



National Museum of Flight

Risk Assessment Guidance for Schools and other Educational Visits

The National Museum of Flight reopened to the public in April 2021, and we are now able to welcome back 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, risks and controls in place or recommended

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

Controls in place:

- Areas of higher risk have been barriered and/or marked with hazard tape as appropriate

Controls recommended:

- Learners should walk, and not run, anywhere on the site
- Fences and barriers should not be climbed or crossed
- Care should be taken when walking on paths/road and grass and any loose gravel.
- Much of the site is outdoors, so there are uneven roads/paths and uneven grass and care should always be taken.

Hazard and risk: large exhibits e.g. aircraft – risk of climbing and falling, banging heads on low wings etc.

Controls in place:

- Safety barriers in place

Controls recommended:

- Adult supervision where there is direct access e.g., Comet and Jetstream
- Briefing students before they enter spaces to be careful

Hazard and risk: vehicles – risk of being hit by a vehicle

Controls in place:

- 10mph speed limit on site

Controls recommended:

- Visitors should take the same precautions crossing any road on site as they would in a public place
- If walking on roads in “convoy” an adult marshal should lead and another follow up the rear to ensure children do not wander.

Hazard and risk: deep water in Emergency Water Supply Tank – risk of falling and drowning

Controls in place:

- The area is fenced, and the gate locked at all times and warning signage is in place
- Lifebelt is also in place.

Hazard and Risk – use of stairs

Controls in place – Handrails, marked nosings.

Controls recommended:

Various aircraft exhibits have stairs, sometimes made of metal. Care should be taken at all times when ascending and descending stairs. Children should always hold onto the hand rail.

Hazard and risk – Use of Interactives

Controls in place – All interactives are designed to be safe if used in an appropriate manner. Visitors are excluded from moving parts etc for safety purposes.

Controls recommended - when using interactives children should be supervised to ensure they are used in an appropriate fashion and what they were designed for. Do not allow throwing of loose objects like blocks etc, do not throw paper planes at another person and stay behind the launcher when in use. Appropriate numbers of children should use an interactive at any given time (most are 1 to 1) so do not allow several children to sit in a single aircraft seat for example.

Hazard and risk – Use of Assault course - falling from equipment

Controls in place – wide fall areas filled with cushioning bark are employed to break falls if they occur.

Controls recommended - ensure that children are always supervised. Ensure equipment is used appropriately, especially the zip wire.

Note – First aiders are always on site and we also have a fully automatic defibrillator.