essex outdoor Education Service		FORM OV 4 RISK ASSESSMENT FORM (Focus on the things over which you have control) Establishment: Barnes Farm Junior School				
ACTIVITY: Offsite Vis			Ross McTaggart			
Visit Details: Mersea O	utdoors				Date of Visit: 18/05/2015-20/0	05/2015
Assessment by: Ross McTaggart		Date: 26/03/2015		Target Date for review:		
Approved by: Ro	ss McTaggart	Position: Headteacher		Date: 26/03/2015		
Significant Hazards and Associated Risks Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people	Those who might be harmed Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified	Control Measures(CM's): Controls, including relevant sources of guidance (e.g. Generic Risk Assessment, OEAP National Guidance, Guidance from Provider, etc.). Specific CM's not included in the generic RA (e.g. briefings, actions by leaders / participants, qualifications / experience of supervisors)			Additional CM's required? If existing CM's cannot be met or circumstances have changed	Residual Risk Rating (H / M / L)
All accidents	All group members, including leaders	This generic risk assessment will be read in addition to the generic risk assessment "General Considerations"			See also Generic RAs, "Indirect or Remote Supervision", "Swimming in Open Waters" and "Paddling"	
Inappropriate leadership	All group members, including leaders	<ul> <li>The Group Leader will ensure that:</li> <li>all planned venues are pre-visited and individually risk assessed by leader(s) with particular reference to the group involved</li> <li>appropriate local advice (e.g. from coastguard, harbourmaster, lifeguards, tourist information) is obtained prior to the visit and followed</li> <li>a current weather and sea state forecast is obtained on the day of the visit</li> <li>the activity is adapted / changed (plan B or C) or even cancelled/postponed if the forecasts or</li> </ul>			Alternative plans (B and C) are in place and available if conditions are unsuitable	

	<ul> <li>advice suggest that conditions will be unsuitable.</li> <li>leaders and group members are made aware of potential hazards (see below) and corresponding safety precautions</li> <li>the coastguard is informed beforehand of the group's plans, and notified when the group has departed safely</li> <li>"Late Back" arrangements are in place to contact the coastguard if the group, or members of the group, have not returned within a predetermined length of time</li> </ul>
The Sea: rising tides → hypothermia, drowning Unexpected immersion Large / freak waves → swept out to sea → drowning	<ul> <li>All group is briefed and made aware of the following: <ul> <li>tide changes and times, speed of incoming tide (reference markers identified), and factors (e.g. wind) that might affect this</li> <li>areas of the beach / shore that might become cut off, and leave no safe exit route, are avoided</li> <li>any channels on the landward side of the group that may fill up and block safe exits</li> <li>areas of potential soft / sinking sand or mud are identified and avoided</li> </ul> </li> <li>Safe exit routes and timings are planned carefully and all members appropriately briefed, ensuring a wide margin for error</li> <li>Further emergency exit routes are also identified</li> <li>A clear safe base is established on the beach to which members of the group may return if separated</li> <li>Paddling and swimming will only take place when organised according to OEAPNG Guidelines (see generic risk assessment for "Swimming")</li> <li>Group to keep a safe distance from the open sea, especially in stormy conditions, and if waves</li> </ul>
Uneven, unstable or slippery surfaces underfoot (rocky shores, breakwaters etc) $\rightarrow$ slips, trips,	are breaking over rocks       Group leaders to ensure that:         • appropriate footwear is worn       Swimmers to wear wetsuits         • wet, slippery rocks are avoided unless the group is clearly competent enough, and the staff are able to supervise group safely       Swimmers to wear wetsuits

collisions Sharp objects buried in sand, shingle, between rocks etc		<ul> <li>Group members are made aware of:         <ul> <li>particular care needed when stepping or jumping between rocks, especially if covered with seaweed, and are wet</li> <li>care needed on steep shingle beaches or tops of dunes or over mud flats lest the surface moves or collapses unexpectedly</li> <li>potential sharp objects (barnacles, broken shells or glass, rusty metal etc)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Cliffs: falls from height, falling rocks or debris		<ul> <li>Group leaders to ensure that:</li> <li>the group behaves sensibly and carefully near cliffs</li> <li>group members keep a safe distance from cliff edges at all times (a coloured rope between 2 staff may act as an effective temporary marker/barrier on occasion) and the cliff base</li> <li>particular caution is taken near cliffs that are prone to collapse (and especially after periods of heavy rain)</li> <li>scrambling/climbing on cliffs or large rocks is not permitted, unless as part of a planned activity with appropriately qualified instructors</li> <li>steep and/or exposed paths are avoided, especially after rain</li> <li>the group have appropriate footwear with good grip to avoid slips</li> <li>group members do not throw stones</li> <li>activities such as cycling or running near unfenced cliff tops are avoided</li> </ul>	
Weather extremes REVIEWS:	All group members, including leaders	<ul> <li>Weather forecast checked beforehand</li> <li>Protective clothing etc. according to time of year and weather forecast</li> </ul>	