

Risk Assessment – Playgrounds and Parks

Area of Operation: playgrounds, parks

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Unsafe or faulty equipment	Risk of injury from broken, damaged, or poorly maintained play structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff conduct a visual check of all play equipment before use. ○ Avoid areas or items that appear unsafe or are clearly marked as out of order. ○ Report hazards to site management where applicable. ○ Ensure first aid kit is accessible in case of injury. ○ In the event of injury, follow the Emergency Action Plan.
Falls and slips	Risk of injury from falls, especially on climbing frames, swings, or uneven ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are briefed on safe play (e.g. not climbing too high, one person at a time). ○ Staff supervise play closely and remain within sight and sound. ○ Students wear suitable footwear. ○ Minor injuries managed on-site; serious injuries followed up with emergency support. Follow Emergency Action Plan.
Stranger danger	Risk of unwanted attention or contact from members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff positioned strategically to monitor surroundings and supervise closely. ○ Students remain within agreed areas and must not wander off. ○ Agreed meeting point established in case of accidental separation. ○ Students reminded to alert staff if approached by strangers.
Environmental hazards (e.g. water, dogs, sharp objects)	Risk of injury or illness from natural features or litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff assess playground conditions on arrival (e.g. pond access, glass, dog fouling). ○ Unsafe areas are restricted and clearly explained to the child/group. ○ Handwashing or sanitising to be done before consuming any food.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Inappropriate behaviour or peer conflict	Risk of disruption, bullying, or physical harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suitability of activity assessed for individual students. ○ Boundaries discussed before the visit. ○ Staff-to-child ratio appropriate to ensure close supervision. ○ Staff intervene early to manage disputes and redirect behaviour. ○ Follow-up discussion and support provided after any incident.
Separation or absconding	Risk of a young person running away or becoming lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clear boundaries and expectations explained before arrival. ○ Students assigned to a staff member or buddy system used if appropriate. ○ Constant visual supervision maintained. ○ Emergency plan in place including mobile contact and designated meeting point.
Weather conditions	Risk of heatstroke, hypothermia, or discomfort due to exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check forecast prior to outing and adapt plans accordingly. ○ Students wear weather-appropriate clothing (e.g. coats, hats, sunscreen). ○ Staff monitor for signs of overheating or cold exposure. ○ Activity shortened or relocated if weather deteriorates.
Toileting needs	Risk of separation or lack of access to safe, clean facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff to ensure the chosen playground/park/recreational ground has appropriate facilities for the needs of the child/group, prior to the visit. ○ Staff to identify nearby toilets on arrival. ○ Students accompanied as appropriate, maintaining dignity and privacy. ○ Handwashing ensured after toilet use.
Medical needs and emergencies	Risk of unmanaged health issues or poor emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff aware of all medical needs and carry any required medication. ○ First aid kit taken to park and carried by staff. ○ Mobile phones charged and available for emergency calls. ○ Emergency action plan known and ready to implement.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

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



Reviewed: September 2025

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

Next Review Date: September 2027