination that the learner is being prepared for.
- part of religious education.

Where this is the case parents/carers may be asked to make a contribution to the cost of the trip or visit but no child can be denied access to the visit based on payment.

Money for trips will always be paid directly to the school. Under no circumstances should educational visit trip money be processed through personal accounts.

All letters to parents/carers regarding educational visits will include a clause explaining what will happen in the event that the trip is cancelled or a learner cancels their place on the trip.

Any charge made in respect of learners will not exceed the actual cost of providing the trip divided equally by the number of learners participating.

### **14.0 Training**

The Trust is committed to supporting its staff with relevant training for planning and leading educational visits. All such training will be supported from school CPDL budgets. In particular, the Trust will ensure that the following training opportunities with regard to educational visits are made available:

- training for the Headteacher/SLT as signposted by the LA's EVO
- training for the EVC (including update courses every 3 years)
- training for Visit Leaders and Group Leaders via contact with the OEA who will signpost appropriate courses e.g. leading a Ski Visit for First Time, First Aid etc.
- training for all ECTs as signposted by the OEA
- training for new staff as deemed appropriate by the EVC/Headteacher
- training for TAs/others as deemed appropriate by the EVC
- training for new School senior and middle leaders as deemed appropriate

### **15.0 Monitoring**

To assess and monitor the quality and effectiveness of educational visits:

- where possible and subject to resources, the school's EVC will accompany at least two visits per year to monitor real practice and to assist with the review of policies and procedures;
- the school's EVC will provide written summary feedback to the visit leaders and management annually on the success of the trips and visits which have taken place
- records of monitoring visits will be produced and stored electronically.

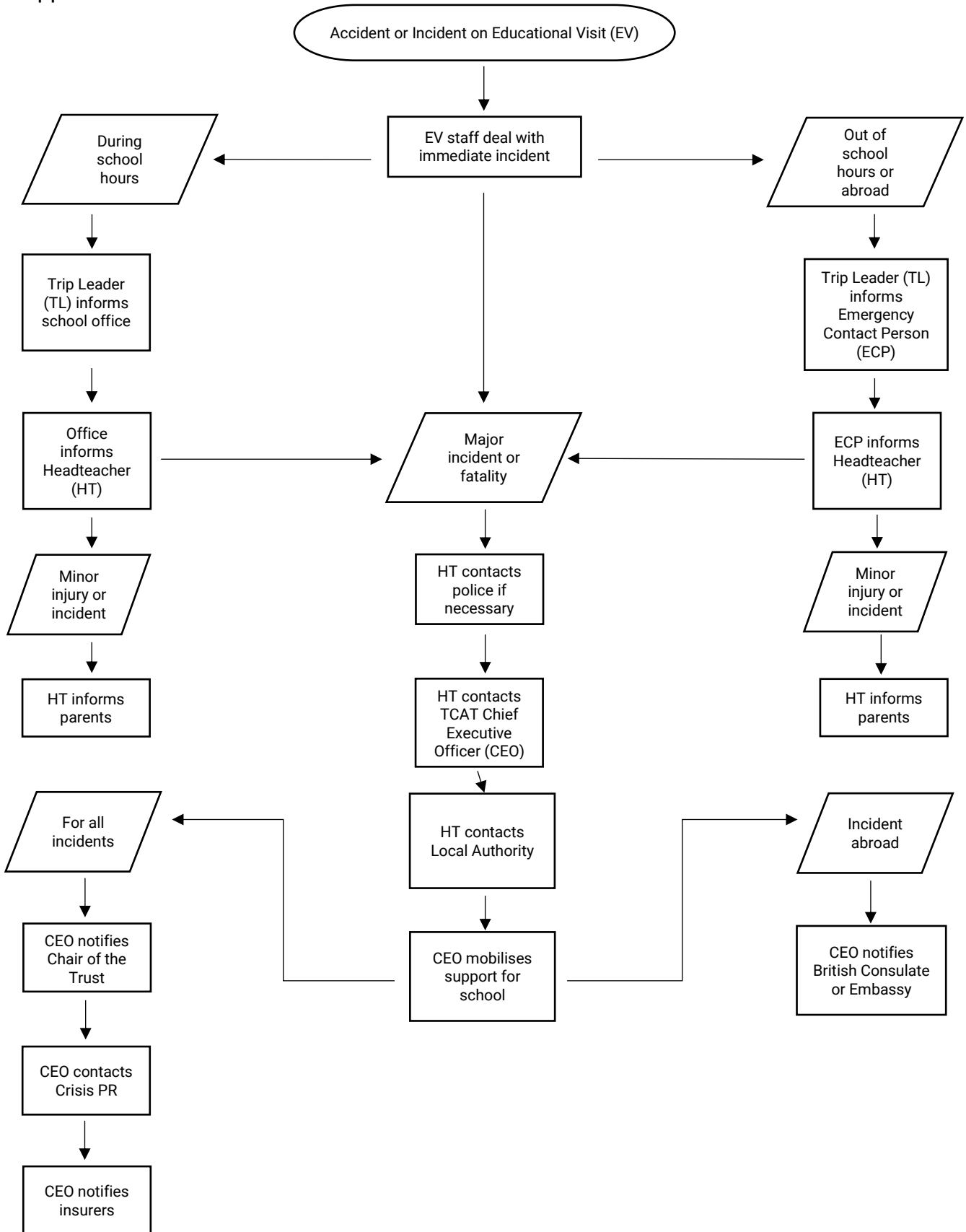
- review the use and validity of the attached guidance and checklists and provide feedback to the policy owner on request.

## **16.0 Equal opportunities**

- the Trust promotes values of equality and does not discriminate against any individual or group of learners when organising a trip, unless their behaviour would compromise the safety of themselves, staff or other learners on the trip.
- extra-curricular trips and activities are organised, managed and conducted in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.
- due to the popularity of some extra-curricular trips and activities, the school offers places on a first come, first served basis.
- preference should not be taken over one learner or a group of learners when planning school trips and off-site activities.
- where possible, activities and visits make reasonable adjustment to enable learners with SEND to take part.
- for school trips that are necessary to assist learners in completing examinations and coursework, voluntary contributions can be requested
- extra-curricular school trips will be a reasonable cost for the visit in question. For non-compulsory trips a small amount of discreet financial help may be available to some learners in cases severe hardship, but this will be dependent on the individual trip and what funds are available at any given time. Staff will endeavour to direct learners who cannot afford the fee to charities which may help with this, or assist and advise in learners' fund raising attempts.

# Emergency Response Flowchart

Appendix A



## Appendix B: Transport

As part of the overall risk assessment process, the designated Trip Leader must take reasonable steps to check that any transport used during the visit is risk-assessed as suitable, satisfactory, and acceptably safe, and that any specific Trust, Local Authority, legal or insurance requirements are met. Leaders should refer to the risk assessment, and guidance available from the local authority, Evolve or the Trust that give detailed recommendations for all standard forms of transport.

Schools in the Trust will only hire coaches/buses from companies that provide seats all fitted with functioning seat belts. Service buses without seatbelts should not be used apart from short local routes and not on journeys involving high-speed roads.

Evolve has a list of coach and taxi operators who have completed a basic check of competence; Evolve>Resources>Guidance/Policies/Documents>

Headteachers, with assistance from school EVC's, must ensure the safety of learners travelling by private car, and should:

- satisfy themselves if the driver is suitably qualified, experienced, competent and aware of their legal responsibilities to follow the rules of the road
- inform parents and obtain their written consent
- carry out their own due diligence to confirm valid insurance, licence, and vehicles are roadworthy (Current MOT), taxed and fitted with appropriate seatbelts etc.
- carry out suitable safeguarding (DBS) checks
- ensure that passengers use only full 3-point seatbelts

For visits that require the use of staff cars, drivers must:

- have business use cover on their motor vehicle insurance policy
- possess a current valid driving licence
- be satisfied that the vehicle they are using is in a safe, roadworthy condition with a current MOT certificate and currently taxed

However, the instances when parents use their cars to support visits is expected to be very rare and only in exceptional circumstances.

### Use of minibuses

The Trust follows National and Local Authority regulations and guidance. The following procedures must be followed when using a minibus on an educational visit:

- only authorised drivers with the relevant vehicle category on their own current, valid driving licence may drive a minibus for the purpose of an educational visit
- all authorised drivers must hold a current, valid MiDAS certificate
- individual schools hold current lists of authorised drivers
- authorised drivers must declare any motoring convictions and any health conditions or prescribed medication that may affect their ability to drive
- all authorised drivers must ensure that a Section 19 Permit (of the Transport Act 1985 – Public Service Vehicle Licence exemption) is displayed in the front window of the minibus

Drivers are legally responsible for the vehicle, and must ensure the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition before it is driven, and all vehicle checks are completed and recorded.

**The Driver should state the following to learners:**

- seatbelts must be worn at all times. This is a legal requirement. (It is the driver's absolute responsibility to enforce this)
- all passengers must remain seated whilst the vehicle is moving, and at all times as directed by the driver
- the vehicles entry and exit doors will be kept clear of luggage to give unrestricted access/egress at all times
- the Trust fleet is branded and learners should be reminded that they must follow the school Behaviour Policy at all times while in transit

**Other considerations:**

If at any time the learners distract the driver:

- the driver should stop the bus until the learners are settled
- drivers should not try to continue. Learners may also be distracting other drivers
- where possible drivers should park the bus with the side doors to the curb. Where this is not possible, learners should remain seated until members of staff are able to supervise them from the road
- drivers **MUST NOT** drive for longer than 2 hours without taking a break for at least 15 minutes
- in normal circumstances journeys in a mini bus should be staffed by the driver and at least one escort. On the occasions when this isn't possible, the journey should be risk assessed

## Appendix C: Consortium Arrangements

The Consortium arrangements in place for Sixth Form learners between Cottingham High School and Sixth Form College, Hessle High School and Sixth Form College, part of The Hessle School and Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College means that some educational visits organised by a department in one school may include some learners from other Consortium schools. The following procedures should be adopted in such circumstances:

- The host school organising an educational visit should in the first instance, organise the visit according to current guidelines Educational Visits Policy.
- The designated Trip Leader from the host school should seek approval in the normal manner from their own Headteacher/Headteacher designate/EVC. However, the EVOLVE form should also be submitted for approval to all relevant managers from the other schools involved, using the “joint visits” section of the EVOLVE form.

The designated Trip Leader should submit the EVOLVE form to all parties within the following timescales to allow schools to complete a diligent check prior to approval:

Category 1 and 2 (Day visits) – at least 3 weeks before departure

Category 3, 4 and ‘A’ (UK Residential/Overseas/High Risk) – at least 6 weeks before departure

The EVC at Consortium schools will not routinely request supporting documentation for every visit but category 3, 4 and ‘A’ visits should be subject to spot checks for audit purposes.

The Headteacher/Headteacher designate of the other relevant school(s) will approve the visit providing they are satisfied with the planning and risk assessment arrangements.

Designated Trip Leaders should neither assume that visit approval from their own school’s Headteacher/Headteacher designate assumes approval from other schools.

The responsibility for checking approval has been granted lies with the designated Trip Leader. The updated EVOLVE form should be revisited online to establish this.

For Consortium residential and visits that return after school, the designated Trip Leader must obtain an emergency out of hours contact number from each school.

The designated Trip Leader should include their contact details that can be used for the duration of the visit on the EVOLVE form.

## **Appendix D - Covid Addendum**

**Actions here are specific to each individual School, their setting and local community however, Trust advice and guidance will always be available.**

*'Schools and colleges should, as far as is reasonably possible, take a whole institution approach to safety procedures for Educational Visits during COVID-19. This will allow them to satisfy themselves that any new policies and processes in response to COVID-19 are not weakening their approach to planning and safety on visits.'*

*'It is important schools and colleges review and revise their Educational Visits Policy and keep it under review as circumstances continue to evolve. In some cases, a COVID-19 annex/addendum that summaries any key COVID-19 related changes might be more effective than re-writing and re-issuing the whole policy'*

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak (update 5 February 2021)

### **Context**

**In response to the national school COVID guidance the specific contingency plans and awareness raising measures are outlined in this addendum to the existing Educational Visits Policy. As such these contingency arrangements are obligatory and must be followed by all staff.**

Whilst the existing arrangements and responsibilities outlined in the Educational Visits Policy remain in place, in the current context specific and vital additional strategies are required to be implemented to ensure that continuity of support for children, young people, staff and others attending **ALL** Educational Visits at this time.

This document provides guidance for planning and managing outdoor learning, offsite visits and learning outside the classroom during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

It must be read in conjunction with the Trust Educational Visits Policy and within the context of current government guidance, which is likely to change as the situation develops.

All Educational Visits should involve specific risk assessment and currently risk assessments for Educational Visits should reflect the COVID-19 risk assessment measures deployed at the school (all generic risk assessments are available in the resources section of EVOLVE).

### **Government Guidance**

It is essential that current government guidance is followed. It will be monitored centrally for any changes and school staff will be informed.

If, you are planning a visit to a different country in the UK (England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland), you should check current government guidance for that country, as well as the guidance for England.

The latest government advice and information about Coronavirus is available at:

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) (England);

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus> (Wales);

[www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance](http://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance) (Scotland);

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19> (Northern Ireland).



## **Guidance applying in England**

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued a range of guidance for teachers, school leaders, parents/carers and learners, at: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare)

This includes guidance for schools, at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirusoutbreak](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirusoutbreak)

and for early years and childcare providers at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-andchildcare-closures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-andchildcare-closures)

There is also a contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID in education and childcares settings, at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-ineducation-and-childcare-settings](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-ineducation-and-childcare-settings)

DfE no longer imposes specific restrictions on educational visits, except that it recommends that schools do not resume overseas visits until the start of the 2021 autumn term. It advises that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, should be included as part of the process of risk assessment of all visits and activities.

The contingency framework for local COVID outbreaks states that any attendance restrictions introduced by an establishment because of an outbreak should be reflected in its visit risk assessments, and the establishment should consider carefully whether a visit is still appropriate and safe. Only learners who are attending the establishment or are registered in a Trust school, should take part in a visit.

## **Planning and Managing Outdoor Learning and Off-Site Visits**

The following guidance for planning and managing activities is specific to operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. You should also be familiar with other National Guidance and best practice documents (EVOLVE Resources) documents relevant to your role, as the normal principles of good practice still apply.

You should review your standard operating procedures to ensure that they include the measures, including public health advice, that you need to take to reduce the risks from COVID.

When planning an activity or visit, you should take the current government guidance, including public health advice, into account as part of your process of risk assessment, and then check it regularly in the days and weeks leading up to the visit, and regularly during a residential visit, and make any changes necessary to your plans.

You should have contingency plans in case of changes to government guidance or, for example, staff becoming unavailable because of a requirement to self-isolate or a country changing its 'travel list' category at short notice.

You should consider the ability of participants to comply with COVID safety measures at the venue. Parents/Carers and participants may naturally be anxious, so you should discuss their concerns with them and keep them informed about the situation and how you plan to mitigate any risks.

If you are planning a visit which involves another group (perhaps a group overseas), such as an exchange visit, or if you are planning to host or work with another group (perhaps an overseas group visiting the UK), you should keep in contact with them and be aware that they might need to change or cancel the visit.

If you plan to visit a venue such as a museum or gallery, or to attend a public event such as a concert or sporting fixture, or to stay in accommodation such as a hostel or hotel, or if you are using a tour operator or activity provider, discuss the potential effects of COVID with them at the time of booking, and keep in touch with them during the run-up to the visit. Ensure that any Risk Assessments provided clearly demonstrate their response to COVID and you make participants aware of additional measures. You should consider making a preliminary visit to check the measures in place and to discuss any issues with the provider, where this is practicable.

### **Resuming Visits and Activities**

It may have been a long time since you were able to organise many types of off-site visit and activity. It is important that you recognise that things may have changed in this time, and that you will need to make careful preparations before resuming your normal provision.

Visit Leaders and Education Visit Coordinators may have experienced a decline in their competence, confidence or fitness, and so may need support, such as refresher training or additional preparation time. The same may apply to participants.

External providers that you have used in the past may no longer be available, or may have changed what they can offer, or may not be able to operate to the same standards as previously. You should check that they have made suitable adjustments to work safely with COVID, and it may be wise to carry out similar checks as you would with a new provider.

Children and young people have spent a significant amount of time indoors, away from educational settings and their peers. This may affect how they respond during activities and visits. Visit Leaders and supporting staff should carefully consider what are suitable venues, activities and levels of challenge while they re-establish their understanding of participants' attitudes, behaviours and abilities.

Equipment that has been unused for a long time should be checked for damage or deterioration, particularly if it has been stored in a place where there is a possibility of water ingress or infestation by rodents.

Activity sites may have changed. For example, there could be changes due to rockfall, growth of vegetation or erosion. Where this is a possibility, you should visit the sites to check them, before resuming activities.

You should review your risk assessments and/or operating procedures in the light of any changes you find.

### **Transport**

You should assess the risks of using any form of transport, taking account of current public health advice. You should consider:

- how participants are grouped together on transport – where possible this should reflect any groupings used in the school;
- the use of hand sanitiser when getting on and off transport;
- additional cleaning of vehicles;
- ensuring that boarding and disembarkation are organised;
- distancing on transport where possible;
- the use of face coverings (for over 11 year olds).

## **Managing the Financial Risks**

As the position remains unclear around infection rates and travel restrictions please ask for the guidance of the Trust Finance Operations Manager before organising a trip or visit, this includes those where there are no direct costs. The Finance team will give advice about mitigating risks around funding and insurance provision.

The advice given above about cancellation terms and conditions, and insurance, is particularly important for overseas visits

This does not apply for on site outdoor learning provision which should be covered by school COVID Risk Assessments.

## **Overseas Visits**

You should monitor the government's foreign travel advice for any country you plan to travel to or through, at [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). You should be aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The travel lists may change during a visit, and you must comply with international travel legislation and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.

You should liaise closely with your travel provider about the situation in the country that you are planning to visit and consider the alternatives and options should that visit no longer be able to proceed. You should also be aware that even though a country is on the 'green list' in England, the destination country may still require UK visitors to quarantine.

Specific advice for people travelling overseas during the pandemic, and the rules for entering the UK, is at [www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus)

You should also check whether health insurance, including medical treatment and repatriation, covers anyone who contracts COVID.

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) has published guidance about travelling overseas at: [www.abta.com/news/coronavirus-outbreak](http://www.abta.com/news/coronavirus-outbreak)

## Appendix E

## SCHOOL VISITS AND ACTIVITIES - COSTING AND PAYMENT FORM

To be completed by the staff member organising the trip. This form relates to the financial authorisation and processing of the visit/activity and must be completed as part of the School's School Visit Procedure. The collection of monies will only commence once this form has been authorised by the School Business Manager. Payment of costs can only be made when sufficient funds have been collected.

ACTIVITY / VISIT DETAILS		EXPENSES		INCOME	
School name		<b>Travel Costs</b>		<b>Total cost of trip to be covered (Total Expense)</b>	
Name of trip		Coach Hire		<b>Fund raising activities / Subsidies</b>	
Staff member organising the trip		Rail Tickets		Estimated amount to be raised	
Email for staff member organising trip		Flights		If not raised, how will the shortfall be covered?	
Destination		Self-Drive Vehicle Hire		School subsidy e.g. Reward (requires email authorisation from budget holder to finance)	
Date of departure		Fuel for self-drive vehicle		<b>Remaining cost of trip to be covered by payments</b> = total expense - fund raising & subsidies	
Date of return		School Minibus at 50p/mile (return journey & whilst on visit)		Total number of paid staff and student places	
<b>Participants</b>		Is the school minibus available?		Cost per place = remaining cost of trip / total number of paid places	
Maximum number of places available		Overtime Costs - if the minibus driver is a member of support staff and the trip will run outside school hours, add £10 per hour		Payments from staff = number paid staff places x cost per place	
Number of students to which the trip is available		Bridge Tolls / Parking / Permits		Income for students subsidised by Pupil Premium = number of PP students x cost per place (requires email authorisation from budget holder to finance)	
Are places allocated on a first come basis?		<b>Accommodation / Meals</b>		Payments from paying students = number of paying students x cost per place	
Cohort of students to which trip is made available e.g. year group or subject list		Name of accommodation company		<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
Number of free staff places		Cost		<b>Prior to the activity / visit</b>	
Number of paid staff places		Meals			
<b>Payment Schedule</b>		<b>Activities / Entrance Fees / Tickets</b>			
First date of availability for payment		Activity 1 Cost			
Instalment 1 amount		Activity 1 Company			
Instalment 1 due date		Activity 2 Cost			
Instalment 2 amount		Activity 2 Company			

Instalment 2 due date	
Instalment 3 amount	
Instalment 3 due date	
Instalment 4 amount	
Instalment 4 due date	
Is payment strictly by the due date only e.g. to enable purchase of tickets?	Y/N
<b>CASH (minimum notice period 14 days)</b>	
Is any cash required on this trip?	Y / N
Amount & Currency	
What date will the cash be collected?	

Are staff places charged?	Y / N
<b>Other</b>	
Insurance at 50p/day/student Ensure hazardous activities are insured. Prior to travel, collect emergency insurance card.	
Payment system charges if applicable	
Any other e.g. use of school mobile	
Supply Cover Costs (£36 per lesson for agency cover)	
<b>Alternatively, indicate inclusive Tour Operator Price and Name of Company</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES = sum of above</b>	

Calculations checked, income & expenditure balances	
School Fund Department Code	
Authorised by:	
Date of Authorisation	
Date of receipt at TCAT Finance	
<b>After the activity / visit</b>	
Cash returned	
Actual number of students attended	
Actual Income	
Actual Expenses	
Balance Dr/Cr	

**Any other information:**