

# Educational Visits and Activities Policy

I have come that they may have  
life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10



At The Cathedral Catholic School we are safe and cared for; we make Christ known and loved, using his example to strive for excellence in all we do. In close partnership with parents and the parish of The Cathedral and St Thomas More, we aim to deliver an outstanding and distinctive Catholic education with Christ at its heart.

Each person's unique value is recognised and nurtured so that, through God's grace we can grow, learn and realise our full potential. We use our gifts and talents for the glory of God and in the loving service of others, proclaiming the Gospel and striving for the values of the Kingdom of God.

We profess our faith proudly and recognise that we are called to a loving relationship with God through the sacraments, scripture and prayer.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 All schools are required to offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities and experiences of adult life.
- 1.2 In our school we seek to ensure that the National Curriculum is delivered to all children, regardless of social background, race, gender or differences in ability. All are entitled to the development of knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes. To enrich the curriculum for our children, we also offer a range of educational visits and other activities that add to what they learn in school.

## **2 Organisation**

- 2.1 The National Curriculum defines what we teach the children in school. This is the basis for each class's programme of learning for each school year. In addition teachers and governors agree the corresponding programme of visits and activities in advance of each academic year.
- 2.2 Within each class's programme of work the teachers plan educational visits and activities that support the children's learning. We give details of these visits and activities to parents at the beginning of each school year in our School Calendar. We plan other activities as the school year progresses, and inform parents of these in due course.
- 2.3 Visits and activities usually take place within the school day, and the governing body approves all such visits in advance. We follow the LEA's guidelines relating to health and safety, and we ask parents to give written permission for their child to take part in any activity that takes children off the school site. If we do not receive this written permission, the child will be unable to participate.

## **3 Charging for school activities**

- 3.1 All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. There are some circumstances when the school can make a charge for certain activities. The governing body has a charging policy that details the full range of activities where a charge can be made. A copy of this is available from the school office.

## **4 Curriculum links**

- 4.1 All educational visits and activities support and enrich the work we do in school. There is also a number of people who visit the school to support our work. Some visits relate directly to areas of learning for individual classes, whilst others relate to all our children.
- 4.2 For each subject in the curriculum there is a corresponding programme of activities which includes visits by specialists. All these activities are in line with guidance published by the LEA:
  - English – theatre visits, visits by authors, poets and theatre groups;
  - science – use of the school grounds, visits to botanical gardens;
  - mathematics – use of shape and number trails in the local environment;
  - history – castle visits, study of local housing patterns, local museums;

- geography – use of the locality for fieldwork, village trails;
- art and design – art gallery visits, use of the locality;
- PE – range of sporting fixtures, extra-curricular activities, visits by specialist coaches;
- music – range of specialist music teaching, extra-curricular activities, local schools' orchestra, concerts for parents to hear;
- design and technology – visits to local factories/design centres;
- ICT – its use in local shops/libraries/secondary schools etc;
- RE – visits to local centres of worship, visits by local clergy.

**4.3** We also have regular visits from our neighbourhood police officer and health workers. These visits support the personal, social and health education of our children. We do this with the full agreement of the governing body.

## **5 Residential activities**

**5.1** Children in Year 6 have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit. If this activity is in school time and linked to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or cost of travel. We do, however, make a charge for board and lodging, insurance and specialist instruction for certain activities. Parents in receipt of state benefits are offered a reduced payment.

**5.2** The residential visit enables children to take part in outdoor and adventure activities as part of their PE work. We undertake this visit only with the written agreement of the LEA. All specialist activities are undertaken with qualified instructors.

**This policy will be reviewed annually**