

Risk assessment – Bouldering (indoors and outdoors)

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

Overview of activity	Bouldering at Bolton School is a popular activity and works well along side our climbing activities. Groups will attend specific indoor bouldering venues as well as outdoor venues while taking part in sport lessons, clubs and weekend trips. Pupils also have the option to attend an annual bouldering trip to fontainbleau. This risk assessment should be read in Conjunction with the Climbing and Abseiling Risk assessment and all staff to read the Standard operating Procedures				
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	What are you already doing to control the risk?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
Defective Equipment	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bouldering pads to be used at all times, these should be of good quality and the foam should be intact. • Suitable footwear to be worn by all participants. 	n/a	Staff	Start of the session
Standard of Instruction	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should be suitably experienced and ideally hold RCI or CWA and have experience in bouldering. 	n/a	Staff	Before the session
Injury to participants e.g. broken bones, cuts, slips, dislocations, pulled muscles, collisions	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils should not boulder alone • Easy problems to be climbed first • Staff to monitor the group of fatigue and to take appropriate action if needs be. • Pupils to fall in a controlled manor and jump if they feel they will fall • Pupils to check descent before attempting a problem 	n/a	Staff and students	Start of the session and throughout
Medical emergency	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the very unlikely event that a participant should suffer from a medical emergency (ie heart attack, stroke epileptic fit, diabetic emergency) emergency services will be contacted. Appropriate First aid treatment administered 	n/a	Staff and students	Start of the session and throughout
Jewellery	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants to be briefed to remove all jewellery 	n/a	Staff	Start of the session
Uncontrolled falls	Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils briefed on Hazard • Pupils to work in pairs/threes • Pupils to be taught how to spot • Bouldering pads arranged appropriately 			
Pupils going missing/getting lost	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A register will be taken at the beginning of the activity • Pupils are not allowed to leave the bouldering area without a staff members permission 	n/a	Staff	Throughout the session

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will count pupils at the end of the session and before getting back on the buses 			
Slips, trips, falls	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils warned of hazards at the session briefing • Descent of boulder problem inspected before bouldering • Spotters to move bouldering pads as necessary as climber ascends the problem 	n/a	Staff and students	Throughout the session
Weather	Staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get an up to date weather forecast • Check that group have the right clothing for the conditions and spare clothing. • Enough fluid must be carried for the activity both hot and cold if necessary. • Choose an appropriate venue for the weather • Ensure participants use sun cream when necessary and keep reapplying 	Cancel trip if necessary	Staff and students	Before the session