APPENDIX 5b: RECREATIONAL SWIMMING / NATURAL WATER BATHING GUIDANCE INFORMATION

Heads of Learning Locations (HoLLs) should make visiting leaders & supervisors aware of this guidance information.

The form below should be returned to the HoLL prior to an activity taking place.

Swimming and paddling or otherwise entering the waters of river, canal, sea or lake should never be allowed as an impromptu activity. The pleas of children to be allowed to bathe – because it is hot weather, for example, or after a kayaking exercise - should be resisted where the bathing has not been prepared for. **In-water activities should take place only when a proper risk assessment has been completed and proper measures put in to control the risks. The activities should be formal and supervised.**

It is good practice that, wherever possible, group leaders seek out recognised bathing areas that have official surveillance i.e. qualified lifeguard cover. But, even then, group leaders should be aware that pupils might mingle with members of the public and be lost to view. Pupils should always be in sight and reasonable reach of their supervisors.

Visiting Group leaders should be given a copy of the following guidance OEAP (Outdoor Education Advisors Panel)**:**

- National Guidance 7o Natural Water Bathing
  AND/OR
- National Guidance 7x Swimming Pools

Please confirm that you have received, read and understood this guidance yes / no

That you have undertaken an appropriate risk assessment yes / no

That a copy of the risk assessment is attached yes / no

That you have the permission of parents / guardians and your Head Teacher to supervise swimming whilst at the Learning Location. yes / no

Signed ..... Institution .....

Print ..... Date .....