

## Risk assessment – Bolton School Climbing wall

<b>Bolton School</b>	<b>Assessment carried out by: S. Bradley/E. Lindle</b>
<b>Date of next review: 04/09/2026</b>	<b>Date assessment was carried out: 04/09/2025</b>

<b>Overview of activity</b>	The use of Bolton School climbing wall, by pupils and staff from across the foundation				
<b>What are the hazards?</b>	<b>Who might be harmed?</b>	<b>What are you already doing to control the risk?</b>	<b>What further action do you need to take to control the risks?</b>	<b>Who needs to carry out the action?</b>	<b>When is the action needed by?</b>
<b>Autobelay fault / failure</b>	<b>Pupils/Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perform daily checks as per operator guidelines document</li> <li>- Send off for annual recertification to ensure unit is in the best condition</li> <li>- Immediately stop using any one on a unit which is not 100% operational i.e. webbing not retracting. Advise down climb / rescue</li> </ul>	n/a	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Start of session</b>
<b>Not clipping in to Autobelay correctly</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No one can climb unless clipped in by an instructor and the attachment and harness are confirmed to be secure</li> <li>- If found to be not clipped in down climbing is encouraged / rescue procedures in place.</li> <li>- Fit for use safety surface to be installed.</li> </ul>	n/a	<b>Staff</b>	<b>During session</b>
<b>Use of Helmets</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helmets <b>must</b> not be worn when using the auto belays</li> <li>- Helmets should be considered when learning to lead climb</li> </ul>	n/a	<b>Staff</b>	<b>During session</b>
<b>Slips, trips and falls.</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All groups to wear appropriate footwear and clothing.</li> <li>- Groups will receive briefing on specific problems and identified hazards such as nets, posts, slippery surfaces, running inside buildings etc.</li> <li>- Any no-go areas should be identified and groups briefed to stay within designated area.</li> <li>- All groups to have access to first aid kit, first aider and know where to report to in case of a problem.</li> </ul>	n/a	<b>Staff</b>	<b>During session</b>
<b>Spinning holds</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check and tighten holds regularly</li> </ul>	n/a	<b>Staff</b>	<b>During session and weekly checks</b>
<b>Injuries sustained from jumping/ falling off walls</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group briefing on location of walls around the site and appropriate movement during the activities.</li> </ul>	n/a	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Upon arrival</b>

<b>Equipment failure</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operators monthly and daily checks must be followed to ensure equipment is safe and fit for use.</li> <li>- Annual inspection by manufacture to ensure equipment is safe and fit for use.</li> <li>- Perform maintenance where necessary</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Monthly checks</b>
<b>Injuries caused through incorrect use of equipment</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Groups to be briefed on safety measures for activities.</li> <li>- Members of visiting staff / parents to supervise</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>During session</b>
<b>Inappropriate behavior.</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group briefing on acceptable behaviour</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Start of session</b>
<b>Illness</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information about existing medical conditions known by staff</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Start of session</b>
<b>Standard of Instruction</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All instructors shall hold appropriate qualifications and/or a statement of competence and be vetted by the Head of Outdoor Learning. These records will be kept in instructors personal file.</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Before instructors work on the wall</b>
<b>Jewelry</b>	<b>staff/pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All participants to be briefed to remove all jewelry and tie long hair back</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Start of session</b>
<b>Unsupervised climbing</b>	<b>Pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Both doors to the boys gym should be always locked when staff are not present</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>All times</b>
<b>Finger entrapment injury</b>	<b>pupils/staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants told at start of session not to use the protection bolts as holds, fingers should not go through the bolts at any time</li> </ul>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Staff and students</b>	<b>Start of session</b>