

Risk Assessment – Horse Riding

Area of Operation: horse riding

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Interaction with horses (riding and stable care)	Risk of injury from bites, kicks, or falls during horse interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External provider staff provide instructions on safe interactions with horses, including approaching, petting, and riding. ○ Ensure students follow instructions for horse care activities, such as feeding and grooming, with staff supervision at all times. ○ RAISE-AP staff stay close by to monitor and assist students, helping maintain calm and respectful behaviour around horses.
PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)	Risk of serious injury from falls or contact with horses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure students wear helmets and protective footwear as provided by the external provider. ○ External provider staff conduct PPE checks on each child, verifying fit and quality before the activity begins. ○ RAISE-AP staff check for comfort and compliance, assisting with adjustments as needed.
External equipment checks	Risk of injury due to faulty equipment, including saddles, stirrups, and grooming tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External provider staff perform pre-activity inspections on all tack and equipment, checking for issues such as loose buckles, damaged straps, or worn reins. ○ Only allow students to use equipment deemed safe and suitable for their age and ability level. ○ RAISE-AP staff supervise and ensure students follow instructions for proper equipment handling and storage.
Allergies and hygiene risks	Risk of allergic reactions to hay, dust, or animal dander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confirm any allergies or sensitivities before the activity and avoid exposing students to allergens when possible. ○ Ensure students wash their hands after horse care activities or use hand sanitiser if water access is limited. ○ RAISE-AP staff carry allergy medication if needed and are prepared to respond to minor allergic reactions.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Extreme weather conditions	Risk of heatstroke, dehydration, or hypothermia from prolonged outdoor exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check the weather forecast before the activity and ensure students wear appropriate clothing, such as jackets for cold weather or hats and sunscreen for hot days. ○ Plan regular breaks in shaded or sheltered areas, encouraging hydration and monitoring for signs of weather-related discomfort or fatigue.
Use of public toilets	Risk of separation from the group and interactions with strangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAISE-AP staff accompany students to toilets as needed, ensuring privacy and supervision. ○ Choose facilities close to riding or stable areas for easy monitoring. - Set a designated meeting point outside toilets in case of separation, ensuring students understand regrouping protocols.
Separation or wandering	Risk of students straying from the group or entering restricted stable or equipment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAISE-AP staff use a buddy system, assigning each staff member to a small group of students for close supervision. ○ Review boundaries within the stable and riding areas, with clear explanations for students on restricted zones. ○ Staff carry ID cards, radios, or mobile phones for quick communication if separation occurs.
Students's potential behavioural issues	Risk of disruptive behaviour, leading to accidents, unsafe interactions with horses, or conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAISE-AP staff assess each child's suitability for horse-related activities based on behaviour and emotional stability. ○ Maintain a high staff-to-child ratio for close supervision and support during the activity. ○ Brief students on behaviour expectations, with reinforcement from external provider staff, including following instructions and respecting personal space around horses.
Slips, trips, and falls in stable areas	Risk of injury from uneven ground, slippery areas, or obstacles like hay bales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External provider ensures stable areas are clear of hazards and maintain walkways that are free from debris, mud, or puddles. - RAISE-AP staff remind students to remain aware of their surroundings and avoid running near stables. ○ Both RAISE-AP and provider staff conduct a pre-check of the area to address any immediate hazards. ○ If any issues are found, they will be reported to the provider.
Interaction with the public or other visitors	Potential for misunderstandings or conflicts with other participants or visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External provider staff manage public interactions, with RAISE-AP staff assisting students to respect the privacy of others in shared areas. ○ RAISE-AP staff brief students on expected behaviour around others, including keeping noise levels down and not approaching unfamiliar people or horses.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Fatigue or discomfort during riding and stable activities	Potential for tiredness, muscle strain, or discomfort due to prolonged activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External provider staff adjust activities to suit each child's stamina and comfort level, offering seated or lighter activities as needed. - RAISE-AP staff encourage students to take breaks and drink water regularly, particularly during hot weather or lengthy sessions.
Emergency evacuation	Risk of confusion or distress if evacuation from the area is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External provider staff review emergency procedures with RAISE-AP staff before beginning the activity. Both RAISE-AP and provider staff identify and communicate emergency exits and safe meeting points on the site. RAISE-AP staff maintain a high staff-to-child ratio, ready to support and guide students in an evacuation, ensuring they stay with the group.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

- Student's Risk Assessments
- Participant Consent / Medical Information
- Emergency Action Plan Flow-Chart
- Provider Rules and Guidance

Reviewed: September 2025

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

Next Review Date: September 2027