

Educational Visits Policy

Date agreed:Autumn 2023

Review Date: Autumn 2028

1. Introduction

This policy reflects the policy and practice at Stepney Park School in relation to educational visits. Educational visits include all off-site activities arranged by or on behalf of the school, and which take place outside the school grounds. We have two types of educational visits:

- Local Area,
- Outside the local area

Residential Journeys are covered under a separate policy.

Educational visits enrich children's learning and the curriculum and are a positive experience for children.

In this policy we seek to establish a clear and coherent structure for the planning of both types of educational visits and to ensure that any risks are managed and kept to a minimum, for the safety and health of all pupils at all times. Within these limits we seek to make our visits available to all pupils, and wherever possible to make them accessible to those with disabilities. The visits usually take place within the school day.

2. Aims

The aims of educational visits are to:

- enhance curricular and recreational opportunities for our pupils;
- provide a wider range of experiences for our pupils than could be provided on the school site alone;
- promote the independence of our children as learners, and enable them to grow and develop in new learning environments.

3. Inclusion

It is our policy that **all** children should be able to participate in educational visits.

Where a child with a disability is eligible for an educational visit, we will make every effort to ensure that s/he is included. We may seek guidance from parents to help us adapt our programme, and we will make any reasonable adjustments to our itinerary to include a child with disabilities. Any such adjustments will be included in the risk assessment.

Where a child has a medical condition, the relevant medicines must be taken on the visit.

Where a child's behaviour is a cause for concern, either before or during the educational visit, we will endeavour to work with parents to ensure the child is able to participate in the educational visit.

4. Responsibilities for planning an educational visit:

The Assistant Head for Personal Development will normally book the visit and will inform the relevant class teacher(s).

The class teacher is then responsible for all further organisation (apart from booking transport) and will assume the responsibilities of the visit leader. All educational visits have a designated visit leader; for day visits this is usually the class teacher. If more than one class is going on the visit, there is one educational visit leader, but all teachers have a responsibility for ensuring that their class is fully prepared for the educational visit.

For local area visits (defined as being within a 20 min walk for children) only Form 3 (Information to be left at school in the school office on the day of the visit) needs to be completed, although if going to the park for PE, staff should check the area before the lesson begins.

Within the agreed timescales as indicated in the checklist and on each form, the **educational visit leader** is responsible for:

- Planning the visit by completing the planning form, seek to have it approved by the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care and communicating arrangements to relevant staff (Form 1)
- Completing a risk assessment (Form 2)
- Completing a Packed Lunch Request (Form 4)
- Sending information or consent letters to parents (Form 5A or 5B)
- Completing the Information to be left at school form and handing it in (Form 3)
- Ensuring all adults are aware of the arrangements before the day
- Collecting and monitoring and discarding permission slips
- Overseeing the collection of money with support from admin
- Ensuring all children and adults understand the safety on public highways procedures (appendix A and Appendix B)
- Contacting the Headteacher or Deputy directly if there are any difficulties arising during the educational visit e.g. serious child injury, transport difficulties, bomb scares

The relevant Assistant Head for Pastoral Care is responsible for:

- Approving substantive trip planning (Form 1)
- Approving the risk assessment (Form 2);
- Save the signed off risk assessments in the appropriate folder
- Ensuring that DBS/ police checks are carried out where appropriate

The Assistant Head for Personal Development is also responsible for:

- Booking the trips
- Requesting travel tickets and liaising with teachers and admin (Form 6)
- Keeping records of visits
- Ensuring that there are regular generic assessments of the risks (for example road-crossing) where there are frequent visits to local venues (for example a swimming facility).
- Feeding back accidents and 'near misses' to the Headteacher
- Monitoring the quality of trips and make adjustments, in consultation with SLT, to future visits and destinations as appropriate

5. Communication with parents

Parents sign to give permission for local area visits when their child starts at Stepney Park.

For visits within the local area and within school hours permission is not required from parents, but Form 5A will be used to inform parents. A copy of this letter should be given to the school office on the day the letter is given to the parents.

For visits outside the local area, written permission must be sought so that parents know their child is going off-site. Following the 'visits form 1' being approved, the visit leader should ensure that a letter using the school letterhead is sent out to parents including all relevant information (Form 5B) A copy of this letter should be given to the school office on the day the letter is given to the parents.

Letters sent to parents should state a return date for the permission slips. In exceptional circumstances the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care may ask the class teacher to contact the parents for verbal permission.

6. Transport

Transport arrangements will allow a seat for each member of the party. It is our policy only to use coaches fitted with seat or lap belts, and to insist that they be worn by all those participating in the visit.

If using public transport, request Form 6 needs to be handed to the office three weeks prior to the visit.

7. Charging for an educational visit

The costing of off-site activities should include any of the following that apply:

- transport
- entrance fees
- provision of any special resources or equipment
- costs related to adult helpers
- any refreshments the school has opted to pay for.

We may ask for parental contributions to support school funding. If the visit incurs a cost permission from the Headteacher (visits budget) or subject leader (subject budget) should be sought.

Once agreed, the visit leader should arrange the collection of visit money in consultation with the school office.

No child may be excluded from an activity because of the unwillingness or inability of the parent to make a contribution.

8. Adult Supervision

At Stepney Park we ensure that we have adult pupil ratios appropriate to the needs of the children, the nature of the visit and experience of staff. Children with special educational needs may need 1:1 supervision. The minimum adult pupil ratios for visits wider than the local area are as follows:

- 1 adult to 10 in Years 4 to 6
- 1 adult to 6 pupils in Years 1 to 3
- 1 adult to 3 pupils in EYFS

All whole class visits should be accompanied by at least 2 adults from school, plus any volunteers.

In addition to the teacher and the class teaching assistants it may be necessary to take other adults to ensure the appropriate ratio. This must be done according to the following principles to ensure equality of opportunity for all adults and children, and to ensure the smooth running of the school as a whole:

- The visit leader, usually the class teacher, may not have a group of children to directly supervise, ensuring that s/he can oversee all children/groups/adults
- Teaching assistants from other classes should only be requested as a last resort from the year groups above and below.
- Parents or other adult volunteers could be asked to accompany the visit and support. In this case the class teacher should check whether they have police checks. If they do not have a police check then they should not be left alone with children at any time.

It is particularly important that all adults accompanying a visit are clear on the procedures for crossing children across a road. When using a controlled crossing it is important that children are crossed in groups small enough to comply with the controls. Adults should always be spaced across the road to be crossed to ensure a safe crossing – see additional Safeguarding Children Road Safety Appendix.

9. Insurance

All educational visits carried out by Stepney Park School are covered by the schools liability insurance

10. Risk assessments

A risk assessment needs to be carried out for each visit and the need for a preliminary visit needs to be discussed with the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care before the risk assessment is completed. The risk assessment will assess the risks which might be encountered on the visit, and will indicate measures to prevent or reduce them. The risk assessment should be based on the following considerations:

- What are the hazards? (take into account alternative transport arrangements and the probable weather conditions at the time of year proposed for the visit)
- Who might be affected by them?
- What safety measures are needed to reduce risks to an acceptable level?
- Can the group leader put the safety measures in place?
- What steps will be taken in an emergency (including planning an alternative route)?

Venues providing instructor-led activities will have their own risk assessments for particular sessions, these assessments may be adopted if it is impractical for the group leader to experience the activity beforehand, or if s/he lacks the skills required to make informed judgements about the risks it

may involve.

A risk assessment must also cover transport to and from the venue. The visit leader is responsible for ensuring all groups follow the agreed route to and from a venue and an alternative route in case of disruption once the journey has commenced.

A copy of the completed risk assessment (visit form 3) will be given to the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care and all adults supervising the educational visit.

11. Emergency procedures

All adults accompanying a party must be made aware by the visit leader of the emergency procedures which will apply. Each adult on the visit should be provided with an emergency telephone number; this will normally be the school number. Should a problem arise on a visit the Head or Deputy must be contacted directly.

Before a party leaves school the school office must be provided with a list of everyone, children and adults, travelling with the party and their expected return time. The safety of the party, and especially the children, is of paramount importance. During the activity the visit leader must take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that safety.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body and will be reviewed every two years or before if necessary.

13. Further information

Further information is available on the following websites:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits

Educational visit checklist and timeframes

Date to be done	Responsible staff	Action to be carried out	Date completed
As early as possible	Assistant Head for Personal Development	 Plan a date for the educational visit Check date in diary and ensure that there are no classes or other trips on the same day Book trip 	
At least three weeks before the date of the educational visit	Assistant Head for Personal Development	 Consult with teachers, complete and share the Application for Free School Party Travel ticket(s) Form 6 with the office if tickets are required 	

At least three weeks before the date of the educational visit	Visit leader	 Record detailed information about the educational visit on Educational Visit Form 1 Planning and share to Assistant Head for Pastoral Care for approval Write the names of all the adults who are going on the educational visit in the school diary. Share the Educational Visit Form 4 Packed Lunch Request with the office (if required)
At least two weeks before the visit	Visit leader	 Send the appropriate letter (Form 5A if no consent is needed or Form 5B if consent if needed) to parents. Share a copy of the letter to the school office Make arrangements for collecting visit money with the school office
At least three days before the visit	Visit leader	 Complete a risk assessment using the Educational Visit Form 2 Risk Assessment and share this with the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care for approval
Every morning from the day of the visit letter having been given to parents	Visit leader	 Collate a list of children who have returned forms Check money received with the office and address with parents where needed Keep the permission slips until they are all collected
In preparation for the day	Visit leader	 Remind all staff affected by the visit at least two days prior to the trip Make arrangements for any children not going on the visit Make arrangements for playground cover, assembly etc Check permission slips and follow up on outstanding slips
Day of the visit	Visit leader	 Ensure all adults (including parents) accompanying the visit are familiar with the purpose, route and any additional responsibilities they may have, including road safety procedures (Appendix B) Ensure that packed lunches are collected Collect travel tickets from the office Collect first aid kit and sick bags Collect asthma pumps and any other medication needed for individual pupils Ensure all children are reminded of Road Safety procedures (Appendix A) Share the Educational Visit Form 3: Information to be left at school in the school office on the day of the visit with the office hand in the permission slips Inform the office when you leave the site and when you return. In the event of any problem during the educational visit: contact school directly
After the visit	Visit leader	 Shred permission slips, unless there was an incident which may lead to a complaint, in

	 which case they must be handed to the Headteacher Inform the Assistant Head for Personal Development of any accidents or 'near misses' Provide the Assistant Head for Personal Development with relevant feedback about the quality of the trip which may affect future booking and use of the venue Return sick bags and First Aid kits Return all medication
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Form 1 EV Planning (Please make a copy of this form and rename it . To be shared with the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care and approved three weeks before the trip)

Detailed visit information and authorisation

Place of visit	
Date of visit	
Time leaving and returning to school	
Purpose of visit and specific educational objectives	
Brief description of arrangements for educational visit	
Educational visit leader	
Contact telephone number for visit leader during the visit	
Classes on visit	
Number of children	
Details of children with SEND, medical and dietary needs (food allergies)	
Number and names of adults from school	School staff:
Remember adult to pupil ratio: 1:2 Nursery 1:4 Reception 1:6 Yrs 1 to 3 1: 10 Yrs 4 – 6	Others:
Remember adult to pupil ratio: 1:2 Nursery 1:4 Reception 1:6 Yrs 1 to 3	
Remember adult to pupil ratio: 1:2 Nursery 1:4 Reception 1:6 Yrs 1 to 3 1: 10 Yrs 4 – 6 Travel arrangements Bus/ Coach? Train tickets required? Train from Train to	
Remember adult to pupil ratio: 1:2 Nursery 1:4 Reception 1:6 Yrs 1 to 3 1: 10 Yrs 4 – 6 Travel arrangements Bus/ Coach? Train tickets required? Train from Train to Approximate times Date of Exploratory visit and risk	
Remember adult to pupil ratio:1:2 Nursery1:4 Reception1:6 Yrs 1 to 31:10 Yrs 4 - 6Travel arrangementsBus/ Coach?Train tickets required?Train fromTrain toApproximate timesDate of Exploratory visit and riskassessment completed/to be completedEquipment needed	

Amount to come from visits/subject budgets and order form completed/ permission sought	
Amount to be charged to parents	
Date permission slips must be returned by	
Any other relevant information	

 Approved by Assistant Head name:
 Date

Form 2 EV Risk Assessment

(Please make a copy of this form and rename it . To be shared with and approved by the Assistant Head for Pastoral Care at least three day before the visit)

Visit Venue	
Visit date	
Class/Children going	
Visit Leader who prepared this risk assessment	
Planned route	
Alternative route	

Risk type/ activity covered	Identified hazards (potential to cause harm)	Current control measures in place		elihood f harm with ontrol easures place	o i	everity of utcome of dentified hazards	(like	risk score elihood x everity)
			1 2	Remote Occasio	1 2	Negligible Marginal	1-4 5-9	Low Risk Moderate
			3	nal Probabl	3	Serious	10+	Risk Very High
				е	4	Critical		risk
					5	Catastrophic		
Walking, crossing roads, poor behaviour	Potential for injuries including: Cuts, bruises, broken bones, head injuries Due to: visitping, getting hit by traffic, uneven surfaces	 Staff and other adults have appropriate training/ briefing around managing risks. Footwear and clothing is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school Whole class road crossing strategy is always implemented (1 member of staff decided when it is safe to cross and leads from the front. Subsequent member of staff to stand in middle of road until all children have crossed the road) Children are given a H&S briefing and are expected to walk in pairs/ buddies in an orderly manner Behaviour is carefully managed and corrected where needed. Children posing a H&S risk are not taken on the visit or are accompanied by their parent Call school for support if needed? 						
Supervision of children	Potential for injuries including: Cuts, bruises, broken bones, head injuries Due to: visitping, getting hit by traffic, unruly behaviour, getting separated from the group, poor or insufficient supervision	 All adults are fully briefed with regards to their specific and general responsibilities Non-staff helpers are never left alone with individual or groups of children The appropriate adult/ pupil ratio is maintained Call 999 if needed Call school for support if needed Any additional control measures needed?						

Getting lost	Potential for injuries including: Cuts, bruises, broken bones, head injuries, Due to: Abduction, assault, distress and panic, getting hit by traffic	 Route is planned carefully before leaving and shared with all adults and children where appropriate. Access to smart phone and GPS Staff phone numbers, including the school phone number, are exchanged In venue meeting points are communicated Children walking in pairs and regular head counts take place, in particular after getting of public transport Children getting plenty of warning prior to getting off public transport Children and all adults have been briefed about what to do if they get separated from the group and where to get help Young children; wearing school high vis jackets Call school for support if needed 		
Terrorist attack	Potential for injuries including: Cuts, bruises, broken bones and other life threatening injuries Due to disruption of travel, emergency evacuation, groups split up, bombings, shootings, stabbings, chemical attacks	 Plan alternative route in case travel arrangements are changed, Ensure mobile phone numbers, including the school phone number, are exchanged between each adults on the visit in case the group is split up. Arrange an off-site meeting point in case of evacuation, Evacuate to the nearest safe place if needed, Use the 'Stay Safe' principles (Run, Hide, Tell), Communicate with school if possible and ask for support and back up Call 999 if needed Any additional control measures needed? 		
Medical emergencies , medical needs and allergies	Potential for injuries/ harm including: Oxygen deprivation, brain and organ damage, death Due to: Asthma attack, anaphylactic shock	 The 'supporting children in schools with medical needs policy' has been read by all staff All staff are aware of their respective roles. All staff are aware of the symptoms of asthma attacks and anaphylactic shock Asthma pumps and Epi pens prescribed to children are in date and designated first aider has received specific training around the use of the Epi-pen Ensure that in-date asthma pumps and epi pens are collected, transported, administered and recorded by a designated member of staff Children with food allergies are not allowed to consume any food that is not provided by the school or by the parents A first aid kit is taken along. A designated 1st aider is coming along A mobile phone is taken along in case 999 needs to be called Call 999 if needed. 		
visit specific risks/ activities	Potential for injuries/ harm including: Due to:	 A preliminary visit has been completed where needed 		

Approved by Assistant Head name:..... Date...... Date......

Form 3 EV: Information to be left at school in the school office on the day of the visit (Please make a copy of this form and rename it . To be shared with admin on the morning of the visit

Date of visit	
Venue being visited	
Name of visit leader	
Adults on visit	
Number of children on visit (names must be marked in register)	
Departure time and expected return time	
Landline telephone number of venue	
Mobile telephone number of visit leader	
Any other relevant information	

Form 4 EV Packed Lunch Request (Please make a copy of this form and rename it . To be shared with admin at least three weeks before the visit)

Γ	Date	
Time requ	ired	
Teachers na	ame	
C	lass	
Total packed number of lunches requ	ired	
No. of children without dietary requireme	ents	
No. of children with special dietary requireme	ents	
Please state dietary needs below		
1. Name of child: Alle	rgy type:	
2. Name of child: Alle	rgy type:	
3. Name of child: Aller	gy type:	
4. Name of child: Aller	gy type:	
5. Name of child: Allergy type:		
Sandwiches provided are Tuna or Cheese please ask children and enter numbers	e Tuna	Cheese

Please give at least three weeks notice to the office

From 5A EV - Information Letter to Parents for Local visits where no consent is needed

(To be printed on school letter- headed paper)

Please make a copy of this form and rename it. To be sent to parents two weeks in advance and a copy shared with admin

Dear parent/ carer,

Your child in my class/ group will be going on an educational visit to:	
Your child is going on this visit because:	
The visit will take place on:	
Our leaving and return times are:	
Your child will travel by:	
The important and voluntary contribution towards the cost of the visit will be: The school will cover any additional costs.	£
Other information:	

As this is a local visit, for which you have already given consent when you registered your child at our school, you do not need to reply to this letter

Please note that your financial contribution is important and that this visit <u>may be cancelled</u> if we are unable to collect sufficient money to make this visit viable.

The money for this visit should be paid by Parent Pay - please check your ParentPay Basket in order to do this

_(Teacher name)

Form 5B EV Consent Letter to Parents

(To be printed on school letter- headed paper)

Please make a copy of this form and rename it. To be sent to parents two weeks in advance and a copy shared with admin

Dear parent/ carer,

Your child in my class/ group will be going on an educational visit to:	
Your child is going on this visit because:	
The visit will take place on:	
Our leaving and return times are:	
Your child will travel by:	
The important and voluntary contribution towards the cost of the visit will be: The school will cover any additional costs.	£
Other information:	

Please note that your financial contribution is important and that this visit <u>may be cancelled</u> if we are unable to collect sufficient money to make this visit viable.

Please cut the return slip along the dotted line and complete the consent slip. The consent slip needs to be returned to the class teacher by:_____(date) The money for this visit should be paid by Parent Pay - please check your ParentPay Basket in order to do this

(Teacher name)

.....

To be completed by the lead teacher in advance of sending the letter	Date of visit: Name of lead teacher: visit venue:
My child's name is:	
My relationship to this child:	
	I am the child's mother/ father/ carer (circle).
I give my child permission to go on a visit to (details here):	
	YES/NO (circle)
Signature:	
-	
Date of Signature:	

Form 6 Application for Free School Party Travel ticket(s)

Please make a copy of this form and rename it. To be copy shared with admin three weeks before the visit Section A - School details

Visit organiser's name	
Classes	

Section B - Place being visited & area of study (mark X where appropriate)

Name of place:	
Address of place:	
Туре	e of place
Artists studios/Art Centres/Design studios/Film studios/Galleries/Museums/Print Works	
Sites of Archaeological/environmental/religious interest	
Animal parks/Zoo	
Cinemas/Concert Hall/Theatres	
Building of architectural interest	
Area of Cultural interest (e.g. ChinaTown)	
City Farms/Commons/Heaths/Parks	
Occasional venue	
Arts	a of study: Science □
Reason for visit in supporting the National Curriculum (if a valid reason is not given a visit can be rejected):	

				(dd/mm/yyyy)					
Ticket type			Ticket type	Single	□ Return	1 🗆			
ĺ		Start time	Mode of Transport	Bus route N	o(s)	From		То	

Section C - Journey details (mark X where appropriate)

Outward journey			
Return journey:			

Note: If your journey includes travel on National Rail, the time of the train you wish to use must be entered into 'start time', return train times must also be

added.

Section D - Group size

Total number of children (under 18)	
Total number of adults:	

Form 7 EV Parent Volunteer Procedure and Sign up form

Dear parent/ carer,

For some school trips, we may require additional adults to support the lead teacher. We would like you to consider coming along and supporting us with this trip. This will not only help us to make this trip a safer and more enjoyable experience for the children, but will provide you with opportunities to be involved. We feel that the involvement of parents/carers in their children's education is vital and as you know, we encourage active participation in many ways. If you are able to do this, can you please read the Parent Volunteer Procedures set out below and then complete and return the reply slip. Thank you !

Parent Volunteer duties may include:

- Supporting the children when walking with their partner
- Helping to keep the children safe when crossing the road
- Supporting the children whilst on public transport
- Supervising a group of children, alongside a member of staff. (this will usually be a group which doesn't have your own child in it)

In order for your support to be effective and to keep the children safe, we ask you to comply with the following:

 \checkmark Follow the instructions of the lead teacher at all times.

- Communicate with staff and children in English.
- Keep mobile phones hidden and out of sight of the children.
- Do not take any photographs
- Stay and support for the duration of the whole trip (including the journey to and from the venue and during lunch)
- Never be alone with a child or group of children.
- Treat all students equally (there should be no preferential treatment towards your own child).
- Report accidents and incidents to school staff and let them deal with all first aid and medication.
- Speak to the trip leader first if you need to leave the group for any reason
- Do not discuss details or concerns about other children with anyone other than school staff, as confidentiality is important.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

.....

Would you like to be considered as a parent / adult volunteer?	100 / 110		
If yes, complete	e the information below	/:	
Your name:			
Relationship to the child in this class:			
Do you agree to comply with our parent volunteer procedures as explained on Form 7?	Ye	s / No	
Signature:	Date:		

Appendix A Information for children: Staying Safe on Public Highways

Before every visit out of the school grounds, children should be reminded of the following;

- Listen to adults at all times. This is to help keep you safe.
- When about to cross, or when crossing the road, there is to be no talking so that you can concentrate on listening to instructions and crossing the road.
- Only cross the road when an adult tells you it is safe to do so.
- Only cross on a Pelican crossing if the green man is showing.
- Look right and left and listen at all times when crossing a road or you are about to cross a road.
- On narrow footpaths you may have to walk in single file so that other members of the public can pass by.
- Stay on the side of the pavement away from the road.
- At a train or tube station, stay well back from the edge of the platform until an adult tells you it is safe to get on the train.
- When getting off the train, move straight across the platform away from the edge.
- On a coach, always sit down and keep your seatbelt on at all times.
- On busses and trains, always sit down if there is a seat. If you have to stand hold on at all times.

All children and adults on the visit (whether staff or volunteers) need to be aware of this guidance. For adults this is alongside guidance for adults taking groups of children across roads (Appendix B).

All adults with a group of children need to be clear about road safety. The following guidelines will help keep children safe.

- 1. Do not assume any child or group of children know how to cross roads safely, clear instructions need to be given.
- 2. Pelican crossings or zebra crossings should be used at all times if available, even if it means extra distance.
- 3. Crossing at Pelican crossings should take place **only** when the green man is showing even if this means splitting the group and even if drivers have stopped and are waving you on. It is often advisable to have children cross in lines rather than pairs.
- 4. It does not have to be the teacher at the front of the group, but the adult at the front needs to know exactly the route and understand fully safety issues.

When crossing roads without a zebra crossing;

- Stop the children well back from the kerb and ensure all children are paying attention and listening for instructions.
- Identify a landmark over the road by which the group will stop and wait i.e. the first lamp post, the black railings etc. Make sure it is far enough along for the whole group to line up behind.
- The leading adult plus one other (not from the very back) walks to the centre of the road when it is safe to do so. If it is safe to cross, s/he will signal the children across. Each adult will be positioned (either side of the crossing line of children) so that oncoming vehicles can be signaled to stop if necessary.
- The adults in the road should be positioned so as to be able to see and stop traffic if it appears.
- An additional adult (if there are more than 3) quickly takes over the lead adult's position in the road the leading adult returns to the front of the group.
- The adults remains in the road until all children and the adult at the back are safely across the road.
- The leading adult remains at a standstill with the group until the entire group (children and adults) have caught up.
- All other adults cross with the children ensuring they are looking and listening at all times.