



National  
Guidance  
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## Is a School Responsible for Events Organised by Parents?

Parents often support their children's school by organising and participating in events for educational, social and/or fundraising purposes. Such events include walks, runs, abseils and other challenges (commonly sponsored), visits to places of interest or events such as sporting fixtures, and sometimes camping or other residential events. They are organised in a variety of ways, such as by a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), an individual parent or an informal group of parents.

The organisation, group or individual which organises an event is legally responsible for it. However, the school could also be considered legally responsible if it had been - or should have been - aware of shortcomings which result in children being harmed and had not acted to prevent this.

It is therefore important for the school to have good relationships and communication with the organisers from the beginning so that any concerns are mutually addressed. A clear, shared and acknowledged framework will give the school confidence that the event will be a positive experience for children and adults in their school community. This will include recognition of the responsibilities for supervision and safeguarding, roles and responsibilities, the conduct of participants, parents and volunteers (e.g. around the consumption of alcohol and illegal substances), and good practice in the leadership and management of activities.

If the school becomes unhappy with a proposed event and is not able to correct this, it should advise those involved not to go ahead and withdraw permission for the use of school premises or resources.

For guidance about parents providing transport for visits, see document 4.5c "Transport in Private Cars". For good practice in camping events, see document 7L "Camping".

