

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



Catholic
Primary School
Congleton
A Voluntary Academy

Local Area Visits Policy

*Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School is a Christ centred learning community,
where all are safe, valued and loved."*

Policy Schedule	Date	Signed
Approved by the Governing Body:	4.2.2025	Headteacher: Martine Gum Chair of Governors: Val Bridge
To be reviewed:	February 2027	

Local Area Visits Policy

General	<p>Visits/activities within the 'Local Learning Area' that are part of the normal curriculum and take place during the normal school day follow the Operating Procedure below.</p> <p>These visits/activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• must be recorded on EVOLVE via the 'Local Area Visit' module.• do not require specific parental consent. Parents give consent for local visits when children start school.
Boundaries	<p>The boundaries of the Local Learning Area are shown on the attached map (<i>optional</i>). This area includes, but is not limited to, the following frequently used venues: <i>e.g.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congleton Leisure Centre – weekly swimming• Congleton Park• Congleton Library• Congleton Town Hall• Congleton Town Centre & War Memorial• Congleton Museum• St. Mary's Catholic Chapel• Congleton Fire Station• Astbury Mere Country Park• Clayton Manor Nursing Home• Local supermarkets
'No-go' areas within the Boundaries	<p>There are no local 'No Go' areas.</p>

Operating Procedure for Local Learning Area

The following are potentially significant issues/hazards within our Local Learning Area:

- Road traffic
- Uneven surfaces and slips, trips, and falls
- Weather conditions
- Activity specific issues when doing fieldwork (nettles, brambles, rubbish, etc).

- Dog walkers/dogs at Astbury Mere – dogs are not always kept on leads as per the regulations for the Park.

These are managed by a combination of the following:

- The Head or Deputy must give verbal approval before a group leaves.
- Only staff judged competent to supervise groups in this environment are approved.
- The concept and Operating Procedure of the 'Local Learning Area' is explained to all new parents via a permission form.
- The selected route takes the least busy option
- Use antibacterial wipes to clean any equipment before use
- There will normally be a minimum of two adults.
- Staff are familiar with the area, including any 'no-go' areas, and have practiced appropriate group management techniques.
- Pupils have been trained and have practiced standard techniques for road crossings in a group.
- Where appropriate, pupils are fully briefed on what to do if they become separated from the group.
- Pupils' clothing and footwear is checked for appropriateness prior to leaving school.
- Staff are aware of any relevant pupil medical information and ensure that any required medication is available.
- Staff will record the activity on EVOLVE (Local Area Visit module).
- A mobile is taken with each group and the office have a note of the number.
- **Appropriate personal protective equipment is taken when needed (eg gloves, facemasks bag for waste, tissues etc.)**

ROUTES TO FREQUENTLY USED VENUES

Congleton Leisure Centre

From Belgrave Avenue, cross to Royle Street at any safe point – quiet road with good vision. Continue into Rood Hill, over town bridge. Cross at designated crossing points at the roundabout and continue along Mountbatten Way, left into Worrall Street. On arrival at Leisure Centre, use footpaths around the car park to the entrance.

Alternative route: In dry weather an alternative route can be used along riverside pathway to the bridge in Congleton Park and straight across the playing field to the Leisure Centre entrance.

Congleton Park: As per alternative route above

Congleton Library, Town Hall, Town Centre, War Memorial and Museum

From Belgrave Avenue, cross to Royle Street at any safe point – quiet road with good vision. Continue into Rood Hill, over town bridge. Turn right into Mill Street, continue same side. Cross at designated crossing point in the pedestrianised area (Counting House pub) into High Street. Cross at traffic lights at junction with Market Street/Moody Street for all above venues.

St.Mary's Catholic Chapel & Astbury Mere Country Park

From Clayton Bypass, cross West Road at Fire Station at central island.

Clayton Manor Nursing Home

Cross Rood Hill at traffic lights

Local supermarkets

Cross Rood Hill at pedestrian crossing into Barn Road or for town centre supermarkets, use town route as above.

Notes

There have been dog attacks in recent months at Astbury Mere. Local knowledge to be monitored and current situation checked before considering visits.

Once you have completed and agreed the policy with your Governing body please complete the short form via this link [Microsoft Forms](#) and we will activate the Local area visits module on EVOLVE withing 10 working days