

## **Title- Tour Policy/ Ballinure National School.**

This policy was drawn up by the teachers of Ballinure National School on June 12<sup>TH</sup> 2006 in consultation with the whole School community .Policy reviewed on 14-12 2017.  
Reviewed and updated by teachers on 5/2/'18 in line with Child Safeguarding Statement Procedures.

**Aims/Objectives-** To outline our stance re. school tours.in order to clarify what we as a school have agreed on re/school outings

**We as a school community believe that ....**

- Education should not be confined to the school building or classroom
- Education is a broader concept which began before the child started school and continues inside and outside the school environment.
- It is with this in mind that schools have traditionally brought children on school tours.,therefore we look on the school tour as part of our yearly calendar of events,  
**Decisions in relation to the tour destination.**
- Bearing in mind the diversity of pupil background, social /emotional needs and taking into account past experiences ,the staff choose the school tour venue/or draw up a list of possible venues at a staff meeting.Parent Association are consulted and suggestions are taken on board ,a decision is reached collaboratively.

### **Educational / Social value of the Tour.**

- We believe that it is the fun element of the day that children will remember an we believe that the school outing has a huge social value eg learning appropriate/inappropriate behaviour in a fun,social context.
  - Representing themselves as individuals but collectively representing the school .
  - Fostering a sense of belonging/pride in the school.
  - Children can enjoy activities together without the fear of failure.
  - Senior classes go on mini tours/outings from time to time during the year – eg matches/museum/swimming pool/art exhibition/nature walks/coirm.
  - A formal Junior and Senior tour is organised once a year – Junior tour/parents council, Senior tour – venue decided by teachers in consultation with parents/pupils. On occasions we opt for whole School Tour ,
  - Decision re.tour destination based on past experiences, oral feedback from pupils and other schools , proximity of venue, activities offered, age group of children,
  - Parents notified and provided with an itinerary / permission slip signed.
  - Clarification is sought from the Bus provider re.Vetting of driver.
  - Dress in school tracksuit and wear appropriate footwear
  - Pocket money is limited to €10 max.
  - Parent volunteers who have been vetted are requested to help with supervision .
  - Normal school rules apply.
  - Children who choose not to go on the tour stay at home.
  - Permission slip to be signed by parent prior to trip.
  - Information re trip/ details of itinerary/ requirements for the day etc sent home on written note.
  - Oral evaluation carried out / any changes which are deemed necessary are made prior to next tour/outing.
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- This day is promoted as a “Gadget Free “ day ,therefore pupils are requested not to bring mobile phones or any other devises .
  - Teachers will have a phone and a list of parent contacts .
  - The school camera will be used to take photographs and these will be available to pupils if they wish .
  - In line with the Child Safeguarding Statement, pupils will be adequately supervised .

- All parents who wish to accompany us on a school tour must be vetted through the school.
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