

## Safeguarding and Prevention of Accidents on Educational, Community or Sport related Visits

This briefing which has links to national guidance, is related to organisations which take children or adults with care and support needs on events, trips, holidays or other experiences. The types of organisations this may relate to might include, but is not limited to, educational establishments, sports organisations, faith organisations or community groups. This guidance can be used by parents, carers, or organisations themselves.

Following the tragic death of a 16 year old boy in 2018 whilst on an education visit, it was deemed by the coroner that there was insufficient planning, and supervision from staff or volunteers. It was identified that organisations may not understand, or adhere to regulations, guidance or principles about how to effectively safeguard young people in their care whilst on residential and education visits.

This briefing aims to provide important links to information for organisations to consider when planning activities and visits with children and young people or adults with care and support needs.

It is essential that appropriate planning, and risk assessments are in place for any activity, event or trip. In this instance, the risk was around activities near water, but this guidance provides links which address any risks.

The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel have produced some [National Guidance](#) which contains a wealth of information to consider before planning any outdoor visit. A particular section of this around Natural Water Bathing states:

There must be sufficient leaders to supervise the planned activity, and they must be appropriately competent to do so. Appropriate competence means being able to deal with the worst-case scenario in the chosen environment. For example, when paddling or cooling off in contained shallow waters, or at a beach when the sea is calm and there is no risk of anyone getting out of their depth or encountering currents or underwater hazards, this may simply mean being alert and having a suitable first aid qualification. When close to or entering a swiftly flowing stream or river, a leader may require experience and skills in white water safety and rescue. When it is possible for someone to get out of their depth, then 'in-water' lifesaving skills may be required.

Therefore:

- A leader supervising participants entering, or at risk of entering, swift water should be approved as competent in white water safety and rescue;
- A leader supervising participants swimming out of their depth and beyond reach from the bank/shore should be approved as a competent life saver, and apply rigorous boundary conditions;

- Such leaders should hold either an appropriate qualification or a statement of competence signed off by a competent technical adviser – see OEAP National Guidance document 3.2d “Approval of Leaders”

The OEAP also has guidance for

- | [4.2b Residentials](#)
- | [7.1a Adventure activities](#)
- | [7.1b Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions](#)
- | [7.1c Collaborative Provision](#)
- | [7.1d Trampoline Parks](#)
- | [7.1f Exchanges and homestays](#)
- | [7.1g Farm visits](#)
- | [7.1h Field studies](#)
- | [7.1k Unaccompanied Expeditions](#)
- | [7.1L Camping](#)
- | [7.1m Places of Worship](#)
- | [7.1n Museums, Galleries and Heritage Sites](#)
- | [7.1o Natural Water Bathing](#)
- | [7.1q Overseas expeditions](#)
- | [7.1r Overseas Visits](#)
- | [7.1s Hosting a Homestay](#)
- | [7.1t Provider-led study and sports tours](#)
- | [7.1u Woodland Activities](#)
- | [7.1v Snowsport visits](#)
- | [7.1x Swimming pools](#)
- | [7.1y Using Armed Services Providers](#)
- | [7.1z Visitor attractions](#)
- | [7m Heritage visits](#)

The Royal Society for the prevention of accidents has also produced some [guidance for schools and colleges](#) who are planning Outdoor Adventurous Activities.

Other useful links:

[Key Roles, Responsibilities and Checklists](#)

[Risk Assessments](#)

[DBS checks for staff](#)

[Guide for Parents](#)

[Safeguarding Advice](#)

[Working with Adults](#)

[Outdoor Swimming](#)