

## 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 30minutes 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"> <li>○ Encourage students to wear suitable footwear.</li> <li>○ Remind students to walk at a safe pace and avoid running on uneven surfaces.</li> <li>○ Ensure access to the beach area is straightforward in case of an emergency.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>○ Check weather forecast in advance; cancel if severe weather is predicted.</li> <li>○ Advise appropriate clothing (e.g., waterproofs, warm layers).</li> <li>○ Monitor students closely for signs of cold and discomfort.</li> </ul>
Proximity to water	Risk of accidental entry into water, slips, or getting too close to the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strictly instruct students not to enter the water.</li> <li>○ Assign staff to supervise the group closely, with clear boundaries set from the water's edge.</li> <li>○ Staff carry throw line and are trained in emergency response if anyone enters water by accident.</li> </ul>
High tide or rough water conditions	Risk of getting too close to water or unexpected tide changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Check tide times before the walk to ensure a safe distance from rising water levels.</li> <li>○ Set a marked boundary, away from water's edge, for the entire walk.</li> </ul>

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"> <li>○ Advise students to avoid picking up unknown objects or walking barefoot.</li> <li>○ Conduct visual checks of the area beforehand if possible.</li> <li>○ Carry a first aid kit for minor injuries.</li> </ul>
Interaction with members of the public	Possible distress or conflict situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff to carry ID cards to identify themselves to the public if necessary.</li> <li>○ Encourage students to remain within the group.</li> <li>○ Have staff trained in de-escalation techniques to manage any conflicts or misunderstandings calmly.</li> </ul>
Strong sun exposure	Risk of sunburn or heat related illnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage use of sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing.</li> <li>○ Plan breaks in shaded areas where possible.</li> <li>○ Monitor for signs of heat exhaustion or sunburn.</li> </ul>
Navigation (getting lost)	Hypothermia, panic and disorientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Walks must not cross any hazardous terrain (e.g. cliffs, very steep slopes, water hazards etc.)</li> <li>○ Walks must use bridges or other recognised water crossing points.</li> <li>○ Walks must only take place in summer conditions, for example, when there is no unavoidable snow or ice on any part of the route.</li> <li>○ Instructor to be familiar with the location being used off-site.</li> <li>○ Off-site form to be completed including group information, location, timing of session, route. Live location can be shared.</li> <li>○ Instructor to carry spare food, water, cloths and charged mobile phone when travelling off-site.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Provide participants with maps and show how to orientate them.</li> <li>○ Participants to have a designated easily found meeting point so that if any participants get lost, they can return there.</li> <li>○ Instructor to supervise group and carry out regular headcounts.</li> <li>○ Senior Cover to be contacted as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
Students's potential behavioural issues	Increased risk of running toward hazards or wandering off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review safety instructions and boundaries before the walk.</li> <li>○ Staff carry ID cards and mobile phone for communication and tracking if needed.</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