

BOLTON SCHOOL
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Activity	CLIMBING AND ABSEILING (SINGLE PITCH), indoors and outside.	
Introduction	<p>Standard operating procedure for undertaking climbing and abseiling with groups on single pitch crags or indoor walls from Bolton School.</p> <p>To provide a safe, enjoyable stimulating introduction to rock climbing and or abseiling session, either indoor or outdoor.</p>	
Instructor minimum competency	<p>Instructor - Rock Climbing Instructor/Single Pitch Award minimal award or approval from school's technical advisor.</p> <p>Assistant instructor – Rock Climbing Instructor training/Single pitch award training or statement of competence.</p>	
Normal ratios	1:8	
Safety equipment (instructors)	<p>Instructors must take with them (outdoors):</p> <p>Helmet Harness Mobile phone First Aid Kit (1 per group) Prussik Karabiners Knife Group shelter Belay device Sling Lanyard</p>	<p>Instructors must take with them (indoors):</p> <p>Harness Mobile phone First Aid Kit (1 per group) Prussic Karabiners Knife Belay device Sling</p>
Safety equipment (participants)	<p>Outdoor:</p> <p>Helmet Harness Suitable footwear Suitable clothing</p>	<p>Indoors:</p> <p>Harness Suitable clothing Suitable footwear</p>
Suggested tasks on arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a base • Brief the group 	
Suggested pre activity briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim of session • Harness fastening and adjusting size - group to understand the importance • Helmets (if required) to be always worn by pupils, instructor and members of staff as directed by the instructors while climbing outside. Except for Bouldering where the use of spotting outdoors is used. • Crag etiquette eg throwing stones, soloing, graffiti, standing on ropes • Communication between climber and belayer • 6. Reference to the appropriate route onto the top of the crag, and when appropriate walk the group 	
General safety procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static ropes to be used for rigging 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care to be taken to ensure friction points / sharp edges are avoided when rigging. • Releasable abseil system to be used • When using ropes, instructor should visually check them before use, as participants become more experienced this responsibility can be handed to them • Other groups/wall users to be considered • Ensure routes are suitable for the participant
<p>Equipment</p>	<p>All equipment complies with PPE and is appropriately CE marked, it is downgraded and brought out of use in compliance with manufacturer’s specification. If you find any damaged equipment take out of use and place in the equipment quarantine tub in the Outdoor Learning office, if the office is locked then please contact sergeants/security at reception to open the door. Equipment must go in to Quarantine and not put back in to stores.</p> <p>Rope Maintenance If the ropes need washing, they will be daisy chained and washed in a washing machine at 400C then left to drip dry.</p> <p>Damage The ropes are best inspected run through the hand, any abrasion, indents, and furring, must be examined, and recorded in the PPE checks file.</p> <p>Equipment inspection Equipment will be inspected and recorded at the beginning of each term, during the term if any dents, furring of ropes are found by the instructor then this should be recorded in the PPE checks file.</p> <p>Maintenance Equipment will be visually inspected prior to use. Any maintenance required should be reported to the Head of Outdoor Learning</p> <p>Storage of Equipment Please ensure at the end of a session the equipment is returned to the store, in particular wet ropes and harnesses must be pulled out of their bags and left to dry.</p>
<p>End of session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean kit and return to store, as above • Report and damaged kit, as above • Report any accidents