

## Hazardous Pursuits

### School Advice Note

1. Adventure activities are generally defined in the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 1996 as caving, climbing, trekking or water sports. The Regulations further define these four activities in detail. There are other activities that could be defined as adventure activities, which are not covered by the Regulations. Similar activities provided by voluntary organisations are also sometimes not covered by the Regulations.
2. The Regulations require, with some exceptions, persons who provide adventure activities to be licensed and comply with strict safety standards. Where this authority has responsibility, whether or not an activity may be strictly defined in the Regulations as being an adventure activity, or whether or not it is being provided by a voluntary organisation, it is essential, that it is undertaken in the spirit of the legislation.

### Vetting of Adventure Activities

3. The City Council subscribes to an information and vetting service of adventure activities based in the Hampshire County Council (HCC) Children Services Department. The Section which provides this service is called The Outdoor Education, PE and Sport. For further information visit [EVOLVE - Hampshire County Council](#)
4. No Education employee must arrange for any adventure activity to take place, or send any person on an adventure activity, without being satisfied that the activity has been vetted by The HCC Outdoor Education, PE and Sport and they have given approval to the activity and the person or organisation running it.

### Principal Safety Criteria

5. The principal safety criteria that providers of adventure activities must meet are that they shall maintain suitable and sufficient arrangements:
  - 5.1. For the appointment of a sufficient number of competent and adequately qualified instructors;
  - 5.2. For the giving of safety information to instructors and participants;
  - 5.3. For the provision of such equipment as is needed to ensure that the activities are carried out safely;

- 5.4. For the maintenance of that equipment in an efficient state and in good repair;
  - 5.5. For the provision of first aid, for the summoning of medical and rescue services in the event of an emergency, and for otherwise dealing with an emergency.
6. It is also important that they can produce risk assessments and written safety procedures. Insurance arrangements should also be adequate.

### **Further Advice**

7. Hampshire County Council's publication - Safety in Hazardous Pursuits (Regulations and Guidance notes), that is provided to Southampton City Council Schools as part of our agreement with them, provides detailed information on adventure activities. This should be readily available in Schools, Youth Service and Social Services establishments, as should be a copy of Southampton City Council's agreement with Hampshire County Council with respect to the Outdoor Education, PE and Sport. Please contact **Outdoor Education** Phone 01962 876218 or [outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk), if you require any further information on this matter.
8. Most sports contain an element of danger but the following are regarded as hazardous pursuits for the purpose of obtaining approval from Steve Poynten, County Inspector for Outdoor Education.

### **Land**

9. Expeditions; Mountaineering; Potholing; Archery; Fell Walking; Open Country Activities; Shooting; Camping; Horse Riding; Orienteering; Skiing; Caving; Carting; Rock Climbing; Cycling; Motorcycling; Pony Trekking; Scrambling;

### **Water**

10. Angling; Power Boating; Swimming; Bathing; Rowing; Water Skiing; Board Sailing; Sailing; Sub Aqua and Snorkelling; Canoeing; Surfing;

### **Airborne Pursuits**

11. Ballooning; Flying; Gliding; Parachuting; Parascending;

**N.B.** Hang-gliding and bungee jumping are prohibited activities.

12. Care must be taken to ensure that these activities are closely related to the age, needs and experience of the participants. Leaders should be aware of the capabilities of the group. The pace and endurance of the activity should be governed by the group's weakest member.
13. Where minors (under 18) are involved in such activities parental consent must be obtained. When requested, parents must be provided with full details of an activity. In this it is vital that details of supervision are made clear. Staff must not take responsibility for any activity for which they are not qualified.

14. Further advice can be found in the following publication:

- 14.1. Hampshire County Council Outdoor Education Off-site Activities and Educational Visits Regulations and Guidance (in school) [EVOLVE - Hampshire County Council](#)