

Route to the Hills example Risk Assessment

This template is a basic Risk Assessment designed to support teachers and support staff taking pupils on a guided walk. It does not replace your own risk assessment and teachers and responsible adults are strongly advised to walk the route and create their own full risk assessments.

There is great advice on the [Learning Outside the Classroom Website](#)

Hazard	Risk	Measures to control risk
Taking children out of school	Medical emergency	Emergency contact number Mobile phone to be carried and make sure proposed area is covered by adequate signal Group leader must have a full list of pupils in group and emergency contact lists for all pupils in group. Ensure you have first aid kit Any prescribed medication (inhalers, epipens, insulin with the child if they are usually responsible or a designated member of staff). Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between to spot any dangers before they happen.
First Aid	Minor injuries	Member of staff responsible for first aid kit. Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.
Supervision	Behaviour	Set the tone for the walk before you leave school. Ask children to think of safety rules and agree to them. Add more if necessary. Remind children of what is expected in terms of walking hand in hand or two by two, (single file if narrow) making sure they know where two friends are at times and that they are with the group etc. Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.
Supervision	Inadequate supervision	Make sure the ratio of adults to children is appropriate and in line with school policy. Ratio should be at least 1 adult to 6 children for under 5s, 1 adult to 8 pupils aged 5 to 8 1 adult to 10 children aged 8 to 12). Refer to Health and safety policy guidance at school. Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.
Terrain	Slips and trips	Make sure children are suitably dressed with adequate footwear. Set expectations for behaviour at the start of the walk. No running, respectful behaviour, looking after each other, etc. Give a verbal warning so children are aware of the risk. Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.

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Traffic	Death or major injury	<p>Give children a verbal warning of the risk.</p> <p>Walk the route and choose safe places to cross (pedestrian crossings wherever possible). Some of the signs on the Route to the Hills trails are near carparks, so give a verbal warning and keep children away from exits and entrances.</p> <p>Maintain clear line of sight at all crossings. Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.</p> <p>Give very clear instructions when crossing a road. Children must stop and wait to be told when to cross by a member of staff.</p> <p>Wear high visibility vests (staff and children)</p>
Contact with animals	Minor/major injury, allergic reaction, death	<p>Health and safety briefing stressing the importance of not approaching animals, including dogs.</p> <p>Verbal reminders.</p> <p>Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.</p>
Extreme weather conditions	Sunstroke, sunburn or dehydration, hypothermia	<p>Make sure children are not exposed to sun/cold for long times. Make sure they have access to water. Make sure they are appropriately dressed. Take extra clothing if necessary.</p> <p>Be aware of the needs of the group and comfort levels.</p> <p>Ensure pre visit information to parents includes the risk and that parents are aware that they need to make sure children have appropriate clothing for the temperature including hats, sun hats, gloves and appropriate sun cream. Check re allergies. Take action if necessary to shorten sessions.</p> <p>Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.</p>
Practicalities	Discomfort	<p>Make sure there are toilets and rest places along the way.</p>
General public	Abduction, abuse	<p>Staff /responsible adults to be clearly identified.</p> <p>Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.</p> <p>Follow safeguarding procedures.</p> <p>Have a clear line of sight and be vigilant to avoid situations happening.</p> <p>Avoid any potential risk.</p> <p>Politely ask adults to leave work area.</p> <p>Remove children from any areas of potential risk.</p> <p>Make sure staff and children are vigilant and aware of where partners are.</p>

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Separation	Getting lost	<p>Discuss procedures for not getting lost before leaving school.</p> <p>Ask children to suggest methods to stay in touch with group at all times.</p> <p>Let children know what they should do if this happens.</p> <p>Ensure good standards of behaviour.</p> <p>Ensure you know if a child is leaving the group early for any reason.</p> <p>Follow lost child procedure.</p> <p>Ensure there is an adult leading the group, one as a back marker and adults dispersed evenly in between.</p>
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