

## 1. OFFSITE AND ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The Government and Bracknell Forest Council take the view that learning outside the classroom plays an important part in a young person's education and social development and that such work should be encouraged and supported.

**The Council does not wish to impose unnecessary rules and procedures on Offsite and Adventurous Activities, but it is important that they are well planned and executed with due regard to their legal context and established good practice.**

This Manual provides guidance to those who plan and approve Offsite and Adventurous Activities to ensure that this is the case.

### 1.01 Introduction

This document sets out the regulations, guidance and procedures for Offsite and Adventurous Activities undertaken in Bracknell Forest Council by schools, Youth Service, and all other establishments that come under the Children Young People and Learning department.

**It is essential that this section is familiar to, and understood by all those who are involved in planning and approving any Offsite and Adventurous Activities.**



### 1.02 The Purpose of Visits And Activities

All Offsite and Adventurous Activities must meet the needs of children and young people in accordance with the four outcomes priorities of the Bracknell Forest [Creating Opportunities – a joint strategic plan for children and young people in Bracknell Forest 2011 - 2014](#). Any activities which do not support these outcome will not be approved by, and will not have the support of the Council.

The priorities of the Creating Opportunities Plan are to:

- Raise levels of attainment and pupil progress across all phases of learning for all pupils
- Improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing from conception to birth and throughout life
- Safeguard and protect children and young people
- Improve outcomes for all children and young people, especially the more vulnerable

### 1.03 Personal Development

**It is inappropriate for establishments to provide holidays for children or young people unless it forms a part of that young person's social development and has been arranged under the guidance of Children's Social Care. It is equally important for safety that children and young people do not regard any offsite activity as a holiday and that activities are not presented to them in this way.**

All Offsite and Adventurous Activities must be conducted with an element of rigour and discipline such that children and young people will respond to instructions and advice from members of staff at least as readily as if they were in the establishment.

The purpose of the visit will support to the Creating Opportunities outcome priorities and the relationship to this will be clear and obvious e.g.:

- the acquisition of language;
- the acquisition of skills in sport;
- the acquisition of knowledge through field or scientific studies;
- cultural enquiries.

In cases where the relationship is less obvious, particularly to school governors, parents/carers and, children and young people, or where a different key outcome is being pursued, it is important that the explanation to all concerned is carefully thought through and clearly expressed

### 1.04 Recreational Ventures

It is accepted that ventures which have a considerable element of pure recreation can be of benefit to children and young people but in all such cases establishments must ensure that the element of rigour and discipline, referred to in 1.03 above, is present.



### 1.05 Appropriate Activities

When activities are in the planning stage it is important to ensure that the venue, programme and cost are appropriate to the aims of the venture, the needs and abilities of children and young people and the resources available. **By the same token the visit should not involve more cost, greater distance or more potential risk than is necessary and appropriate.**