

Risk Assessments - Policy and Procedures

With special consideration for students under 18

Risk assessments are carried out for all students, staff and everyone involved with ELC. Specific considerations are taken into account for students under 18 and risk assessments are drawn up and/or amended as required.

Risk assessments are carried out for all events and situations that might pose a possible risk for staff and/or students. These include;

- travelling to the UK
- travelling to and from school
- risks associated with free time in-school for staff and students
- social programme evening activities and social programme Saturday excursions
- class outings led by a teacher
- Students free time outside school
- Students' accommodation

Risk assessments are also carried out for

- school residential properties (18+)
 - school grounds
 - classrooms
 - other rooms in the school in use by students and staff
 - Our summer centre
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- Risk assessments have primarily been undertaken by Andrew Varney, Social Programme Manager and Ruth Guilfoyle, Health and Safety Officer.
 - All risk assessments are located on the S-Drive in the Risk Assessment Folder.
 - The risk assessments are immediately updated when changes occur and reviewed annually by the Social Programme Manager and the Health and Safety Officer.
 - Any action which may be required to remove or control risks is approved by the Principal and implemented by the Social Programme Manager or Health and Safety Officer.
 - The Principal is responsible for checking that the implemented actions have removed or reduced the risks.

Risk Assessment for the Social Programme

- The school social programme is designed by the Social Programme Manager and is mostly run by ELC Bristol teachers, admin staff and the Social Programme Manager, as part of their contractual obligations to the school. Running the programme in house allows us to maintain a high level of control over any potential risks to our students.
- Each risk assessment for afternoon and evening activities and Saturday excursions has been specially written by the Social Programme Manager for that specific activity well in advance of the activity or excursion taking place. The risk assessment has a simple layout of four columns, which is easy to comprehend, stating the possible hazards, precautions, level of risks and comments. The last column is for the member of staff who is leading the activity to note any additional risks that may have been missed and which should be considered for the next time the activity or excursion takes place.
- Pre-excursion and pre-activity checks are made by the social programme manager to factor in to the risk assessments any last-minute potential new risks which might occur due to such factors as the weather, road works, extra crowds, one-off events taking place (demonstrations) etc.
- Before each activity or excursion a copy of the risk assessment is given to the member of staff leading the activity to make them aware of any possible risks and the preventative measures they should take. They keep this until after the activity, write any comments they have including observations of perceived changes to risks and then return it to the Social Programme Manager signed and dated. The Social Programme Manager then updates the risk assessment accordingly. The signed copy goes in the risk assessment file in the Social Programme Manager's office and is kept for 6 years.
- The social programme mobile phone is taken on all excursions and activities. All the students have the number on their student cards and excursion handouts and students under 18 have it on their wrist band. The social mobile is switched on one hour before an excursion or activity begins and it is on during the activity and for 2 hours after the activity has finished (unless circumstances, eg a lost student, require it to be kept on for longer). At any other time, students can call the ELC emergency number.
- Regarding under-18s, when signing up for a social activity all students have to write their mobile telephone numbers next to their names and indicate if they are under 18. Under-18s are not allowed to sign up for activities where alcohol may be present such as pubs, bars and nightclubs. These activities are not common and are clearly indicated on the Proposed Social Programme handout, on all the posters, and mentioned during Social Programme class visits. When under-18s are allowed to attend the social activity, the member of staff leading the social activity will make sure they know who they are and will keep a close eye on them to check they are ok and behaving in an appropriate manner. Under-18s will be required to wear a wrist band for easy identification.
- Under-18s are able to attend the Welcome Party which is held in the Avon Gorge Hotel. Drink vouchers are given to students, and under-18s are given one specifically for non-alcoholic drinks

only. There is also a very high level of supervision during this event with many ELC Bristol staff present.

Ratio of Staff and Students for Social Programme Activities and Excursions

Type of Activity	Summer Courses	Academic Year
Saturday Excursions	2 supervisors per coach (1 supervisor for 25 students maximum)	1 supervisor per coach (1 supervisor per 49 students maximum)
Activities not involving Alcohol (Cinema/Theatre/Afternoon Tea/Laserfusion/Friday Lunch Club/Bowling/Salsa/American Pool/Watching Cricket, Football & Rugby)	2 supervisors for up to 40 students maximum	Minimum: 1 supervisor for 40 students maximum
Activities involving Alcohol (Pub visits/Karaoke/School Parties/Welcome Drinks/Harbour Cruises)	Minimum: 1 supervisor for up to 20 students maximum	Minimum: 1 supervisor for up to 20 students maximum
Outdoor Physical Activities (Walking Tours/Playing Golf/Street Art Tours/Paintball)	Minimum: 1 supervisor for up to 20 students maximum	Minimum: 1 supervisor for up to 20 students maximum

- These ratios are set by ELC having carried out risk assessments on all activities/excursions and can only be varied in specific circumstances with the agreement of 2 members of the Health and Safety or Safeguarding teams.
- Different ratios are in place for the summer courses and the academic year as there are considerably fewer under 18s in the academic year and also the number of participants is lower.
- Ratios are adjusted if circumstances require it, for example if there are severe weather conditions predicted, a demonstration planned at our destination city, or if we have students with special needs taking part.
- With evening activities where alcohol is available, there is always a higher staff/student ratio. For example, with activities such as visits to the cinema/theatre it is 1 to up to 40. For quiz nights in pubs, it's 1 for up to 20.
- Students under 18 are not allowed on certain activities such as pub tours, wine tasting etc.
- Regarding excursions, during the autumn, winter and spring terms, we have a ratio of 1 supervisor per coach. The 1 supervisor per coach ratio is considered acceptable during the academic year because we always have a more experienced member of staff running the

excursion, usually the Social Programme Manager, the venues we visit are generally less busy than in the summer, and we have very few under-18s. The capacity of a coach is 49 but the average term-time attendance is currently 35 students. During the summer courses, the ratio is 2 supervisors per coach which works out at 1 supervisor per 25 students approximately.

- During the summer courses, the Assistant Social Programme Organiser will have responsibility for taking care of all the under-18s during the day. However, if there are more than 12 under-18s on any particular excursion, we will have two supervisors with special responsibility for the under-18s.
- We always use the same coach company throughout the year. All the drivers have been DBS checked and are first-aid qualified, so when required, they can act as an additional supervisor, for example in case the excursion lead has to remain behind because a student has not returned to the bus by the departure time.

Specialist Qualifications of Staff for Supervision of Excursions and Evening Activities

- All staff supervising activities and excursions have level 1 safeguarding training and usually have a basic knowledge of first aid or are trained in first aid. The majority of activities are of low risk and are in or near a town or city where the emergency services are close by.
- For excursions of higher risk or which are not near a town or city, for example the Gower, at least one member of staff is trained in first aid. Supervisors will always have the address and phone number of the nearest A&E in case of an emergency as this information is always noted in all excursion risk assessments.
- When teachers sign-up for the social programme, they are encouraged to join activities that they have specialist knowledge or interest in. Please see Teacher's sign up policy for more details.

Late Students on the Social Programme

- For legal reasons, coach drivers cannot work for longer than 15 hours without an 8 hour break. In London, this means, with our timings, they are unable to wait more than about half an hour for any late student. Brighton and Cambridge have even stricter time restrictions. The students are warned about this in advance. Students are told if they are over 10 minutes late, the coach will leave without them. In practice, we will, of course, wait as long as possible.
- All students have the social programme phone number and they are encouraged to call at least half an hour before departure if they think they might be lost. The social organiser can then advise what to do. If they are nearby, the supervisor can locate them and bring them to the coach. If they are further away, the supervisor will probably advise them to take a taxi as this will be cheaper and simpler than being late. They also have the option to phone and say that they will make their own way home, unless they are aged under 18 when that is not an option (see section below).

Injuries and Unforeseen Circumstances Resulting in Social Organiser/Supervising Teacher Being Unable to Return with the Coach

- Before the excursion begins the supervisor will take the coach driver's mobile number. If a student has an accident or there is a problem resulting in the Supervisor being unable to meet the students back at the coach, they will inform the coach driver as soon as possible.
- A copy of the list of students on the excursion is left in the coach for the coach driver. He or she will count the students, go through the safety briefing on the microphone, and drop the students off in the three designated drop-off points in Bristol. We always use the same coach company and have regular coach drivers who know the system and have agreed to help in this way if such a situation arises.

Special Considerations for Under-18s on Excursions

- When signing up for an excursion, under-18s are given a flyer with the specific guidelines concerning attendance, lateness, telephones, walking tours and free-time:
- Pre-Departure Checks: The excursion leader must check to see if any under 18s are attending the excursion. S/he should identify them and make sure they have their correct mobile numbers and phones are fully charged and they are wearing their wristbands. If an under 18 student fails to arrive for the Saturday excursion then the excursion leader phones them to check they are ok. If they are unable to contact them or their homestays, or are concerned, then they contact John Duncan (The Principal and ADSL) who will follow up the concern.
- Procedure during excursion: Under-18s must come on the morning walk, which is optional for older students, unless they have made special arrangements which have been agreed in advance. At the end of the walk, around 12.45pm, any under 18s must be told to spend their free time in groups of three. Students are reminded that buying and drinking alcohol is against the law. Under-18s are told not to use buses or the tube. The excursion leader must also arrange a check-in meeting during the afternoon, around 3pm. If under-18s fail to turn up for the check-in meeting, they must be called immediately. Under-18s must also be given the opportunity of staying with the group leader during the afternoon.
- Return journey checks: If an under-18 is late returning to the coach, then the excursion leader is unable to leave them behind. They must wait for them and send the coach back with the rest of the students. In this case, our regular coach drivers, who are all DBS checked, will take charge of returning the students to Bristol. John Duncan must be informed, who can then arrange to meet the coach if necessary. The excursion leader, accompanied by the late student, will then return to Bristol using public transport, which the student will be billed for.

Risk Assessment for Class Outings

Hard copies of these risk assessments can be found in the staffrooms at Pembroke House and Abon House so teachers can easily access them. Digital copies are also stored on the S-Drive.

Risk assessments have been written by the Social Programme Manager for the most popular activities such as visits to the museum, court visits, end-of-term breakfast and coffee in local cafes, and photo trails and surveys, where students interact with members of the public. All teachers wishing to take their class on one of these activities are made aware of the following procedures during their induction, and these instructions are also located in the staffroom folders:

- Before you go on the class outing find a risk assessment for your particular activity e.g. 'Going for coffee'
- Make a copy of the 'master'
- Complete any extra possible hazards and precautions for your specific class or students. For example: Do you have any under 18s? Is your class a very low level so language is an extra barrier? Are there any allergies or other health issues? If you are not walking them to the café, do they know where to go? If you are in any doubt, please consult the Social Programme Manager or the Health and Safety Officer.
- After the class outing look at the risk assessment again and write any comments in the relevant column for any possible hazards that were not previously foreseen.
- Sign and date the risk assessment form and place it back in the file in the plastic sleeve behind the 'master'.
- If there is not a 'master' for your activity take a blank risk assessment form and complete it. Think about all the possible hazards for your students and yourself and what precautions are already in place or can be put in place to prevent them. Again, if you are in any doubt, please consult the Social Programme Manager or the Health and Safety Officer.
- The Social Programme Manager will review the risk assessments at the end of each term and make or amend any of the masters as necessary.
- If a student or member of staff is injured during a school outing this must be written in the accident report file found in the office. See Ruth Guilfoyle/Andrew Varney if you teach in Pembroke or Mark Calland/Andrew Varney if you teach in Abon.

Risk Assessment for Staff and Students in School, School Grounds, Classrooms and other rooms in the School frequently in use by Students and Staff

- As with the risk assessments for the Social Programme, the risk assessments have a simple layout of four columns stating the possible hazards, precautions, level of risks and comments. The last column is for the member of staff to note any additional risks that may have been missed.
- These risk assessments are routinely reviewed and signed off yearly by the Health and Safety Officer and the Principal and updates are made immediately and changes occur.

Risk Assessment for School Residential Properties and Summer Teaching Properties

- Digital copies are stored on the S-Drive. Risk assessments are written for each residential property both owned and rented by the school by the Health and Safety Officer. These risk assessments follow the same format as previous ones with four columns; possible hazards, precautions, level of risks and comments. The last column is for the member of staff to note any additional risks that may have been missed.
- Risk assessments for Goldney Hall Residence and the Summer School are carried out by University of Bristol and Clifton College respectively. Every year we obtain a letter of confirmation from the accommodation provider that all Health and Safety measures are being taken. These risk assessments are annually reviewed by the Health and Safety Officer and the Principal and any additions made to allow for ELCs international students who will not have the same awareness or knowledge of the buildings that year-round residents have.

Risk Assessment Policy for Homestay Properties

- Properties should be located in 'safe' areas (for example not next to Pubs or nightclubs)
- They should have easy access to the school, students should be able to walk there along well-lit pavements and not across the Downs for example
- The property should be well maintained and kept secure
- The kitchen should be kept clean
- All escape routes should be free from encumbrances
- The Homestay Manager is responsible for obtaining and assessing a risk assessment questionnaire from each homestay family which covers basic health and safety and fire information.
- Homestay providers are advised of their responsibility to have a fire risk assessment. These should be reviewed by the homestay family on an annual basis, and updated where appropriate.
- Copies of risk assessments for homestay properties can be found behind the Homestay Manager's desk at Abon. A Master copy is also kept on the S-Drive.

Risk Assessment Policy for Homestay placements

ELC's policy is not to place students under 18 in the same host family as other students if they are of the opposite sex and/or if the other student is over 18. However, as ELC only has a small percentage of students under 18, this may not always be possible. If this is the case, before making such a placement, the homestay manager will carry out a risk assessment taking into consideration such factors as

- the experience of the host
- the layout of the bedrooms – are the rooms near or next to each other or on separate floors for example
- the bathroom arrangements
- the other adults in the house

- whether the homestay has children of their own under 18 living at home
- the age of the other student – there should not be a big difference
- the gender and nationality of the other student. Are they culturally similar or different

This individual risk assessment for each placement of an under 18 with a student of the opposite sex or a student over 18 can be found on the database on the student page in the 'misc' section (HPRA) – Homestay Placement Risk Assessment..

Risk Assessment for under 18s travelling to the UK

Risks include:

- If under 18s arrive at either Heathrow or Gatwick airport, they might not know how to get to the immigration hall.
- The Immigration officer might hold them if he/she is not sure that someone is meeting them at the airport.
- They do not have the correct visa
- There is nobody there to meet them at the airport (for example the transfer driver is held up in traffic).
- There is nobody at home when they arrive at their homestay family

Measures taken to reduce risks:

- Make sure under 18s always carry the ELC emergency phone number with them and that they have a phone which is charged and will operate in the UK and that they know they should phone the ELC emergency number if they have any problems or concerns when they are at the airport.
- The school works with 'Airport Angels' who manage ELC's 'meet and greet' service. Airport Angels staff hold Airside Passes allowing them to go down to the aircraft and assist students in baggage reclaim and immigration when required in both Heathrow and Gatwick airports.
- Make sure the school has the under 18s mobile number before they arrive in the UK and also the under 18s emergency contact number.
- If the under 18s need a visa, the Registrar will double check with the agent before the student arrives that the student has the correct visa if it is to be issued in advance or they are absolutely sure of the what documents they must show the immigration officer.
- When confirming the transfer arrangements for under 18s, ELC staff will also double check that the agent is fully informed about procedures on arrival and in particular the arrangements at Bristol airport.
- Make sure students under 18 always carry their 'Parental consent form to travel to the UK for students under 18'
- Make sure the transfer companies never leave a student at the homestay address without checking there is someone at home to greet them and if there is a problem, they know they have to call the ELC emergency number.

Risk Assessment for under 18s travelling to and from School

Risks include:

Getting lost, road accidents, bicycle accidents, stranger danger, rogue taxis

Measures taken to reduce risks

- The danger of them getting lost is greatest when they have just arrived, so when they arrive, at the weekend, the homestay should show them how to get to school. Probably the student will use google maps on their phones , but if they don't have this, the homestay should give them a map. If possible, the homestay or another student should escort them to school on their first day or if that is not possible, the homestay should advise the school if they have concerns about the student finding their own way.
- Make sure they are aware of road safety in the UK and are familiar with – '**look right, look left, look right again and if the road is clear, cross the road while looking both ways**'. Make sure they know to use zebra crossings whenever possible, particularly when they walk from Pembroke House to the Clifton Summer Centre.
- Ensure they always wear their ELC wrist bands with the ELC emergency telephone number on it.
- Make sure they are given the ELC student card on the first day and that thereafter they always carry it with them.
- Make sure they know to always carry a mobile and that it should be fully charged every morning.
- Make sure they have an English SIM and that the number is known to their homestay family, their own parents and also to the school (it must be on the school database).
- Make sure they know which other students in the school live near their homestay so they can walk home with them in the evenings.
- Make sure they know which taxis they should take and how to call a taxi if they are out.
- If they decide to ride a bicycle in Bristol then they must wear a helmet and they must be fully informed and follow the guidance available on our website for safe cycling in Bristol – student corner/useful information/cycling in Bristol – <http://www.elcbristol.co.uk/uploads/files/Cycling%20in%20Bristol%20safety%20poster.pdf>

Risk Assessment for under 18s during free time

Possible dangers include:

Getting lost, unable to contact the school or their homestay, stranger danger, alcohol, other students being drunk, inappropriate relationship with older student, assault or robbery.

Measures taken to reduce risk:

All those measures mentioned above +

- Make sure they know who the members of ELC's Safeguarding team are and how they can contact them. Make sure they also know the number **999** is for the emergency services.
- Make sure they are fully aware of what time they have to be back home for their dinner in the evenings and what time they have to be back in at night.
- Make sure they know which are the least safe areas of Bristol to visit – the city Centre and Park Street late at night, Stokes Croft, St Pauls, and the Downs after dark
- Make sure they know it is illegal to go into pubs and to drink alcohol anywhere and that they cannot buy cigarettes. Tell them if a student is caught shoplifting, they will be prosecuted and sent home.
- Make sure they know they are not allowed in the residences in the evenings (after 6pm).
- Make sure that when they go on excursions and they have some free time, they always stick with at least 2 other friends and their 2 friends have mobiles and their number is known to the excursion leader
- When they have their meeting with a member of the safeguarding team on day 2 and every week thereafter, make sure we know who their friends are in the school and make a note on the database so that if we cannot track the under 18 we can contact their friends who might know where they are.