

## OEAP EG: First Aid

Qualified first aiders may not be necessary for all off-site activities and visits. However, first aid issues for any activity should be considered as part of the risk management process and the exact requirements should be determined by ensuring that first aid support is available at an appropriate level.

What is “appropriate” will be determined by:

- The nature of the activity.
- The nature of the group.
- The likely injuries associated with the activity.
- The extent to which the activity will isolate the group from normal ambulance support, or a known point where a qualified first aider will be available.

A very basic level of first aid support must be available at all times. This will require that one or more of the staff leading the activity:

- Know how to access qualified first aid support.
- Have a working knowledge of simple first aid and are competent to use the first aid materials carried with the group.

Where a group of young people are subject to remote supervision for significant periods of time (as would be the case when involved in a DofE expedition), then the group itself will similarly be in a position where one or more of the young people should:

- Know how to access qualified first aid support.
- Have a working knowledge of first aid and are competent to use the first aid materials carried with the group.

For some activities (most commonly in defined adventure activities) there is a good practice expectation that requires those leading such activities to hold a current first aid “qualification”. To be a “qualification”, the first aid course must include a formalised assessment process; otherwise any certification will have the status of a certificate of attendance. In practical terms, the course will be a minimum of 16 hours.

It is a legal requirement that all minibuses must carry a first aid kit.

Example 1: a walk for 800m to the local library on a footpath adjacent to a public road with ambulance access. The school must have a ‘first aid at work’ first aider; so must the library. The Visit Leader is carrying a mobile phone in an area of good reception. A qualified first aider would be a bonus, but is not required.

Example 2: a walk along a rural footpath path with no vehicular access for c2 miles to a picnic site. Any significant injury here would involve such a time delay in accessing an ambulance as to make it necessary for there to be someone with first aid training and expertise as a member of the group.