

Urban Pursuit

Policy name: Risk Assessments	
Reviewed by Operations Manager: Dan Fell	
Last reviewed: Sep 2022	Next review due: Sep 2025

Policies are reviewed every 3 years as standard.

INTRODUCTION

This policy applies to all Urban Pursuit educational operations.

The aim of the policy is to set out Urban Pursuit's approach to risk assessment. Risk assessments will apply to activities, locations, and individuals.

OUR COMMITMENT TO RISK ASSESSMENT

Urban Pursuit uses adventurous activities and adrenaline sports for the core of its educational work. We value an appropriate level of risk within our work, for example, to support young people in determining their own boundaries and overcoming their fears. We also take our responsibility seriously to ensure that due diligence is taken regarding the safety of the young people we work at Urban Pursuit, as well as our staff and our reputation.

All of our activities fall within a risk assessment, either: 1) Low-level, everyday risks, which are covered within our Standard Operating Procedures, 2) Activities run by Urban Pursuit ('in-house' activities) which are individually risk-assessed by us, 3) Activities run by external providers ('out-of-house' activities) which have risk assessments written by the provider themselves.

ACTIVITIES AND LOCATIONS

All activities that we carry out in-house are to be risk assessed prior to an activity taking place. All activities provided by third party partner organisations are required to submit risk assessments to Urban Pursuit prior to activities taking place.

Risk assessments are stored electronically on a shared, secure, computer network. One file is created per activity and review dates are included in the file name. Risk Assessments have a 3-year review cycle. All operations staff have access to this computer network and are expected to familiarise the specific Risk Assessments before conducting an activity and to adhere fully to all control measures set out in the document during the running of the activity. Staff responsibilities regarding Risk Assessment familiarity and adherence are set out in our Staff Handbook which is issued to staff when they start work and updated as necessary.

All Risk Assessments have both a 'static' dimension, as outlined in the Risk Assessment document, and a 'dynamic' element. Dynamic elements shall be addressed during activity-specific staff training. Dynamic Risk Assessment is the on-going assessment of risks as posed by the environment/situation during the activity itself. For example, a tree may have fallen overnight prior to a mountain bike ride in the woods – staff are expected to be on the look out for risks that could not have been foreseen in the 'static' document.

During the review of our Risk Assessments, if a risk is deemed to be very mild (as measured by a low/medium level of likelihood and or a low/medium level of severity in more traditional risk assessment practices), we do not include these in the document but all are assumed in our ethos of acting reasonably with a 'loco-parentis' approach. If a risk is deemed too high (high likelihood and/or high severity), these risks are not included in the document either, we simply do not carry out the activity. Therefore all risks/hazards fall in the 'medium' risk categories as might have been found in a more traditional Risk Assessment document.

Locations

At the foot of each Risk Assessment (one for each activity), is a 'Site Specific Risks' section. This section details further risks identified at particular sites/locations we use for the activity. Again, these risks and their associated control measures are recorded in a two-column format.

INDIVIDUALS

Some of the individual children we work with have an 'Individual Risk Assessment' because of the nature of their behaviour traits. When students are admitted to the program, we work closely with schools and other referring organisations to establish whether an Individual Risk Assessment is already in place or indeed needed. If applicable, we acquire/create this Risk Assessment and hold the details on file. Staff are made aware of the individual needs of the students they work with and this includes information regarding Individual Risk Assessments.