

# VISITS AND OUTINGS POLICY

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**Our school believes that visits and outings play an important and enriching role in the programme of activities that we provide for children. However, during such events, the safety of children remains paramount.**

Prior to a visit or outing, if logistically possible, a member of staff will carry out an exploratory visit of the proposed destination so as to pre-empt any potential difficulties.

The manager will ensure that a thorough risk assessment has been carried out prior to the proposed visit of an outing, according to the provisions set out in the Risk Assessment policy. This should include consideration of the journey and any transportation involved. If a prior visit is not possible, the manager will write to the venue requesting all relevant information and a risk assessment statement where available.

St Andrew's Montessori School will make every effort to involve children in the planning of a visit or outing. Staff will explain to children the aims and objectives of the event, along with what is expected of them in terms of their behaviour and contribution.

Children will be talked through any potential safety hazards and told to remain with staff at all times. Staff will explain to children what to do in an emergency, including designating a suitable meeting point.

## **Parental Consent**

No less than two weeks before a proposed visit or outing, St Andrew's Montessori School will send a letter and the Visits and Outings Form to parents/carers giving them detailed information about the proposed event. This will include a full programme of activities, any costs involved, an outline of any journey involved and the mode of transport being used as well as approximate arrival and departure times.

Parental consent is needed for all off-site visits and outings. The manager will take a photocopy of the signed Visits and Outings Forms on the trip while the original will be stored in St Andrew's Montessori School's records.

Parents/carers have the absolute right to withhold consent for a proposed visit or outing. No child who does not have a signed consent form will be allowed to participate.

## **During visits and outings**

On visits or outings, the staff to child ratio will be 1: 2 unless children are over 4 in which it will be a ratio of 1:3 those of the age of 6 and over the ratio will be 1:8 and if 10 or over it can be 1:10; subject to the nature of the activity and the risk assessment.

- Children will remain under close supervision at all times.
- When children are on outings, there will always be at least one member of staff who has a current paediatric first aid certificate.
- The manager will ensure that a full First Aid kit is on hand, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Health, Illness and Emergency policy.
- Two designated members of staff will keep mobile phones with them at all times. These numbers will be left at St Andrew's Montessori School in case of an emergency.
- A register will be taken at the beginning, middle and end of the visit or outing. Additionally, regular head counts will be taken by staff.
- A list of all members of staff and children participating in the visit or outing, along with relevant mobile phone numbers, will be left with the member of staff left on duty at St Andrew's Montessori School's premises.
- Records will be kept about vehicles in which children are transported, including insurance details and a list of named drivers. Drivers using their own transport will have adequate insurance cover.