

Educational Visits & Learning Beyond the Classroom: Statement of Principles

These principles are not definitive and should not be taken as an authoritative interpretation of the law. However, the following documents do conform to legal principles, The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 along with other statutes. From the Department for Education Statutory Guidance is published adding specific details. The overarching document for our work in this area is the OEAP National Guidance website which the Academy adopts as its guidance for this area of work. For more detail on the Underpinning Legal Framework : www.oeapng.info Document 3.2a. The trust also works in partnership with 'Learning Outside the Classroom' both as an organisation which quality assures venues and one which helps secure a richer experience through each school striving to achieve the 'Learning outside the Classroom Mark' at 'Gold standard'.

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MERIDIAN TRUST is committed to incorporating educational visits and visitors into its scheme of work, and through developing a comprehensive offer of additional/extracurricular activities. This is clear in the trust's values and mission statement:

Our Vision: High-quality educational provision for all at the heart of local communities

Our Mission: To deliver, promote and inspire high quality educational provision in all Meridian Trust schools at the heart of their local communities so that:

- Every child is a successful learner, confident individual and responsible and employable citizen
- Every MERIDIAN TRUST school is a hub for community activities, a centre for extended services and a source of immense pride for students, their families and other local stakeholders

This is through:

- **Achievement For All**
- **Valuing people**
- **Pursuit of Excellence**
- **Providing a High Quality Learning Environment**

And

Extending The Boundaries of Learning (*by*)

- Providing positive memorable experiences inside and outside of the classroom
- Providing a diversity of experience to all
- Opening up the world to all students
- Securing the very best future educational and vocational experiences for our students

Meridian Trust extends the boundaries of learning by ensuring all school provide a range of activities which enhance pupils' education in the widest sense. Meridian Trust believes visits help to develop a pupil's investigative skills, broaden their knowledge of the wider world, help develop a sense of self, encourage greater independence and resilience.

Educational visits should be available to all pupils and should be organised accordingly, with consideration being given, especially when selecting venues and organising transport, to any pupils who have some sensory impairment or physical handicap. Just as all other elements in course programmes, educational visits should have clear, relevant and achievable aims and objectives which should be communicated clearly in the trip application.

A major consideration in the organisation of any visit must be the safety of the participants, and in this, as in all other respects, the guidance provided through the OEAP National Guidance website, Local Authority Outdoor Advisor and appropriate Meridian Trust policies must be complied with. The minimum adult-to-pupil ratio is dependent on the nature of the visit, age of the pupils and the context of the cohort - staff must therefore check that they comply with all OEAP National Guidance, Meridian Trust and LA requirements and regulations. Meridian Trust has a comprehensive 'Trips and Visits: Extending the Boundaries of Learning Guide' containing information on how to organise a trip and the financial regulation governing trips and visits. The organiser must be satisfied that the venue is a suitable one, with all that this entails, and, where applicable, that any accompanying staff both from the venue and school are qualified, dependable and satisfy safeguarding checks in line with Meridian Trust safeguarding procedures.