

**Risk assessment – Hill walking including DofE**

<b>Bolton School</b>	<b>Assessment carried out by: E.Lindle/S.Bradley</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>	HILL WALKING (summer and winter) including local walks and the Duke of Edinburgh Award				
	Supporting documentation to be used in line with the current SOP.				
<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>
Slips and Trips	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suitable briefing</li> <li>Appropriate footwear</li> <li>Daily conditions dynamically risk assessed and routes/plan adjusted where necessary</li> </ul>	N/A	Staff	Staff
Weather/ heat /cold/	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get an up to date weather forecast</li> <li>Check that group have the right clothing for the conditions and spare clothing.</li> <li>Enough fluid must be carried for the activity both hot and cold if necessary.</li> <li>Choose an appropriate route for the weather</li> <li>Ensure participants use sun cream when necessary and keep reapplying</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before the activity begins
Steep/ unstable ground	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select a route that is appropriate for the weather conditions, the group experience, ability and the aims of the walk.</li> <li>Ensure that you give the participants a chance to gain the basic skills before moving onto steeper ground, make the walk progressive.</li> <li>Consider your own skill and the terrain and use whatever technique is best suited to limit the possibility of slips and trips that have a serious possible outcome.</li> <li>Use appropriate support methods whether a hand or rope to limit slip</li> <li>Watch out for other hill users when on steep ground and consider the consequences of them slipping or dislodging rock etc.</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before the activity begins
Unfit group or too many participants for the proposed route. Route choice.	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the group before choosing the route</li> <li>be prepared to alter the route if it becomes clear that the route is too hard for the group</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before the activity begins

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only split the group and continue on the same route if you have an assistant who is qualified and signed off to work in the terrain that you are in. (see SOP)</li> <li>• More challenging walks will need to be considered on an individual basis, looking at the weather, the group ability and the instructor ratio.</li> <li>• Use all available resources to make good decisions, i.e. IC etc.</li> </ul>			
Equipment failure/ lack of knowledge on using equipment	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All equipment to be checked before beginning walk.</li> <li>• Participant equipment to be seen rather than just asked if they have it.</li> <li>• Crampons must be fitted to boots before leaving the center.</li> <li>• If ice axes are being carried, time must be made on the route to practice using them in a training environment before moving onto more serious ground. Helmets must be worn.</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before the activity begins
Becoming lost	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor must carry a map and compass summer and winter.</li> <li>• All participants must have a torch in winter, when going into the mountains for a full day.</li> <li>• Instructor to have a system for checking that all group members are present.</li> <li>• Talk to groups about staying together; but also what to do if they do get lost.</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before the activity begins
Insect bites including ticks	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants must be advised to check for ticks. Visual aid might need to be given so that they know what they are looking for.</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before the activity begins
Night time	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate route chosen for length of daylight</li> <li>• Head torches considered</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	During activity
Fall from Height	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate route choice according to the weather</li> <li>• Group ability</li> <li>• Group management</li> </ul>			Before and during activity
Medical emergency	Staff Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils medical records updated on isams and checked by staff and uploaded to evolve</li> <li>• Medical spares collected from BD proctor</li> <li>• Pupils checked prior to departure for medicines</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff	Before and During activity

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff carry QR code for pupils to Scan with emergency details</li> </ul>			
Pupils behavior		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to have knowledge of individual pupils</li> <li>• If staff do not know pupils to check with HOY/Form Tutor</li> <li>• Staff to consider groups behaviour</li> </ul>	n/a	staff	Before and during activity