

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

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

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