



Hope House School Educational Visits

Maximising Positive Outcomes

At Hope House School, educational visits are carefully planned to complement curriculum learning, support individual interests and contribute to pupils' personal development and Preparation for Adulthood outcomes.

Learning beyond the classroom provides valuable opportunities for pupils to develop communication, social, emotional and independence skills while supporting individual Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) targets. Educational visits enable pupils to apply and generalise learning in meaningful real-life contexts, increasing confidence, community participation and emotional well-being.

Promoting Cultural Capital, SMSC and British Values

Educational visits play a significant role in developing pupils' cultural capital by broadening their knowledge, experiences and understanding of the world around them.

These experiences support pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development through opportunities to explore different cultures, beliefs and communities, encouraging curiosity, empathy, reflection, and social awareness. They also promote British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Visits to places such as mosques, churches, cathedrals, museums, heritage sites, Southwell Workhouse, Attenborough Nature Reserve and Stratford-upon-Avon help pupils develop an appreciation of Britain's cultural heritage while gaining a deeper understanding of diverse communities, traditions and environments.

Examples of Curriculum-Linked Educational Visits

- Zoos and wildlife parks
- Supermarkets and local shops
- Soft play centres
- Seaside visits
- Garden centres
- Museums and galleries
- Escape rooms
- Fun fairs and community events

- Train journeys and public transport experiences
- Boat trips and water-based experiences
- National Trust places of interest

These experiences create lasting memories that enrich learning and help pupils develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Curriculum Rationale

At Hope House School, we believe educational visits are an essential part of a broad and balanced curriculum. As a specialist setting for autistic children and young people, we recognise the importance of providing meaningful experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom and support personal development.

Educational visits enhance learning by enabling pupils to apply knowledge in practical situations, develop communication and social skills, increase engagement, and broaden their understanding of the wider world.

Our pupils follow Pre-Formal, Semi-Formal and Formal learning pathways, and visits are carefully planned to ensure all pupils can access meaningful learning experiences appropriate to their individual needs.

Supporting Pre-Formal, Semi-Formal and Formal Learning Pathways

Pre-Formal Curriculum

- Explore sensory experiences
- Develop communication and interaction skills
- Build familiarity with community environments
- Encourage curiosity and engagement

Semi-Formal Curriculum

- Develop functional communication
- Apply learning in practical contexts
- Build independence and life skills
- Increase confidence in the community

Formal Curriculum

- Enhance subject-specific knowledge
- Extend learning through real-world experiences
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving
- Explore future education and employment opportunities

Inclusive and Accessible Experiences

Reasonable adjustments may include:

- Individual risk assessments
- Enhanced staffing support

- Accessible transport and venues
- Adapted activities and resources
- Visual support, communication systems and structured preparation
- Social stories and transition support
- Sensory considerations and access to quiet spaces

Creating Memorable Learning Experiences

At Hope House School, we believe some of the most powerful learning opportunities come from memorable experiences that bring the curriculum to life.

Educational visits also play an important role in our Preparation for Adulthood curriculum. Through accessing the community, using public facilities, developing travel awareness, and participating in authentic learning experiences, pupils develop the skills, confidence and independence needed for adult life.

Our Commitment

Educational visits are an integral part of our commitment to ensuring every pupil can learn, achieve, and thrive.