



SUBJECT: PARKOUR AWARENESS

RECIPIENTS: All Schools

ISSUE DATE: 15/06/17 REF: HSB85

Parkour (Free Running) is a training discipline using movement that developed from military obstacle course training. Practitioners aim to get from one point to another in a complex environment, without assistive equipment and in the fastest and most efficient way possible. A Lincolnshire School has been the subject of Parkour activities taking place out of school hours on its roof which lends itself to the pursuit through relative ease of access.



Background:

The school became aware that young persons were accessing the school roof out of hours and posting photos on social media of parkour taking place. From images posted on social media, the school and individuals could be identified so that actions can be taken to deter such activities taking place. Images posted on social media showed a young person had climbed approximately ten metres high and was free hanging from the sports hall infrastructure. The young person was not a pupil at the school, however the audience taking photos and posting on social media were pupils from the school.

Ease of access to roofs:



The single largest contributory factor to the above case is the ease at which access to height can be gained by climbing bins, gas housings, gas pipes, canopies and structural braces. Once on the roof, an additional risk of falling through unprotected sky lights and polycarbonate canopy roof sheeting exists too. It is recommended that schools carry out risk assessments for Parkour focusing on out-of-school-hours site security and methods to prevent ease of access to roofs by climbing. Additional risk assessments for fragile roofs and skylights should be considered where appropriate.

If you are aware of Parkour being a known activity in your area, you may wish to consider signposting people to Lincoln-based organised sessions such as the one below:

<http://www.lincsymca.co.uk/the-showroom-lincoln/activity-centre/clubs-activities/>

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk