

Playground practice

Guidance

Schools and ELCCs are encouraged to use school grounds and outdoor spaces for learning, breaktimes and lunch as much as possible.

Rotation of spaces for pupils in their bubbles will decrease behaviour issues and promote physical activity. Schools should consider the introduction of natural materials, small world toys, chalk and line paintings. Pupils being trained as 'Play leaders' with games they can teach to other children may also provide engagement. Staff should be encouraged to see playground as a context for learning ie similar to the ICT suite or gym hall, another space to learn.

In practice

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/learningoutdoorssupportteam/shortlees-primary-school-whole-school-daily-outdoor-learning/>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/learningoutdoorssupportteam/playground-development-onthank/>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/learningoutdoorssupportteam/uploads/sites/11891/2020/09/28091457/Making-the-Cut.pdf>

Day visits – greenspace/local areas

Guidance

Schools and ELCCs are encouraged to use appropriate local outdoor spaces for learning and play as much as possible. The benefits of outdoor learning are well documented and scientific evidence shows that being outdoors is good for our overall health and well being and that outdoor environments can limit transmission of COVID-19.

WHO guidance for education settings advises that education settings should take learning outdoors as much as possible.

In practice

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/OutdoorLearning/off-site-outdoor-learning/>

<https://www.edubuzz.org/eloes/2020/09/27/biking-north/>

Day Visits – Venues

Guidance

Schools can resume non-overnight domestic educational visits but careful planning and a robust risk assessment process needs to be undertaken.

As highlighted in the Scottish Government advice:

“schools should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits to establish whether they can be done safely. As part of this process, schools will need to consider what control measures need to be used and ensure they are aware of wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues and the use of transport. The protective measures adhered to in schools, such as hygiene, grouping and physical distancing between adults, will also need to be considered in the context of the trip”

In practice

<https://www.facebook.com/OutdoorEducationFife/posts/3664574316909556>

Parent Helpers

Guidance

If parent/volunteer helpers are helping as part of pre-organised, planned learning activity, to assist with support for outdoor learning there is no requirement for the adults to enter the building. Meeting outside in the school grounds or local venue reduces risk. All procedures with regards to PVG, safety measures should be followed from your local authority. Relevant risk assessments and hygiene protocols should be in place.

In practice

The sessions at Elie Watersports were made possible with the help of a parent volunteer each week.

<https://www.facebook.com/EliePrimary/posts/643667772937026>

Outdoor Activities – working with external partners

Guidance

Subject to the same social distancing and COVID guidelines applicable in school, off-site outdoor activities offered by external partners can take place. Full and thorough risk assessments are required to be provided by the external provider. Providers should comply with local authority guidance on how many establishments they can visit in any week and should only visit one establishment in any day. Providers can meet groups outside the building or off-site so should not be subject to any local authority restrictions that says no additional adults in school.

Schools considering working with an external partner, to deliver outdoor learning, should ensure that local authority procedures and adequate risk assessments are complied with.

In practice

<http://www.ardroy-oec.co.uk/dawvisits.asp>

<http://www.ardroy-oec.co.uk/seniorphase.asp>

Transportation

Guidance

School transport, such as dedicated coaches and minibuses, should be regarded as an extension of the school estate. It is important to have a planned approach to seating, supervision, and cleaning. (Further information can be found [here](#) under 7.7)

In practice

<https://www.blairvadach.org.uk/Content/UserGenerated/Image/Downloads/9seater.pdf>

<https://www.blairvadach.org.uk/Content/UserGenerated/Image/Downloads/17seater.pdf>

Residential visits

Guidance

The current Scottish Government [guidance on school visits](#) applies to the end of 2020. The Scottish Government has advised that they will continuously keep coronavirus (Covid-19) guidance under review and will therefore ensure guidance on school visits is reconsidered before 2021. They have stated that it is not possible to set out the exact date on which guidance will be reviewed as this will depend on the progress of the pandemic and the trajectory of virus transmission in Scotland between now and the new year.

Further Scottish Government [guidance on reducing the risk of COVID within schools](#) (the place of outdoor learning is covered on pages 40-41)

Further information [supporting professional development in relation to outdoor learning](#).