



Risk Assessment: Swimming Pool Visits

Assessment to be agreed and signed for by:

Position:

Date:

| What task, activity or environment is being assessed? | What hazards or dangers? | Who or What is affected? | Degree to potential injury? | Existing controls to either eliminate or reduce the risk of an accident happening. | Probability of an accident happening? | What is the risk factor? |
|---|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Swimming Pool Visits | 1.Supervision | Pupils, staff, volunteers & the public | Serious - Fatal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person should be designated as the party leader. • Same gender supervision must be available when pupils are using the changing room facilities. • Adequate life-saving cover must be available to the user group. This would consist of a suitably trained lifeguard or Pool Attendant to guarantee the safe retrieval of pupils/staff from the water in an emergency situation. • Pupils are regularly assessed on ability to see what areas of the pool are safe for them to use. • No member of the party must swim or attempt to swim in water whose depth is deeper than what they can confidently stand up in. They must be capable and well supervised to go into deep water. • A regular head count is made of pupil/staff numbers • All adult helpers having unsupervised access to participants during changing times | Possible | Medium Risk |

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| | | | | or swimming must be CRB checked. | | |
| | 2. Drowning or serious injury due to slipping, pushing & horseplay | Pupils, staff, volunteers & the public. | Serious – Fatal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils are given instructions as to what level of behaviour is expected. Rules of the pool and warning signs must be clearly communicated to all in the group. I.e. No Diving, No Unauthorised floats, No eating or drinking and No “Bombing” (jumping in the pool curled up like a ball) The pool must be kept clear at all times. Equipment such as floatation aids, life saving equipment and lane markers should be stored appropriately ensuring safe access and egress is available from the water. Pupils must not run around the perimeter of the pool. Pupils are assessed on ability to see what areas of the pool are safe for them to use. Anyone exhibiting poor behaviour is told to sit out. | Possible | Medium Risk |
| | 3. Water Clarity. | Users of the Pool | Minor Injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water temperature must be comfortable to pool users. Any reaction to excessive irritant in the water must be reported to the pool manager. Party leader must ensure that the chemical balance in the pool is appropriate and safe for use. Water that is or appears to be discoloured should be checked by a competent person prior to anyone entering the water to clarify that it is safe to use. | Possible | Medium Risk |
| | 4. Bad or antisocial behaviour | Pupils, staff & members of the public. | Minor injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool manager should ensure that overcrowding does not take place when young children are using the pool. Pool attendants should make it clear to anyone acting in an anti-social manner that it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. | Possible | Medium Risk |
| | 5. Pupils | Pupils & Staff | Minor injury, panic/trauma. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A map/layout of the pool should be obtained by the party leader prior to making the booking to plan | Possible | Medium Risk |

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| | getting lost/ separated | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rendezvous areas, first aid provision, vehicle parking and public telephones. • A “Buddy” system is used so pupils do not wander off alone | | |
| | 6. Injury & accidents | Pupils, staff & the public | Serious injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each adult should be aware of the emergency telephone numbers, medical information and rendezvous areas. • Life belts etc must be readily available at all times • Pupils/staff are briefed as to what to do if they get into difficulties, get lost or an emergency arises. • Staff should have the means of contacting the emergency services in case of an emergency. • First aid provision should be known to staff. • The party leader must have the appropriate first aid knowledge | Possible | Medium Risk |
| | 7. Abuse, Bullying or Harassment | Pupils & Staff | Minor injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pupils should report any unwanted attention from members of the public immediately to the supervising members of the party. • Pupils must not be left alone in the changing room facilities • Staff should be aware of the possibility of interference from members of the public during visits. | Possible | Low Risk |
| | 8. Sump outlet pipes. | Pupils | Serious injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those responsible for the management of the pool should ensure that outlet pipes at the bottom of polls are securely fastened. • Holes in grilles should not be large enough for children’s fingers to become trapped. • Any group using a municipal, private or other pool are advised to obtain assurance that appropriate action has been taken as grilles have been known to entrap long hair (swimming hats are the surest | Possible | Medium Risk |



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| | | | | • protection) | | |
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| Section 2 – Action Plan for further controls | | | | |
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| Hazard needing further control? | Additional precautions needed to eliminate or reduce the hazard to at least a Medium Risk or ideally a Low Risk | Who is responsible for implementing these controls? | When are these controls to be implemented? | When were these controls implemented? |
| 1. Inadequate Supervision. | <p>With respect to age, ability and pupil’s numbers, ensure sufficient competent staff accompanies the visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure supervisors & helpers understand their roles and are fully briefed on what actions are required in the event of an emergency. • The ratio of adults to pupils for ages 5-8 should be 1 to 8. For ages 8-11 the ratio should be 1 to 12. • Additional supervision may be required when the school is sharing a facility with others (i.e. the public) and when the pool is an open air outside provision. • Additional help may be necessary to supervise pupils not swimming or leaving the water early. • Parent helpers/adult volunteers should follow the instructions of the party leader at all times. | Party Leader & Supervising Staff | (Prior to visit) | |
| 6. Injury & Accidents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead teacher must ensure a full briefing is undertaken just prior to the visit taking place outlining safety requirements and constraints. • Be aware of safety factors that could lead to unexpected illness/incident, i.e. sudden immersion into cold water triggering an Asthma attack, an allergic reaction to chemicals in the pool. | Party Leader & Supervising Staff | (Prior to visit) | |

All risk assessments are reviewed annually in September