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Duke of Edinburgh Health and Safety

The D of E programme has a pedagogical, social and developmental purpose that complements the work done in school.

Legal Background

We are bound by:

- the *Health and Safety Act* and *Health and Safety Regulations 1999* and associated legislation
- *Civil law relating to negligence*. Failure to carry out 'suitable and sufficient' risk assessments will almost always be deemed negligent
- We have a Duty of Care for the safety and welfare of pupils, staff and helpers on the trip *and* other members of the public
- Standards of Care for children arise from the *Children Act 1989* and subsequent government guidance such as the April 2014 *Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance*: we must do what is reasonable in all the circumstances to safeguard their welfare and act with reasonable care and skill
- *Activities Activity Centres (Young Persons' Safety) Act 1995*.

General planning and preparation requirements

- All outings, no matter how brief, must follow the class trips procedure.
- The group leader must satisfy him/herself as to the suitability of the location and of the staff, including Child Protection, Certificates of Competence and Public Liability.
- Risk assessments must be done for all trips *well in advance*, including day trips. Organisers should refer to risk assessments for previous trips, and incorporate and record revisions and additional considerations. Risk assessments must be suitable and sufficient and include:
 - The journey
 - Accommodation
 - Staffing requirements
 - Pupils themselves
 - Emergency procedures for loss of pupils, illness of group leader, staff and pupils, discipline problems
 - The activities
 - Child Protection
 - First Aid
 - Inclusion (health, special needs etc)
- Risk assessments should be shown to the Health and Safety Officer. Parents should be kept informed at all stages.
- No groups will walk in winter conditions as this is out of the scope of the award.

- It is essential that planning is done in time to ensure not only that proper consents and checks are carried out but also that parents have sufficient notice to be able to pay.
- Award Leaders delivering expeditions and training must at all times follow the guidance as laid down in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Handbook and Expedition Guide.
- **Consent Forms** should be completed in good time. Trip organisers are responsible for reading returned consent forms for information about students. Risk assessments and documentation for special medical needs and contact arrangements must be carried out.
- Trip leaders must carefully read all consent forms and incorporate the information in them into planning and risk assessments. Health and social needs must be covered. This will involve an individual protocol or procedure for pupils with particular needs or risks.

Accompanying Paperwork:

- Parent consent forms
- Class Trips Procedure
- Private Drivers: insurance and risk assessment where applicable
- Contact details for parents, office and contact people for all stages and components of the trip

General Considerations for Preparation and Risk Assessments.

Paragraphs in brackets refer to DfE guidelines.

Group Leader

- There must be one group leader
- The leader must have accompanied previous similar trips and be supported by the Health and Safety Officer as competent to lead the trip
- Parent helpers may be used but must be briefed. Discipline will remain the responsibility of the group leader and must be clarified with helpers.
- There is a minimum requirement that the group leader has undertaken the Hill and Moorland Leader Training. The assessment is voluntary but the Health and Safety Officer must be confident in their competence as a Group Leader - having good navigation skills, hazard awareness and route planning knowledge. Basic first aid training is also a requirement.

Insurance

- Parents to be advised of limitations of school policy. Many parents may have family insurance.

Supervision ratios and use of parents

- All supervisors must have a current DBS disclosure, as must any parent helper/volunteer who has unsupervised access to the children. The DBS is processed by the Administrator and verified by the Bursar.
- Expedition group ratios:
3 groups = 3 adults
4 groups = 4 adults
- For overnight trips two adults are needed in the evening. If a parent is used, the effect on discipline must be considered

Consent Forms

- Should be completed for all trips
- Remember to complete details at top before photocopying
- No pupil to go on a trip without parental consent form returned to office
- Should be returned at least two weeks before trip. This is to allow the time needed to deal with information given in the consent forms, especially medical, health or special awareness.
- Original to be left in office
- At least one copy to be taken on trip
- Remember to get contact details for adult helpers too.

Informing Parents

A letter should be sent to parents containing expedition details and costs.

Emergency / Contingency Plans

Leaders must have contingency plans for emergencies including:

- Loss of pupils at any stage
- Illness of pupil or supervisors
- Accidents
- First Aid
- The Leader should carry a list of all pupils and adults in the party together with relevant contact phone numbers of parents / next of kin, contact numbers of other adults on the trip. Copies must be left in school office and with parent contact. There should also be a school and parent contact person.
- Office needs to be kept informed of arrangements / changes of plan and contact persons.

Medication and First Aid

- The Group Leader must have a relevant and valid First Aid Certificate
- First Aid must be considered and provided, appropriate to the circumstances
- Pupils with a need to take regular or occasional medicine:
 - A procedure must be agreed in advance with the pupil and their parent taking into account the circumstances, age and reliability of the child, and the safety of other children
 - All medication to be kept with an adult supervisor for pupils under 16, except for specific situations such as anaphylaxis or asthma.
 - The parent must provide and sign full written instructions
 - Full medical details must be provided in case help is needed.

Transport

- If a Coach or Minibus is required they must be provided by reputable companies with professional drivers.
- The driver must never be put in a position where s/he has responsibility for discipline and behaviour.

Use of private cars

- Mobile phone contact, first aid, child protection and medical needs must be considered for each car and its occupants.

- Parents using their private cars must have adequate insurance and a clean driving license. Insurance cover for trip must be included (i.e. normally business use and fully comprehensive).
- The group leader must only accept offers of transport from parents in whom they have confidence for reliability and carefulness. The driving license should be clean.
- All occupants must use proper lap and diagonal seatbelts
- The group leader must ensure they have full consent from parents
- Adults accompanying children must have a current DBS check if they are to have unsupervised access to children – i.e. drive children with no other vetted adult in the car.
- To ensure the driver is protected from hazards and distractions associated with discipline, drivers must be instructed to stop the car if there is *any* discipline or behaviour problem.

Use of minibuses

- Minibuses must only be driven by adults who have the current LA minibus license *and* a good driving record.

Trips involving overnight Stay

Accommodation

- Accommodation must be appropriate to the expedition level
- Child Protection issues must be considered

Alcohol and illegal drugs or abuse of drugs

- Are forbidden on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.
- Abuse of alcohol or any legal or illegal drug should lead to the pupil being sent home straightaway at the expense of their parent / guardian. This must be agreed on the consent form.

Child Protection

- All adults on overnight class trips should be DBS checked.
- Staff behaviour, both with pupils and each other, should be consistent with the School behaviour code and be a good example to pupils.

Inclusion

The needs of pupils with special educational, medical, physical or behavioural needs should be incorporated, as far as is possible within the framework of the objectives of the trip. These should be recorded on the detailed planning form.

Remote Supervision

- Where pupils are to be unsupervised for some of the time this must be made clear to parents.
- Proper risk assessments to be carried out with risk minimisation.