

Geowalks Outline Risk Assessment - Outdoor Activities with Young People

This outline risk assessment highlights the main risks and issues to be considered for a school group excursion in Holyrood Park. This risk assessment will need to be modified depending on:

- the proposed route (this assessment will normally be appropriate for low-level visits to areas such as Hunter's Bog, the Dasses, St Anthony's Chapel and Salisbury Crags).
- the type of group (this assessment is suitable for most school groups, but the route needs to be tailored to the age and level of responsibility of the group).
- prevailing weather conditions and the clothing/footwear worn by participants.

Risks will continue to be assessed during the excursion, so that the route and duration of the excursion can be changed if the level of risk increases. A safety briefing at the start of the excursion will highlight key risks and encourage responsible behaviour. Control measures will be reinforced as necessary during the excursion.

Hazard	Risk	Who's at Risk	Control Measures
Group Management: group splitting up or individuals getting lost.	Low	Staff, pupils	Agree responsibilities for group management in advance – see Outline Responsibilities below. Nominated teacher in overall charge of the group, with overall responsibility for group management, safety, and reporting back. Adequate adult/child ratio to allow safe supervision of entire group at all times.
Cliffs and rock faces: falling over cliffs, rock fall from above.	Low	Staff, pupils, general public	Plan route that avoids top of cliffs/steep slopes and the bottom of high rock faces. Activities restricted to looking at low rock faces (maximum height 3m). Give verbal warning when close to any steep slopes.
Weather	Low	Staff, pupils	Cancel or curtail activity in very wet, hot, cold or windy weather, or if group members are not adequately equipped for the prevailing conditions. Avoid walking under trees and beneath cliffs (e.g. Radical Road route in very windy conditions).
Slips & Trips	Low	Staff, pupils	Minimise risk of slips and trips in route planning and by group management (e.g. don't permit pupils to run down slopes).
Road crossings	Medium	Staff, pupils	Choose route to minimise road crossings and make use of the safest place to cross - with clear vision. If necessary, adults stop traffic and ensure vehicles are stationary before starting to cross.

Outline Responsibilities for School Groups

Angus Miller (t/a Geowalks) will:

- Provide one adult leader, Mountain Leader qualified, with a current Emergency Aid qualification and appropriate experience.
- Give educational input to the group as agreed.
- Assist in planning the activity and advise on safety precautions and risk assessments.
- be covered by Public Liability Insurance.

The School or Group will:

- Have a nominated adult in overall charge of the activity.
- Ensure that activity complies with Local Authority and/or School regulations and guidance on outdoor activities, including adult / child ratios.
- Ensure that the group is managed in a safe and appropriate way at all times.
- Put in place a reporting back procedure, so that the Emergency Services will be alerted in the event of the party's non-return.



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