



Somers School Camp – Risk Assessment

Activity	ROCK CLIMBING & ABSEILING
School	Somers School Camp
Supervising Staff	All qualified teaching staff
Program	9 Day Network Program
Year Level	Year 5 & 6
Dates	February 2026 to February 2027
Location(s)	Somers School Camp – Somers Campus – Rock Climbing Gym

• **Duty of care - Duty of care obligations require that school personnel take all reasonable steps to protect students from risks likely to cause personal injury that could reasonably have been for-seen.**

Risk Description	Existing Controls	Risk Assessment – with existing controls			
		Effectiveness of existing controls	Risk Consequences	Risk Likelihood	Risk Rating
Describe the risk event, cause/s and consequence/s. For example, <i>Something occurs ... caused by ... leading to ...</i>	Describe any existing policy, procedure, practice or device that acts to minimise the risk				
An accident occurs caused by faulty equipment leading to injury of student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each piece of equipment is regularly inspected to assess condition, and inspection is logged in an equipment register. (Gri Gris, static & dynamic ropes, carabiners, figure 8, helmets, harnesses, anchor points.) Each piece of equipment is logged and recorded. Each piece of equipment is retired when deemed unsuitable by S.S.C staff in accordance to manufacturer's guidelines. All rigging is independently inspected annually. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
While participating in the rock climbing gym a student falls out of the harness leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A teacher correctly fits the child into an approved harness. The harness is thoroughly checked by PS members and adjusted if necessary 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
A student becomes unattached from the climbing/abseil rope leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSC staff inspect all climbing knots prior to each climbing/abseiling session. Students are attached by two figure 8 knots whilst climbing. All new staff participate in a rigorous induction process including correct knot tying. All staff complete 6 monthly training related to setting up abseils and climbs and rescue procedures. Students are constantly supervised by SSC Staff. Abseiling climbs have a back-up safety rope attached to participant. SSC Staff implement a 'cross check' of all abseiling set-up before commencing the activity. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
Unsafe conditions occur during lesson caused by severe weather elements leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.S.C Staff assess weather conditions at the time of the activity. If lightening or severe wind imminent, the abseiling wall will be cleared of students immediately. Assessment of weather conditions by S.S.C staff will be considered following protocols including -DEECD weather warning, SES warning the School Principal instruction and S.S.C staff weather assessment. S.S.C Staff to continually monitor weather throughout activity. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
A student falls off the climbing platforms caused by not being correctly attached to an anchor point or on belay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate supervision in accordance to DET student/ teacher ratios are adhered to. Staff have relevant qualifications necessary to safely instruct the lesson. Visiting teachers are inducted into the process of attaching wall anchors to climbers. Students are instructed to wait at the red step whilst waiting for an abseil. Students receive adequate demonstration, practice and supervision to belay climbers. Students and Visiting teachers are under constant supervision from SSC staff. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium



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A student burns their hands on the rope while abseiling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students are provided with a pair of gloves to protect hands whilst abseiling. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Unlikely	Low																											
A student or staff member catches their hair, clothing or jewellery in equipment, causing injury and distress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will advise participants that jewellery and rings must not be taken or worn and suggest appropriate clothing (both in the pre-activity briefing and before the day of the activity). Staff will ensure that hair, clothing and jewellery are appropriately managed to avoid injury or mishap. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Unlikely	Low																											
<p><u>Supervision-</u> The following table shows the minimum staff-to-student ratios that must be met based on the Adventure Activity Safety Guidelines</p>	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Climbing</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Staff numbers</th> <th>Total students</th> <th>Active climbers</th> <th>Belaying*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>18</td> <td>6</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>22</td> <td>8</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Abseiling</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Staff numbers</th> <th>Student numbers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1–2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Climbing				Staff numbers	Total students	Active climbers	Belaying*	2	12	4	8	3	18	6	12	4	22	8	16	Abseiling		Staff numbers	Student numbers	2	1–2	3	3
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