

B and S Generic Risk-Benefit Assessment for Policy Visits to a Park

This risk-benefit assessment is designed to work in the context of a School Visit Policy for visits to a specified park(s). The targeted benefits and learning outcomes should inform the risk-benefit assessment process and help provide objectivity as to whether the residual risk that remains after implementation of the control measures is acceptable.

Hazards & Risks	Control Measures
1. Poor or inappropriate party leadership.	1. Leaders must meet competence requirements set out in the policy. i.e. Visit Leader and Assistant Leader meet employer guidance requirements, have pre-visited the park and have walked the route. Adult helpers must be fully briefed.
2. Road traffic and road crossings.	2. Staff and children appropriately briefed on group movement and management strategies. Road crossings to be those set out in this policy.
3. Children lost or separated.	3. Children to be allocated to sub-groups of not more than 10. Leaders briefed on fixed meeting points/"break-outs". Buddy systems set up at the park.
4. Behavioural incidents involving members of the public.	4. Staff to be briefed on potential behavioural issues. Children allocated to sub-groups with these issues in mind. Children set clear behavioural expectations.
5. Child Protection issues.	5. Visit Leader and Assistant Leader CRB checked. Adult volunteers given clear brief on their roles and limits of their remit. Children briefed on staff expectations regarding their inter-action with members of the public.
6. Weather extremes and flood danger.	6. Weather forecast known to staff before the day of the visit and on the day. Children briefed on day prior to visit of their clothing and footwear needs. Suitability of outdoor clothing checked by staff on the day. The possibility of flooding should automatically initiate a re-evaluation of the viability of the visit. Where in doubt, reschedule.
7. Group-specific medical and other support needs.	7. Staff to be briefed on any medical, special learning or behavioural support needs with allocation of additional staffing as identified.
8. Park-specific hazards e.g. those arising from operating in unsuitable places such as steep river banks, deep water and drowning, or using playground equipment in inappropriate ways, or climbing on the castle ruins.	8. Children to appropriately briefed on nature of the hazards and how to stay safe. Staff should have access to "Group Safety at Water Margins" (DfES/CCPR 2005) Close staff supervision