

Risk Assessment – Geocaching

Area of Operation: geocaching

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Getting Lost and Benightment	Injury, Exposure to Elements leading to hypothermia or heat exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency equipment including methods of communication to be carried. ○ Check weather forecast to ensure it is suitable for the Activity. Offsite form to be completed. ○ where possible keep to paths instead of travel cross country. ○ Route chosen with enough time in daylight to allow for delays.
Uneven ground and poorly fitted shoes	Foot injury, ankle sprains and blisters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Briefing for walking on uneven ground - Ensure appropriate footwear. ○ Leader to carry first aid kit. ○ Leader to be first aid trained. ○ Call Rescue if needed – Leader carries mobile phone. ○ Leaders should select suitable routes for the group's ability and conditions.
Becoming separated from group	Injury, Exposure to Elements leading to hypothermia or heat exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervision, briefing and personal equipment to be carried. ○ Staff to observe group and do regular head counts. • NFC missing from care procedure to be adhered to ○ Senior cover to be contacted as soon as possible.
Danger from falling objects	Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selection of appropriate area and route. • ○ Supervision, good group briefing ○ Weather to be considered.
River crossings	Drowning or hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routes to be chosen to avoid river crossings. • ○ Supervision, good group briefing ○ Weather to be considered.
Slips trips and falls	Injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leaders should select suitable routes for the group's ability and conditions. ○ Continuous dynamic risk assessment of conditions and route being taken. ○ Staff and leader to ensure the activity area is safe and any hazards clearly identified. ○ Call Rescue if needed – leader carries mobile phone.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Instructor injured / incapacitated	Injuries, Exposure to Elements leading to hypothermia or heat exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leader to brief group at the start. Emphasise the name of location, equipment carried and actions to be undertaken in the event of leader injury. ○ Senior cover aware and kept updated. ○ Offsite form completed.
Exposure to weather – cold, wet, wind, heat.	Hypothermia or heat exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leader to check weather report before leaving for the activity. • Continuous dynamic risk assessment of conditions ○ Ensure appropriate clothing and equipment.

Instructions

Introduction

Geocaching is an exciting outdoor activity that combines adventure, exploration, and treasure hunting. It's a perfect activity to enjoy, fostering teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a love for the outdoors. This guide will walk you through the process of geocaching with kids, ensuring a fun and safe experience for everyone involved.

Step 1: Choose a Geocache

Visit a geocaching website or app (e.g., Geocaching.com) to browse nearby geocaches. Filter the search results to find caches suitable for Students, considering difficulty and terrain ratings. Select a geocache that's within a reasonable distance and matches the interests and abilities of the students you are working with.

Step 2: Gather Resources.

Ensure each participant has appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor exploration. Bring a GPS device or smartphone with a geocaching app installed. Pack a small backpack with, Pen, water, snacks, a first aid kit, sunscreen, some small items to trade for example keyring, football card etc.

Step 3: Review the Cache Details

Read the cache description, hints, and recent activity to familiarise yourself with the geocache. Note any special instructions or considerations, such as additional tools needed or specific rules for the cache.

Step 4: Plan Your Route

Use the GPS coordinates provided to plan your route to the geocache.
Consider the terrain and difficulty ratings when choosing the approach to the geocache.

Step 5: Navigate to the Geocache

Begin your adventure by following the GPS directions toward the geocache location.
Encourage the students to take turns leading the way and spotting any landmarks or clues mentioned in the geocache description.

Try to stick your paths as much as possible and do not cross rivers/ streams or climb over fences, instead look for safe ways to get to the Geocache.

Step 6: Search for the Geocache

Once you reach the approximate location, start searching for the geocache.
Encourage the students to explore the area, paying attention to potential hiding spots like trees, rocks, or structures.
Use the hints provided if needed but emphasise the importance of using observational skills and teamwork.

Step 7: Find the Treasure

When someone in the group discovers the geocache, celebrate the achievement together.

Open the container carefully, ensuring not to disturb the contents or the surrounding environment.

Take a moment to admire the treasures inside and encourage the kids to trade items if the cache allows.

If there are food items in the geocache these should not be taken but other items can be traded.

Step 8: Sign the Logbook

Every geocache contains a logbook where finders can leave their mark.

Use a pen or pencil to sign the logbook with your geocaching username and the date of your find.

Step 9: Re-hide the Geocache

After enjoying the contents of the geocache, carefully place everything back inside the container. Ensure the cache is securely closed and hidden in its original location to maintain the game for future seekers.

Take a moment to double-check that the cache is well-camouflaged and not easily visible to muggles (non-geocachers).

Step 10: Log Your Find

Return to the geocaching app or website to log your find and share your experience with the geocaching community.

Include any memorable moments or challenges you encountered during the adventure.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

- Student's Risk Assessments
- Participant Consent / Medical Information
- Emergency Action Plan Flow-Chart
- Sports Centre Specific Rules and Regulations (If Off-Site)

Reviewed: September 2025

Approved by: **RAISE-AP** Educational Directors, September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027