

HAZARD: Anything that can cause harm

RISK: The chance, great or small, that someone will be harmed by the hazard

Risk Assessments

- Focus on Significant Hazards
- Only on what may reasonably cause harm
- Ignore the trivial
- Reasonably Foreseeable
- Suitable and sufficient, not perfect
- Keep a written record
- Keep them simple and understandable
- Somebody should monitor what goes on
- Involve other people when R/Assessing
- Visiting the venue before the event may help

The 'Official' HSE 5 Steps

- Look for the Hazards
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Evaluate the risks
 - Existing precautions adequate?
 - Should more be done?
- Record your findings
- Review your risk assessment Revise if necessary

Types of Risk Assessments

- Generic
- Specific
- Ongoing / Dynamic

Who might be affected?

- Me!
- Staff
- Pupils
- General public
- Other parties sharing the venue

Risk Assessing Educational Visits

What do I need to think about?

- The activity
- The venue
- Previous experience
- The pupils
- Downtime activities
- Environmental factors
 - Time of year
 - Hours of Daylight
 - Tides / water levels
 - Extremes of weather
- PPE or other equipment
- Ethical or religious issues
- Medical, behavioural or special needs
- Communications
- Why are we doing this?

Example control measures

- The right person doing the the right thing at the right time with the right people in the right place!
- Competent leaders
- Effective instructions / communication
- Planning visit prior to the day
- Effective supervision
- Experience level of participants
- Clothing and equipment - fit for purpose

Example Hazards

- Falls from height
- Falling objects
- Water, drowning
- Temperature changes
- Inclement weather conditions
- Fire
- Chemicals
- Traffic, transport
- Trips or slips
- Unwanted contact with strangers
- Violence
- Medical emergencies
- Alcohol, drugs, substance abuse
- Pollution, waste, debris

Remember; Never forget the benefits and value of off site activities!

PANIC: A sudden or excessive feeling of alarm or fear, usually affecting a body of persons, and leading to extravagant or injudicious efforts to secure safety (Shorter OED 1965)

Current good practice is to involve pupils in Risk Assessment - increasing reference to this at all key stages

