

Leeson House and Dorset Council's Outdoor Education Service uses the National Guidance from OEAP (www.oeapng.info) and the SAGE framework to determine ratios and effective supervision. Ratios and effective supervision must be discussed during the planning stage with reference to the specific location and activity risk assessments.

Activity: The River Piddle Study at Piddletrenthide First School, Backwater Lane Puddletown, Turners Puddle Ford and West Mills

Risk Assessment Completed By: Matt Smith and Mike Gould

Date: January 2024
Reviewed: January 2025

See General Off-Site Risk Assessment

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| 1 | Remote locations | Illness / accident in a remote location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader must be familiar with nature of the area under the prevailing conditions and choose working areas and activities appropriate to the conditions and group See SAGE guidance and 'Environment and Staffing' |
| 2 | Weather / Exposure | Sun burn/stroke/hyperthermia Wet/cold/hypothermia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the group is adequately equipped and that a weather forecast is obtained. Brief pupils beforehand regarding appropriate clothing and / or sun protection Remind students to drink plenty of water. Consider carrying extra water if the conditions dictate. Carry group shelter / emergency bag / sun cream / spare waterproofs and layers as appropriate Be prepared to change plans if area chosen is overly exposed to the wind / weather. |
| 3 | Slips, trips and falls | Inadequate clothing and footwear for conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief pupils to take care descending paths especially where loose gravel and stones are present Make sure that students are wearing footwear appropriate for location and conditions, e.g., not sliders or sandals/flip flops. |
| 4 | Traffic in car parks and on roads. Road crossings. | Traffic in car park areas and on roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief group members about the traffic in car parks and on roads Brief group on how to cross roads appropriately. |
| 5 | Members of general public / Abduction / Getting lost | The locations can be busy, and it may be difficult to keep close watch on a group of students. Being polite and courteous if interacting with members of the public. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief pupils to remain in groups at all times, ensure each group has mobile phone. Groups to be given a Leeson House phone number in case of emergency and / or a school staff contact number. Give clear instructions as to meeting points and times. Make sure that groups know where the emergency meeting point is. Remind groups to be polite and courteous at all times in the locations, especially important if groups are doing questionnaires or surveys. Leeson House staff to have had training on de-escalation. |
| 6 | Horses and dogs | There can be horses present at West Mills who can be a nuisance to groups. Lots of dog walkers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to carry dipping nets to help ward off the horses if they approach too closely, keep group calm, single file with staff to supervise and reassure pupils if required, avoid giving the horses any food Brief pupils to be calm if approached by dogs. Use net if necessary and ask owners to intervene. |
| 7 | River banks | The river banks are undercut in some places at all sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the banks immediately on arrival and mark out safe areas for pupils to work using a throwline |

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| 8 | River bed at all sites | Sharp stones – flints and possible rubbish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show groups the safest places to get in and out of the river All pupils working in the river MUST have some form of footwear on. |
| 9 | Water / currents etc, | Deeper channels in places | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that all staff leading work at these sites are familiar with them and know the characteristics of the river fully. LH staff to carry a throwline Show groups where the deep areas of the river are and warn them not to enter them. Use markers, such as rucksacks, to showcase this. |
| 10 | Disease | Lymes Disease, Weils Disease and encephalitis Dirty water on hands whilst eating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief pupils and staff on procedure for checking for ticks and advise to wear long sleeved trousers and t-shirts REFER TO SEPARATE GUIDELINES FOR LYMES DISEASE AND ENCEPHALITIS Carry anti-bacterial hand gel and use after each site Encourage groups to thoroughly wash their hands before eating food Encourage groups to seek medical attention if symptoms arrive after the fieldtrip has taken place. |
| Emergency | | <p>See General Off-Site Risk Assessment Emergency Procedures Landline and first aid available at Piddletrenthide First School Good mobile signal at Puddletown Limited mobile signal at Turners Puddle – nearest landline in Bere Regis Good signal at West Mills Police/Ambulance/Coastguard – 999 or 112 Leeson House – 01929 422126</p> | |
| THROWLINE | | ALL GROUPS WORKING ON THE RIVER PIDDLE MUST CARRY A THROWLINE, AND STAFF MUST BE BRIEFED ON HOW TO USE IT IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION | |