



National Museum of Rural Life

Risk Assessment Guidance for Schools and other Educational Visits

The National Museum of Rural Life reopened to the public in April 2021, and we are now able to welcome back self-led educational groups. These notes are provided to help educators complete their general risk assessment. There is a separate guidance document dealing with Covid-19.

It is strongly recommended that all educators visit the museum and carry out their own risk assessment before bringing a group here. This document is designed to help group leaders carry out their own risk assessment and should not act as a replacement for a proper assessment.

We ask that pupils visiting in school groups are accompanied at all times during their visit at a ratio of:

1 adult: 5 pupils (under the age of 5)

1 adult: 10 pupils (primary school pupils)

1 adult: 15 pupils (secondary school pupils)

Where pupils require support on a 1:1 ratio, this adult should be included over and above these ratios.

It is essential that all members of your group understand:

- the aims and objectives of the visit
- how to avoid specific dangers and why they should follow rules
- why safety precautions are in place and what standard of behaviour is expected
- who is responsible for the group
- what to do if approached by anyone from outside the group
- what to do if separated from the group

Hazards and risks, and controls in place or recommended

Hazard and risk: uneven ground and flooring – risk of tripping and accidental injury

Controls recommended:

- Learners should walk, and not run, anywhere on the site for individuals with mobility concerns the Farm explorer trailer can provide transportation to the farm and back to the museum
- Fences and barriers should not be climbed or crossed

- Gates should not be climbed over, gates must be closed behind you. If a gate has a warning notice eg not entry at this time, you should wait behind the gate until a member of the team advise that it is safe and they will open the gate for you.

Hazard and risk:

- Learners should not touch animals and ensure good handwashing at the farm

Controls recommended:

- Adult supervision
- No touching or feeding the animals
- Before leaving the farm hand should be washed with soap and water

Hazard and risk: vehicles – risk of being hit by a vehicle. The road by the museum is a public road and vehicles may be travelling at speed.

Controls in place:

- Road markings and signage at courtyard gates and footpath advising public road ahead beware.
- Heavy vehicle signage present on footpath and Tractors in operation signage present at farm steading

Controls recommended:

- Visitors should take the same precautions crossing any road on site as they would in a public place
- Learners must be careful when crossing both roads on the way to the farm. They must look left and right when crossing and take care whilst crossing the roads.

Hazard and risk: Injury on Farm Explorer (tractor trailer) ride

Controls in place:

- Safety briefing delivered by museum staff before group gets onto tractor trailer and visitors supervised getting on and off
- Maximum group size per journey (18)

Controls recommended:

- Ensure all members of group listen carefully to safety briefing and follow instructions given, including remaining seated at all times on the journey and not resting heads against windows
- Eating and drinking is not permitted onboard the Farm Explore