

Risk Assessment – River Studies

Area of Operation: river studies

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Water Safety (Drowning or Slipping)	Risk of falls into water leading to drowning or injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff position themselves near the water's edge to supervise closely and prevent overbalancing or slips. ○ Conduct a safety briefing, instructing students to maintain a safe distance from the edge unless supervised for dipping. ○ Ensure students wear suitable footwear with good grip to prevent slips on muddy or wet surfaces. ○ Staff carry a throw line for immediate response in case of a fall into the water
Uneven or Muddy Banks	Risk of tripping, slipping, or falling on unstable surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff pre-assess the area, marking boundaries and guiding students around hazardous areas. ○ Encourage students to walk carefully, especially on slopes or muddy areas, to avoid falls
Use of Nets and Equipment	Risk of injury from improper use of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide instruction on safe use of nets, reminding students not to swing or poke with them. ○ Monitor equipment uses, ensuring students only use nets for dipping and avoid deep or rapid water areas. ○ Staff carry a first aid kit for treating minor injuries
Water-Borne Illnesses	Risk of illness from exposure to contaminated water or pond organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remind students not to touch their face or mouth after handling water or organisms until hands are washed. ○ Staff bring hand sanitiser and ensure handwashing occurs before eating or drinking. ○ Ensure all cuts are covered to reduce exposure to water-borne bacteria
Allergic Reactions	Risk of allergic reaction from plants, insects, or organisms in the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review allergies in advance and ensure students carry necessary medications, like EpiPens. ○ Staff monitor and provide immediate first aid if reactions occur from insect stings or plant contact.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Fatigue and Physical Exertion	Risk of tiredness from extended bending or standing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan breaks to allow students to rest, providing seating or mats if needed. Ensure snacks and water are available to maintain energy, especially on extended trips
Interaction with Wildlife	Risk of bites, stings, or injury from plants and animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief students on calmly observing wildlife, avoiding direct contact with unknown plants or animals. Ensure all handling of animals or plants follows proper techniques under close staff supervision
Cold, Wet Weather.	Risk of discomfort, cold related illnesses, or hypothermia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff ensure that students wear appropriate clothing, such as waterproof jackets and boots, and encourage layering for warmth. Staff monitor students for signs of cold-related discomfort, providing regular breaks if needed. Limit activity time if the weather is particularly cold or raining.
Sun Exposure	Risk of sunburn or heat related illness during extended outdoor activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff ensure students wear hats, sunscreen, and UV-protective clothing as needed. Provide shaded areas or breaks in shade for prolonged sessions, monitoring for signs of sunburn.
Public Toilets Use	Risk of separation from group or interaction with strangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff accompany students to toilets and set a designated meeting point. Ensure privacy and supervision, and conduct regular headcounts before and after
Behavioural Issues	Risk of disruptive behaviour causing distractions or safety risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff review behavioural expectations, maintaining a high staff-to-child ratio for close supervision. Use positive reinforcement and de-escalation techniques if behavioural issues arise
Emergency Situations	Risk of confusion or delayed response in emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff review emergency procedures, designating a safe assembly point. Ensure that a first aid kit and mobile phones are readily accessible for quick response

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