**St. Matthew’s PS**



**Educational Excursions**

**Policy & Procedure Paper**

**ST MATTHEW’S SCHOOL AIMS**

We aim to foster the Catholic ethos of the school by promoting Gospel values.

All members of our school community are, by right, valued equally and are encouraged to excel in different ways. All, regardless of gender, race and creed are offered the same opportunities to participate in the life of the school.

In order to enable the children to function successfully, now and in the future, in their local community or further afield, the staff of St Matthew’s Primary School aim to:

1. provide a curriculum that accommodates and enhances each child’s potential for learning
2. encourage excellence and strive to attain the highest possible levels of attainment
3. employ a range of teaching strategies which take account of different learning styles
4. support and encourage children by providing, as far as is possible, educational programmes suited to their individual needs and abilities
5. provide a happy, secure and welcoming environment where staff work in close partnership with parents, community and outside agencies for the good of the children
6. use all available resources to support the work of the school
7. be an effective staff team whose collective strengths and expertise are used to provide high quality education.

**Organising an Educational Excursion**

In order to organise an educational excursion for a class and group then East Dunbartonshire and school policy must be followed. The guidance required to ensure this is, is found within this guidance paper.

The Educational Excursion should link with Curriculum for Excellence and provide opportunity for further learning for pupils’ outwith the school building.

Education Scotland states that;

Our vision for Scotland is that our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. This is one of the national outcomes set out in the Concordat with Local Government and lies at the heart of *Curriculum for Excellence*.

Learning need not take place solely within educational buildings. The outdoor environment has massive potential for learning. We are extremely fortunate to have such rich urban and rural environments on our doorsteps and our children and young people’s learning experiences can be enhanced by maximising the potential of the outdoors. The Scottish Government is keen to see all our children and young people having positive learning experiences in a variety of settings. This is why we are investing in the production and promotion of guidance to support opportunities presented by the new school curriculum for learning in the outdoors. The guidance makes it clear that the outdoor environment offers motivating, exciting, different, relevant and easily accessible activities from pre-school years through to college.

When planning a trip the teacher should take into account the educational value of the excursion and ensuring best value in terms of learning while on the excursion. The class teacher should also consider the risk that may be involved in the trip.