

TOUCHDOWN!

**BEHIND THE SCENES OF A WINNING EDUCATIONAL VISIT
(AND WHAT IT TOOK TO PULL IT OFF!)**

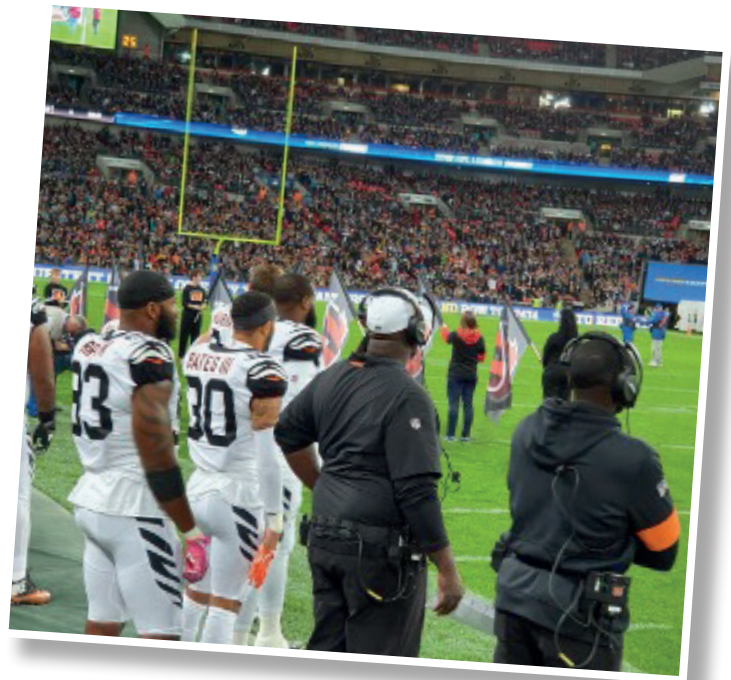


Children from Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School had an unforgettable day as guests of the NFL American Football Association. EVC Wayne Holder looks back on the experience and offers advice for EVCs and trip leaders for your visits.

Picture the scene: 83,500 fans, the English National Stadium Wembley, a raucous atmosphere – this is a potential once in a lifetime opportunity. We were fortunate enough to take some of our students not only to watch an NFL game at Wembley but to act as flag bearers for the teams and play on the pitch during the half time interval!

A natural link with our sports curriculum

In the months before the visit, we had been working with the NFL to deliver American Football in our school. This visit to the stadium allowed the pupils to watch a game first hand and to experience the atmosphere of professional sports. It enabled pupils to build on what they had been learning in their P.E. lessons and was a great way to share that with other children across the year group. It helped them to see the opportunities that could come from playing the sport and provided a forum for talking about their own experience of American Football and what it means to them.



Pupils on the Wembley Pitch flag bearing as teams got ready to play

Making a big idea a reality

It started with an exciting idea but to turn that into reality took a lot of planning. From an EVC perspective, there were a lot of things to work out. The challenges: a non-school day (Sunday), an early start and very late finish, huge crowds of people, journeying to and from London (we are in Leicester) and a group of very excited (and nervous) children.

Planning and discussions between myself and other staff were key here, as well as effective communication with parents and carers. Without these, the trip would have struggled. My colleagues and I also had to work very closely with the NFL American Football organisation to work out the logistics throughout the day.

“ IT WAS ALL WORTH IT

An experienced team is essential

Having experienced staff on the trip helped to keep the children at ease in a challenging environment and allowed us to manage the day well.

We wanted the pupils to soak it in and enjoy themselves as much as possible. There was a lot of movement throughout the day, not least navigating public transport and members of the public. Again, our experienced staff helped to manage this with dynamic risk assessments truly being required to not only safeguard the children, but to ensure they got the most out of the day.

The whole day, even though it was long, felt like a whirlwind. The pupils fell asleep on the way back home and we didn't get back until 11:30pm. However, it is an educational visit they will never forget. At the end of that year, and several years later, it is still something that people talk about in our school.

This was an incredible experience and it felt such a privilege to share it with these children.

This year we are off to Wimbledon, to make even more memories.

MY ADVICE TO EVCS IS: DON'T EVER BE SCARED TO AIM HIGH AND GIVE YOUR PUPILS THOSE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES.



Wayne and pupils in the tunnel at half time getting ready to show their skills.

Wayne Holder is EVC at Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School, the largest primary school in Leicester City.



Wayne has over 16 years' experience of working in schools, and has been an EVC since around 2016. He has supported multiple trips for primary and secondary schools ranging from local area walks to residential in Europe.

Now working in a very large primary school in inner city Leicester (around 900 pupils), he coordinates a broad programme of visits of varying complexity e.g. taking 120 Reception pupils on a single visit!

www.arhprimary.co.uk



OUR ADVISER SAYS...

If you're planning a complex visit like this, your educational visits adviser can help you work through the various aspects such as using transport, visiting public spaces, and out-of-hours visits using the STAGED approach to risk management as a framework.

See **OEAP NG 4.2a Group Management and Supervision; 4.5a Transport General Considerations**