

ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES POLICY

Summary Table

Policy Status (circle as appropriate)	Approved and finalised
Responsible Officer	<i>Avril Nicol, Head of Service</i>
Policy Sponsor	<i>Avril Nicol, Head of Service</i>
Authorised by	<i>Education & Children's Services Committee</i>
Approval Date	<i>30 May 2019</i>
Review Date	<i>30 May 2022</i>

1. Policy Statement

Adventurous activities delivered by, or on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council, must operate within agreed Aberdeenshire Council policies and procedures as embedded within the Education and Children's Services document "Procedures for all Off-Site Excursions". All planned adventurous activities must be notified to Aberdeenshire Council's Outdoor & Adventurous Activities Steering Group via the EVOLVE system and should not be authorised or undertaken until a formal response has been received by the Outdoor Excursions Group.

2. Scope of Policy

The organisation, planning, notification and delivery of all adventurous activities delivered by or on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and its Establishments and Services

3. Principles

Aims of Outdoor Learning in Aberdeenshire

- To support and promote the four capacities underpinning the [Curriculum for Excellence](#), namely 'successful learners', 'confident individuals', 'responsible citizens' and 'effective contributors'.
- To promote living, journeying and working together out of doors through a range of activities which provide learning, experience, adventure, challenge and enjoyment.
- To actively promote a greater awareness of the environment and sustainability issues, both local and wide, through educational activities and visits to a variety of natural environments and through taking part in and understanding the impacts of adventurous activities.

Definitions and Terminology

Outdoor Learning:

This is a generic term encompassing many forms of experiential learning out of doors.

Off-site and outdoor learning is defined as:

"Active learning through direct personal experience offering challenge, fun and adventure within a managed framework of safety."

Adventurous Activities:

Activities with a level of perceived risk and for which specialist training and/or qualifications would normally be required to lead them.

This list can never be exhaustive but includes:

- All upland, hill and mountain activities on foot, horseback, bicycle, ski or snowboard.
- All climbing related activities such as rock climbing in and out of doors, deep water traversing, abseiling, improvised Tyrolean traverses, bouldering, bridge swings, bungee jumping, rock hopping, coastal scrambling, etc.
- All watersports and water related activities such as kayaking, open canoeing, rafting, sailing, wind surfing, surfing, water skiing, wave boarding, inflatables, gorge walking, coasteering, fishing and swimming in natural waters.
- Underground activities – caving, mine exploration, pot holing.

4. Index of Documents

Policy

Revision Date	Previous Revision Date	Summary of Changes
30 May 2019	19 September 2013	The contract with Adventure Scotland was terminated. Aberdeenshire Council's Outdoor & Adventurous Activities Steering Group now co-ordinate functions previously contracted to Adventure Scotland.

