

## Risk assessment – Mountain biking

<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>	Mountain Biking takes place during sport lessons, after school clubs and weekend visits. Pupils may use their own bike (once inspected by lead staff member) or alternatively use equipment supplied by school.				
<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>
Fall from Bike	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE worn correctly by participants and instructors</li> <li>• Participant ability assessed in a controlled environment (e.g. car park)</li> <li>• Hazardous sections of trail/road managed effectively</li> <li>• Speed controlled by instructor, appropriate to participants ability</li> <li>• Ground conditions and environment continually assessed by instructor</li> <li>• When snow, ice or frozen ground is expected the decision if the activity to run will be made by Head of Outdoor Learning</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Throughout the session
Injury caused due to collision with object/other road users or other riders	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE worn correctly by participants and instructors</li> <li>• Clear instructions on speed, formation, spacing, signals and communication</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Throughout the session
Bikes	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School bikes will be regularly maintained and checked before each ride</li> <li>• Pupils are informed about attending with a well maintained and appropriate bike for the session.</li> <li>• Pupils equipment will be inspected before they are allowed to use it on a session pupil carry out M check)</li> <li>• Faulty bikes will be labelled and removed from service</li> <li>• Hazardous sections of trail/road will be managed effectively</li> <li>• Leader to carry spares and tools</li> <li>• Participants coached in the correct use of brakes and gears and front and rear wheel lifts (if technical terrain)</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Before and throughout the session
Exposure (hypothermia or sunburn)	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple weather forecast sources used prior to session.</li> <li>• Correct clothing worn</li> <li>• Sun protection used as necessary</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Throughout the session

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continual dynamic risk assessments carried out throughout the session by instructor</li> <li>Suitable route choice for conditions and participants</li> <li>Appropriate clothing worn for the expected conditions and spares taken</li> </ul>			
Adverse weather conditions	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate clothing for conditions</li> <li>Carry spares and tools</li> <li>Obtain weather forecast</li> <li>Escape routes planned</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Before and throughout the session
Group separation	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader to remain in regular contact with students</li> <li>Leader to carry a mobile phone</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Throughout the session
Bike out of control	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of brakes coached and practiced by participants</li> <li>Participant ability assessed in controlled environment (e.g. Car park)</li> <li>Speed controlled by instructor, appropriate to participants ability</li> <li>Known hazards managed by instructor</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Throughout the session
Traffic accident	Instructors Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure suitable supervision and ratios are in place</li> <li>Clear instructions on speed, formation, spacing, signals and communication</li> <li>Brief the group on road safety</li> </ul>	n/a	Staff Students	Throughout the session
Medical emergency	Instructor/Staff	<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> <li>Staff carry QR code for pupils to Scan with emergency details</li> </ul>	N/A	Staff students	Before and Throughout the session
Weather	Staff/ Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to ensure group are properly dressed and equipped</li> <li>Forecast from reputable sources checked</li> <li>Group shelter/Kisu carried</li> <li>Dynamic risk assessments carried out throughout in particular to how the weather is affecting the trail</li> </ul>	N/A	Staff/Students	Before and throughout the session
Pupils behaviour	Pupils	<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 session