

**The Mill Hill School Foundation  
Walker House, Millers Close, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London NW7  
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**Mill Hill School  
Belmont, Mill Hill Preparatory School  
Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre-Preparatory School**

## **Educational Visits Policy**

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**Independent Co-educational Day School for Pupils aged 3 to 18  
years and Boarding School for Pupils aged 13 to 18 years**

**Effective February 2014**

# The Mill Hill School Foundation

## Educational Visits Policy

### Introduction

1. The Court of Governors of The Mill Hill School Foundation [the 'Governors'] recognise the value to pupils of educational visits. Such visits should:
  - enhance pupils' understanding of curricular activities (for example language or history studies);
  - provide opportunities to practise skills (for example, swimming and other sports);
  - develop pupils' social skills (for example meeting pupils from other countries and cultures).
2. The Governors also recognise and accept that such visits present challenges to the health and welfare of pupils. Educational visits will be planned and operated in accordance with these guidelines so that everyone involved understands his or her responsibility to ensure that pupils can participate fully in educational visits in reasonable safety.
3. The Governors recognise the DfE Guidance on Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits ['HASPEV']. The Schools planning and operating of educational visits will have regard to the ten important areas listed below:
  - a. Responsibilities for visits, including pupil's behaviour
  - b. Planning visits, including risk assessments and first aid
  - c. Supervision, including ratios and vetting checks (for example, DBS checks for volunteers on overnight stays)
  - d. Preparing pupils, including special and medical needs
  - e. Communicating with parents
  - f. Planning transport
  - g. Insurance
  - h. Types of visit
  - i. Visits abroad
  - j. Emergency procedures, including contact details and permission for emergency medical treatment if the parents cannot be contacted.
4. This Policy must be read and complied with in conjunction with each of the Foundation's Schools' own Educational Visits/School Trips Policy and guidance.

### Responsibilities

#### 1. Employers

- 1.1 Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, employers are responsible for the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees. Employers are also under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and

safety of anyone else on the premises or anyone who may be affected by their activities. This includes everyone involved in off-site visits (teachers, volunteers, helpers and pupils).

The Court of Governors is the employer of staff at The Mill Hill School Foundation.

1.2 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, made under the 1974 Act, require employers to:

- assess the risks of activities (see section **D - Risk Management**);
- introduce measures to control those risks;
- tell their employees about these measures.

## **2. Employees**

2.1 Also under the Health and Safety legislation, employees must:

- take reasonable care of their own and others' health and safety;
- co-operate with their employers over safety matters;
- carry out activities in accordance with training and instructions;
- inform the employer of any serious risks.

These duties apply to all school visits. Teachers and other staff in charge of pupils also have a common law duty to act as any reasonably prudent parent would do in the same circumstances.

2.2 Although the employer is responsible for health and safety, decisions about visits are usually delegated to the Head of the School. The Head's agreement must be obtained before a visit takes place.

## **3. Governing Body**

3.1 The Court of Governors will satisfy themselves, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the Head has effectively implemented this Policy and ensured that risk assessments have been carried out, that appropriate safety measures are in place and that training needs have been addressed.

3.2 The Governors delegate to the Head the following responsibilities to:

- ensure that the visit has a specific and stated objective;
- ensure that the Head/Group Leader show how their plans comply with regulations and guidelines, including the school's health and safety policy document and that the Head/Group Leader report back after the visit;
- ensure that they are informed about less routine visits well in advance;
- assess proposals for certain types of visit, including visits involving an overnight stay or travel outside the UK.

## **4. Head**

4.1 The Head will ensure that visits comply with regulations and guidelines provided by the Governing Body and the school's own health and safety policy. The Head will ensure that the Group Leader is competent to undertake

and supervise any particularly hazardous or unusual activities and to monitor the risks throughout the visit.

4.2 If the Head takes part in the visit as a group member/supervisor, he/she will follow the instructions of the Group Leader who will have sole charge of the visit.

4.3 The Head will also ensure that:

- the planning and operating of the educational visit has had regard to HASPEV and that a detailed risk assessment has been completed and appropriate safety measures are in place;
- any relevant qualifications claimed by the Group Leader or other relevant members of the group have been checked and verified;
- there is adequate and relevant insurance cover;
- He/she has the address and phone number of the visit's venue and a contact name;
- there is a contingency plan for any delays including a late return home.

## 5. Group Leader

5.1 One teacher, the Group Leader, will have overall responsibility for the supervision and conduct of the visit and will have regard to the health and safety of the group. The Group Leader will have been appointed or approved by the Head or the Governing Body. The Group Leader will:

- obtain the Head's prior written agreement before any off-site visit takes place and, as appropriate, the completion of any other forms in accordance with their School's Educational Visits/School Trips Policy;
- follow those relevant regulations, guidelines (including HASPEV) and Foundation and/or School policies, as set out in this Policy and their School Educational Visits/School Trips Policy;
- undertake and complete the planning and preparation of the visit including the briefing of group members and parents, including completion of comprehensive risk management procedures for **all activities** to be undertaken on the trip;
- ensure there are contingency arrangements in the event of unfavourable weather conditions, transport breakdown or other failure or in the event of a pupil having to be sent home in accordance with their School's Educational Visits/School Trips Policy;
- be aware of insurance procedures as set out in their School Educational Visits/School Trips Policies.

## 6. Teachers and Non-Teacher Adult Volunteers

6.1 Teachers and Non-Teacher Adult Volunteers on school-led visits act as employees of the Governing Body, whether the visit takes place within normal working hours or outside those hours, by agreement with the Head and Governors.

6.2 Teachers and Non-teacher adult volunteers (i.e. persons over the age of 18 years who are not employees of the School but who accompany or take part in trips and visits) whether or not acting as a supervisor will assume a duty of care towards Foundation employees, pupils, other children and non-teacher

adult volunteers who are on the trip or visit. They will do their best to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the group and act as any reasonable parent would do in the same circumstances. They will comply with the instructions of the Group Leader who will have sole charge of the visit and the implementation of the detailed Risk Assessment for the trip. They will have read the detailed Risk Assessment for the trip before departure of the trip or visit and comply with.

- 6.3 The use of Teacher and Non-teacher volunteers on school-led visits will comply fully with safeguarding requirements and best practice guidelines, including references, interviews and DBS checks as appropriate.

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## **7. Non-Teacher Adult Volunteers**

- 7.1 Non-teacher adult volunteers will follow the instructions of the Group Leader and teacher supervisors and help with control and discipline. A Non-Teacher Adult Volunteer should not be left in sole charge of pupils unless/except where either:

- an enhanced DBS disclosure check and other requisite compliance checks in accordance with the ISI guidelines have been completed and received by the School and is considered to be satisfactory and it has been previously agreed as part of the Risk Assessment for the trip or visit that the Non-teacher adult volunteer may be placed in sole charge of pupils;

or

- in exceptional circumstances that may be determined to be an emergency by the Group Leader or a teacher supervisor and when appropriate authority has been sought and obtained from the Head or member of the Senior Management team emergency contact, may a Non-teacher adult volunteer be placed in sole charge of pupils;
- Non-Teacher Adult Volunteers must report to the Group Leader or teacher supervisors any concern about the health or safety of pupils at any time during the visit;
- be aware of potential conflicts of interest if their own children are members of the group and discuss this beforehand with the Group Leader.

- 7.2 Non-teacher adult volunteers who accompany or take part in trips and visits which involve an overnight stay must have an enhanced DBS disclosure check and other requisite compliance checks in accordance with the ISI guidelines which have been completed and received by the School prior to the departure of the trip or visit and is considered to be satisfactory and included in the detailed Risk Assessment for the trip or visit.

- 7.3 Trip organizers should bear in mind the lengthy process and time required (which is normally c 4 or 5 weeks and may be a matter of months) to obtain a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.

## **8. Responsibilities of pupils**

- 8.1 The Group Leader will make it clear to pupils that they must comply with their School Rules which govern the trip and any other duties or responsibilities

given in their School's Educational Visits/School Trips Policies. A pupil whose behaviour may be considered to be a danger to himself/herself or to the group may be stopped from going on the visit.

## **9. Parents**

- 9.1 The Group Leader will ensure that parents are given sufficient information in writing and are invited to any briefing sessions, so that they are able to make an informed decision on whether their child should go on the visit. This should include proposals for alternative activities in case, for example, adverse weather conditions prevent the intended activity taking place. Reasonable adjustments will be made for disabled children.
- 9.2 The Group Leader will also tell parents how they can help prepare their child for the visit the arrangements for sending a pupil home early (for which parents will normally be required to meet the costs of such arrangements) and arrangements for communicating with parents (including emergency arrangements). See the relevant School's Educational Visits/School Trips Policy.

## **10. Learning Difficulties, Disability and Medical Needs/Conditions etc.**

- 10.1 Mill Hill School Foundation welcomes pupils with disabilities and learning difficulties. The Foundation maintains and drives a positive culture towards inclusion of disabled people and those with learning needs in all the activities of the Foundation and we will not treat a pupil less favourably on these grounds without justification. Each School will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with any type of disability, learning difficulty or medical need/condition to enable their participation on educational visits, whilst maintaining the safety of everyone in the group.
- 10.2 Special needs of any kind, including such medical conditions as sleepwalking and epilepsy, will be taken into consideration in the risk assessments and planning undertaken in advance of the trip or visit and appropriate measures to address the risk identified.
- 10.3 Where reasonable adjustments are not possible to enable a pupil with a disability or learning difficulty or medical need/condition to participate in a trip or visit, that pupil might not be permitted to take part in that trip or visit.

## **11. Risk Management Procedures**

- 11.1 Risk assessment is an essential part of fulfilling health and safety responsibilities. Risk assessments must be completed for **all activities** undertaken on the trip, the outward and homeward journey and any periods of free time. See the relevant School's Educational Visits/School Trips Policy.

Last review: February 2014