

## Risk Assessment: Educational activities for schools and groups

**Department:** Farm  
**Assessed by:** FVD  
**Reviewed By:** DM/BM

**Location:** RBC Farm  
**Date Last Assessed & updated:** 14/02/2023

**Other Information:** Pre-booked educational activities led by RBC staff, in designated areas. Safety briefing given at start of activity. Animal Contact Advice given prior and on day of visit to group leaders.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION:** Nearest hospital: William Harvey Hospital Ashford. Kennington Rd, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 OLZ

Probability: 1 = unlikely, 2 = probable, 3 = very likely.				Severity: 1 = minor, 2 = hospital, 3 = fatal		
Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Probable Frequency	Severity	Analysis	Proposed action
General hazards						
Slips /trips & falls	Injury	Group/Visitors Staff	1	1	1	Verbal warning. No running. Appropriate footwear. Adult supervision.
Adverse weather conditions	Sun burn, Heat stroke, Hypothermia.	Group/Visitors Staff	1	2	2	Advised to wear appropriate clothing - sunhats if warm, waterproofs if wet etc. Activity may be suspended in adverse weather conditions.
Contact with animals	Direct and indirect contact with animals poses a risk of injury or infection such as E-coli O157.	Group/Visitors Staff	1	3	3	All participants advised to wash hands (hand washing facilities at various locations around site) immediately after session, touching animals and before eating or drinking. Advised to follow Animal Contact Advice (displayed around site and sheet given to group leader prior to visit and on day of visit)

Nature Activities: Bug Hunting & Pond Dipping						
Use of equipment including sweep nets, dipping nets.	Knocks from handles/ heads when working in close proximity to one another. Trapping fingers. Injury to fingers and eyes.	Group/ Visitors Staff	2	1	2	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Warn to take care and be aware of who is around them/near when using equipment. Adult supervision. Limit number of people using nets at any one time. Organise groups; small groups only, provide space at dipping/sweep area and alternate turns. Warn to take care when closing lids.
Insect bites (including Greater Water Boatmen) & stings/plant stings (nettles) /thorns.	Injury Potential to lead to Anaphylactic shock	Group/ Visitors Staff	1	2	2	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Advise to wear long sleeves & trousers/ wellington boots/ stout shoes. Awareness of allergy needs to be known/ informed. Appropriate medication to be carried by allergic individual / accompanying adult. Appropriate first aid cover. Advised to be careful when looking for bugs. Adult supervision. Warn that some minibeasts may bite if touched - use equipment if necessary.
Ticks	Lyme's disease	Staff Group/ Visitors	1	2	2	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Staff to notify visiting group if they find any ticks in the grass. Group told to stay on mown paths and avoid long grass. Adult supervision
Rolling and turning logs or stones on to feet/ trapped fingers.	Injury	Group/ Visitors Staff	2	1	2	Adult supervision. Appropriate footwear. Safety briefing given at start of activity. First Aid trained staff on hand.
Disease from soil	Injury Sickness	Group/ Visitors Staff	1	3	3	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Avoid hand contact with face prior to handwashing. Children advised to wash hands before eating and at end of the day. Open wounds covered.

# SCHOOL VISITS

Activity is close to deep water. Water is approx. 1 metre – sufficient to drown.	Falling in to lake/ponds Drowning Shock Hypothermia	Staff Group/ Visitors	1	3	3	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Only dip from platform (has non slip decking), tell children to kneel when dipping behind safety railing and no leaning. Supervise activity and restrict numbers on platform at any one time – no more than 2 children. Area containing pond is fenced and gated to prevent unauthorised entrance.
Slippery surfaces	Slipping / falling into lake/ ponds	Staff Group/ Visitors	1	2	2	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Verbal warning. Supervision. Advise no running. If ground too slippery, activity will be suspended/cancelled. Platform has non slip decking.
Pond water Very low risk, not fed by any flowing water.	Potential infection from Weil's disease/ Leptospirosis via open cuts or putting hands in mouth during dipping.	Staff Group/ Visitors	1	3	3	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Verbal warning of dangers of pond water at start of activity. Warn not to put fingers in mouths whilst dipping. Cover fresh/open cuts with 'micro-pore' tape or non-allergic disposable gloves before dipping. Wash hands before eating / at end session Pest Control on site.
Animal Faces -activity using craft materials						
Use of equipment and materials including scissors and glue, paper cuts.	Injury	Staff Group/ Visitors	1	1	1	Activity closely supervised. Avoid use of sharps where possible and ensure sharps in use are returned to safe store and not left out when unattended. Use child's safety scissors and child safe glue.
Animal Talks						

Touching and handling a variety of animals	<p>Injury</p> <p>Disease</p> <p>Allergy- Potential to lead to Anaphylactic shock</p> <p>Infection</p>	Staff Group/Visitors	1	2	2	<p>Safety briefing given at start of activity. Talk is led by experienced staff.</p> <p>Careful selection of animal used, any animal that is thought to present a risk at any time will be withdraw from the session and not used.</p> <p>Direct and indirect contact with animals pose a risk of infection such as E-coli O157. All participants advised to wash hands immediately after session, touching animals and before eating or drinking. Advised to follow Animal Contact Advice (displayed around site and sheet given to group leader prior to visit and on day of visit).</p> <p>Awareness of allergy needs to be known/ informed. Appropriate medication to be carried by allergic individual / accompanying adult.</p>
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