

# ALDRO



## Risk Assessment Policy 16a

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## **RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY**

### **SCOPE**

This guidance is applicable to all those with responsibility for developing/implementing risk management strategy and undertaking risk assessments for activities which are under their control. This includes requirements of the Independent Schools Standards Regulations (ISSRs) 2014 and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding.

### **WHAT IS A RISK ASSESSMENT?**

A risk assessment is a tool for conducting a formal examination of the harm or hazard to people (or an organisation) that could result from a particular activity or situation.

- A hazard is something with the potential to cause harm
- A risk is an evaluation of the probability (or likelihood) of the hazard occurring
- A risk assessment is the resulting assessment of the severity of the outcome (e.g. loss of life, destruction of property)
- Risk control measures are the measures and procedures that are put in place in order to minimise the consequences of unfettered risk (e.g. staff training, clear work procedures, preliminary visits, warning signs, barriers and insurance).

Risk assessments can be used to identify the potential hazards to people (slipping, falling), property (fire), strategic (reputation, loss of pupils, impact on development), financial (falling pupil rolls), compliance (child protection issues) and environmental (asbestos, legionella).

### **WHY HAVE RISK ASSESSMENTS?**

The obvious answer is that risk assessments are a legal requirement. ISI and Ofsted Inspectors will expect to see examples. But there is logic to this. By focussing on prevention - as opposed to reacting when things go wrong - it is possible to prevent accidents and injuries that could ruin lives, damage reputations and cost money. Preventative measures can often be surprisingly simple and cost-effective, such as the application of hazard warning tape to a trip hazard, or ensuring that chemicals are properly stored in locked containers.

### **WHAT AREAS REQUIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS?**

There are numerous activities carried out in Aldro, each of which requires its own separate risk assessment. The most important of these cover:

- Fire safety, procedures and risk assessments
- Educational visits and trips

Separate model policies cover each of the areas mentioned above. However, risk assessments are also needed for many other areas, including:

## **Educational**

- Science experiments
- Design and Technology
- Food Technology
- Each sport and PE activity
- Art (including the clay and print studios)
- Music (including minimising the risk of hearing loss to staff)
- Drama (including the theatre back stage, stage, props room and lighting box)

At Aldro we make use of model or generic risk assessments, for our educational activities and visits. We subscribe to the CLEAPSS Advisory Service that provides model risk assessments for our lessons in Science and Design and Technology. We provide professional training courses for both teachers and technicians who work in Science and D&T. All teaching staff and technicians receive regular induction and refresher training in risk assessments tailored to their specific areas through our agreement with the Culham Consultancy.

## **Pastoral**

The focus of our Healthcare and Pastoral Policy (13b) is to ensure that every pupil leaves as a confident, articulate young adult capable of keeping him/herself safe on the streets, in the home and in all situations. Our PSHE and SMSC programmes and Assemblies are directed towards promoting an increasing understanding as the pupil develops, of the risks that exist in both the real and the electronic worlds, and on sensible precautions that should be taken. Our Science lessons encourage students to conduct their own safety-related research into the potential hazards of chemicals, gas, electricity and flammable materials.

## **Medical and First Aid**

The Medical area has risk assessments for first aid and all other treatments and procedures. The accident forms are maintained in the Medical Area and the School Nurse is responsible for ensuring that accident reports are passed to the Bursar, and the Health and Safety Committee. In the event of a medical emergency the patient will be assessed in the first instance by either a health professional or a trained first aider.

## **Safe guarding**

Our Safeguarding policies and training for all staff form the core of our child protection risk management. Safer recruitment policies and procedures ensure that the school is not exposed to the risk of employing staff who are barred from working with children, and are not allowed to work in the UK. By extending this regime to Governors, volunteers and the adult members of the families of staff who are accommodated on site, and by ensuring that everyone in our community receives regular child protection training, we manage this risk to an acceptable level.

## **Support Areas**

- Catering and Cleaning: risk assessments and training are required for every item of catering and cleaning equipment, as well as for manual handling, slips and trips and the

control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH). Induction and refresher training covers risk assessments, protective equipment and safety notices.

- Caretaking and Security: risk assessments cover every room, laboratory, stairs, corridor and emergency exit in the entire school, including boarding houses. Particular emphasis in training is given to minimising the risk of both fire and to security by adhering to good practice. Risk assessments also cover manual handling, working at heights, and asbestos. Induction and refresher training covers risk assessments, protective equipment and safety notices.
- Maintenance: risk assessments and training is required for every tool and item of equipment, as well as for manual handling, slips and trips, working at height, lone working, asbestos, control of contractors on site, electricity, gas, water, swimming pool maintenance and the control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH). Induction and refresher training covers risk assessments, safe working practices, communication and health and safety notices and protective equipment.
- Grounds: risk assessments and training is required for every tool and piece of machinery, as well as for manual handling, slips and trips, working at height, lone working, use of pesticides, storage of flammables and COSHH. Induction and refresher training covers risk assessments, protective equipment and safety notices. This is covered by the contracted-in grounds maintenance company.
- Office staff: risk assessments are required for the display screen equipment and cables used by those staff (primarily office-based) who spend the majority of their working day in front of a screen.
- Traffic and pedestrian interaction on site: Pupils are made aware of traffic safety and vehicles are confined to areas of site with minimal pupil interaction.
- Site visitors: All visitors must sign in at reception and be issued with a visitor badge to identify them. They must not be unaccompanied at any time and contractors must be made aware of the asbestos register and any other relevant facts.

### **Access by Pupils**

Risk assessments of all areas of the school reinforce the policy of ensuring that our pupils do not have unsupervised access to potentially dangerous areas, such as the swimming pool, the science laboratories, and the design technology suite. Doors to these areas are kept locked when not in use. Pupils are only allowed access when accompanied by a member of staff. Pupils do not have access to the Grounds Maintenance, Catering or Caretaking working areas in the school.

## CONDUCTING A RISK ASSESSMENT

There are several possible techniques. One model that we use at Aldro, known as the "Traffic Lights Model" is set out below:

Location/ Activity							
Date of Assessment							
Persons at Risk							
HAZARD	SEVERITY	LIKELIHOOD	INITIAL RISK RATING	CONTROL MEASURES	SEVERITY	LIKELIHOOD	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
List each. Carry out actions 2-8 for each hazard	Rate each L-H in ascending order of severity	Rate each L-H in ascending order of likelihood	Take the average of 2-3	List measures to reduce severity for each hazard	Rate each L-H in ascending order of severity	Rate each L-H in ascending order of likelihood	Multiply severity with likelihood

On completion of the risk assessment, the residual risk score is coloured coded as follows:

Red – High (H)

Yellow – Medium (M)

Green – Low (L)

Our policy at Aldro is never to carry out any activity which has a red rating after the risk reduction measures have been put into effect. Activities involving our youngest pupils (Years 3 to 4) will only be carried out if they can be awarded a residual (green) score.

Green activities can be:

- A hazard that is highly likely but is of low residual rating. For example
- The likelihood of a coach in a city being stuck in traffic would be rated as M.
- The severity of leaving teachers, teaching assistants and children waiting outside in hot sun/wet weather for an unknown period of time would be rated as L.
- The initial risk rating would be M (Yellow).

But putting all of the following measures in place reduces its severity to L, leaving a residual risk rating of L (Green):

- Teacher in Charge and Driver are in mobile phone contact
- Staffing ratio is 1: 4 (instead of the normal 1: 6) and supplemented further by parent volunteers
- Teacher in Charge has made a reconnaissance visit, and discovered where the party can wait out of the rain/sun
- Bottled water is carried
- All staff carry visit packs, and can phone the school to advise that there will be a delayed return
- All parents' emergency contact details are available to the School Office, who phones them and explains that the coach has been stuck in traffic; but there is nothing to worry about
- All members of staff had held a meeting to discuss the outing and the risk assessment beforehand

A hazard may be fairly likely and have a low residual rating. For example:

The likelihood of a child falling over and grazing a knee on a walk in the countryside would be rated as M.

The initial severity would be L.

The initial risk rating would be M (Yellow)

But putting the following measures into place reduces the severity to L, leaving a residual risk rating of L (Green):

- Teacher in Charge has First Aid kit
- One member of staff is qualified in Paediatric First Aid
- Teacher in Charge has mobile phone
- All members of staff had held a meeting to discuss the outing and the risk assessment beforehand

A hazard may be very unlikely; but have a high severity rating. For example:

The likelihood of a child going missing on an organised school outing headed by a qualified Teacher, who has been trained in leading visits, and was appropriately staffed would initially be rated as L.

The severity would be M.

The initial risk rating would be M (Yellow).

But putting the following measures into place reduces the likelihood to L, leaving a residual risk rating of L (Green):

- All children have been briefed about the purpose of the visit and the expectations of behaviour
- All children understand where they should go if they accidentally become separated from the rest of the group
- Teacher in Charge and other staff and volunteers carry mobile phones

- Staffing ratio is 1: 4 (instead of the normal 1: 6) and supplemented further by parent volunteers
- Teacher in Charge has made a reconnaissance visit, and planned the route inside the location (e.g. museum) in advance
- Children are divided into groups of 4 each supervised by one member of staff, assisted by a volunteer
- All members of staff had held a meeting to discuss the outing and the risk assessment and the Missing Pupil Policy (7g) beforehand
- All members of staff know what to do in an emergency
- All volunteers have been briefed thoroughly on their respective roles.
- All children are wearing school uniform and are readily identifiable
- Head counts are taken on leaving the classroom, on sitting in the coach, on leaving the activity and on returning to the coach. The coach does not leave until everyone is accounted for.

The three examples quoted above are intended to illustrate that everyday risk assessments for school outings are no more than practical tools that are designed to assist teachers who are in charge of an outing. The following issues can arise, and need to be anticipated in advance:

- What if the coach is delayed?
- What if a child falls over and injures him/herself?
- What if a child goes missing?

However, conducting risk assessments on outings does not require specialist knowledge.

#### Medium Risk Activities

We undertake a few medium risk activities with pupils. Pupils are always given a safety briefing before participating in these activities, and are expected to wear protective equipment, such as mouth-guards, and to follow instructions.

Support staff may carry out medium rated activities if they have been properly trained and work in pairs. All members of staff and pupils are expected to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for tasks that have been assessed as requiring its usage.

#### Specialist Risk Assessments and High Risk Activities

We will always employ specialists to carry out high risk tasks at the school. The Bursar arranges for specialists to carry out the following risk assessments:

- Fire safety
- Asbestos
- Legionella
- Gas safety
- Electrical safety of buildings
- Work at high levels
- Work with lead

## **REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENTS**

All risk assessments should be reviewed annually, or sooner if there are changes to good practice or legislation.

Risk assessments should also be reviewed (and recorded) when major structural work is planned, or in the event of an accident or near miss. The school's arrangements for the management of health and safety should describe the arrangements for regular health and safety audits of the fabric of the school, its plant, machinery and equipment, together with its arrangements for auditing the catering and cleaning functions and for water sampling.

At Aldro we maintain a "library" of risk assessments on our staff intranet for staff to refer to and adapt for their own use.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF**

All members of staff are given a thorough induction into the school's arrangements for risk assessments and health and safety (which is recorded). Specialist training is given to those whose work requires it. However, staff are responsible for taking reasonable care of their own safety, together with that of pupils and visitors. They are responsible for cooperating with the Head Master/Mistress, the Bursar and other members of the SMT in order to enable the Governors to comply with their health and safety duties. Finally, all members of staff are responsible for reporting any risks or defects to the Bursar.

## **ACCIDENT REPORTING**

The Bursar is responsible for reporting and recording any notifiable accident that occurs on school premises to a pupil, member of staff, parent, visitor or contractor to the HSE in accordance with the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR). All notifiable accidents and near misses are reviewed by the school's Health and Safety Committee with a view to assessing whether any measures need to be taken to prevent recurrence.

## **AUDIT COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

An annual SORP compliance risk assessment is presented by the Bursar to the Governors to approve as Trustees of the Charity at the same time that they review the audited accounts. This report analyses:

- The financial procedures and controls
- The major risks to the school, including:
  - Strategic risk
  - Loss of fee income
  - Damage to reputation
  - Failure to teach the correct syllabus



- Risk of a child protection issue
- Gaps in Governor skills
- Conflicts of interest
- Employment disputes
- Major health and safety issues
- Possible data loss
- Risk of fire, flood and land slip
- Poor cash flow management
- Fraud
- Loss through inappropriate investments
- Areas of potential risk

The measures taken to protect the school against such risks, including:

- Safer recruitment of staff, Governors and volunteers
- Measures to ensure the selection, training and appraisal of appropriately qualified staff and Governors
- Insurance
- Strong financial controls that are regularly reviewed
- Financial reserves policy
- Use of professional advice from lawyers, accountants, architects, etc. as needed
- Formal review of compliance with the school's charitable objectives

Governors are invited to approve the compliance risk assessment annually and to endorse the insertion of a statement along the following lines (or a more detailed version thereof) in the school's annual accounts:

“The Board, with particular assistance from a Risk Management Committee chaired by a Governor, the Bursar and other senior staff, continue to keep the School’s activities under review, particularly with regard to any major risks that may arise from time to time as well as the systems and procedures established to manage them. They monitor the effectiveness of the system of internal controls and other viable means, including insurance cover where appropriate, by which those risks already identified can best be mitigated.”