

Risk Assessment – Walk (Non-Remote Areas)

Area of Operation: walks to the local shops, in low-level countryside, woodland environments and coastal paths.

Walks must meet the following criteria:

- Walks must follow paths or tracks that are both marked on a map and clearly visible on the ground and that do not require navigation across untracked areas.
- Walks must not cross any hazardous terrain (e.g. cliffs, very steep slopes, water hazards etc.)
- Throughout the walk, the group should never be more than 600 metres above sea level or more than 30 minutes from a key access point such as a car park, lay-by, or populated area.
- Walks must use bridges or other recognised water crossing points.

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Uneven ground, rocks, and slippery surfaces	Trips, slips, and falls potentially leading to injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage students to wear suitable footwear. ○ Remind students to walk at a safe pace and avoid running on uneven surfaces. ○ Ensure access to the beach area is straightforward in case of an emergency.
Weather conditions (e.g., high winds, rain)	Cold, wet, or windy conditions could lead to hypothermia, slips, or discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check weather forecast in advance; cancel if severe weather is predicted. ○ Advise appropriate clothing (e.g., waterproofs, warm layers). ○ Monitor students closely for signs of cold and discomfort.
Proximity to water	Risk of accidental entry into water, slips, or getting too close to the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strictly instruct students not to enter the water. ○ Assign staff to supervise the group closely, with clear boundaries set from the water's edge. ○ Staff carry throw line and are trained in emergency response if anyone enters water by accident.
High tide or rough water conditions	Risk of getting too close to water or unexpected tide changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check tide times before the walk to ensure a safe distance from rising water levels. ○ Set a marked boundary, away from water's edge, for the entire walk.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Presence of sharp objects (e.g., glass, shells)	Cuts or puncture wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise students to avoid picking up unknown objects or walking barefoot. Conduct visual checks of the area beforehand if possible. Carry a first aid kit for minor injuries.
Interaction with members of the public	Possible distress or conflict situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to carry ID cards to identify themselves to the public if necessary. Encourage students to remain within the group. Have staff trained in de-escalation techniques to manage any conflicts or misunderstandings calmly.
Strong sun exposure	Risk of sunburn or heat related illnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage use of sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing. Plan breaks in shaded areas where possible. Monitor for signs of heat exhaustion or sunburn.
Navigation (getting lost)	Hypothermia, panic and disorientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the walk, the group should never be more than 600 metres above sea level and more than 30 minutes from a key access point such as a car park, lay-by, or populated area. Walks must not cross any hazardous terrain (e.g. cliffs, very steep slopes, water hazards etc.) Walks must use bridges or other recognised water crossing points. Walks must only take place in summer conditions, for example, when there is no unavoidable snow or ice on any part of the route. Instructor to be familiar with the location being used off-site. Off-site form to be completed including group information, location, timing of session, route. Live location can be shared. Instructor to carry spare food, water, cloths and charged mobile phone when travelling off-site. Clear briefing to be carried out at the start of the session regarding boundaries of the activity and adhering to areas that have no entry. Provide participants with maps and show how to orientate them. Participants to have a designated easily found meeting point so that if any participants get lost, they can return there. Instructor to supervise group and carry out regular headcounts. Senior Cover to be contacted as soon as possible.
Students's potential behavioural issues	Increased risk of running toward hazards or wandering off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review safety instructions and boundaries before the walk. Staff carry ID cards and mobile phone for communication and tracking if needed.

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