



Risk Assessment Guidelines for School Visits 2026

We are happy for you to use the following information to carry out a risk assessment of our site but would like to make it clear that these are guidance notes only. Responsibility for carrying out a full risk assessment for your school's visit to Marwell Wildlife remains with the school and these notes should not be used in place of that assessment.

Hazard	Associated Risk	People at Risk	Hazard Zone	Zoo's Control Measures	Group /Visitor Responsibility
Contact with Zoo Animals	Risk of being bitten.	All	Low risk	Suitably constructed safety barriers. Warning signs. Feeding of animals is prohibited.	Group leaders to make their group aware of risks and supervise at all times.
Slopes, steps, uneven surfaces, wet leaves and mud.	Slips, trips, falls, grazes, sprains	All	Low risk	Disabled access is provided where necessary. Regular maintenance of pathways. Some walkways closed to public in adverse weather.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Zoo vehicles	Risk of accident/ injury	All	Low risk	Minimal use of vehicles during zoo opening hours. Where movement of larger vehicles is unavoidable they will be escorted by walking member of zoo staff	Group leaders to make their group aware of vehicles.
Road train Journeys	Risk of accidental injury	All	Low risk	Rules for riding the train will be stated before the ride by staff (e.g. must remain seated throughout the journey, hands must be kept inside the carriage). Supervision of group in accordance with the recommended ratio is an expectation.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Escape of Zoo Animal	Risk of injury from animal	All	Low risk	Security of enclosures is tightly controlled. Emergency Protocols in place & trained staff on hand. Staff to manage emergencies and to advise guests. Please listen to instructions from Marwell staff.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff

Access to Walk-through enclosures	Risk of animal bite, pecking, scratch, allergic reaction. Exposure to surface contamination. Tripping on uneven walkways (mud or wet leaves).	All	Low risk	Safety signs at entry/exit points to enclosure. No feeding of animals No picnicking inside enclosure. Enclosures cleaned and inspected daily. Hand cleansing facilities available at exit of enclosures. Supervision of some enclosures by volunteers.	Group leaders to make their group aware of the rules.
Anti-social behaviour by visitors. Climbing on, or jumping over railings, fencing, trees, walls, raised walkways, seating, etc	Risk of injury from falling, injury to others	All	Low risk	Safety notices where relevant. Staff monitor and control antisocial behaviour. School groups Yr 11 and below to be under direct supervision (free teacher entry allowed at ratio of 1:3)	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Ponds, lakes and water features	Risk of accidental drowning	All	Low risk	Vegetation and fixed metal/wooden barriers. Warning Deep Water signs. Buoyancy aids.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Raised wooden walkways	Risk of injury from falling, slipping	All	Low risk	Walkway maintained and inspected. Safety notices in place. Anti slip coating in place.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Swings, climbing frames in children's play areas	Risk of falling Equipment failure Head impact injury when entering/exiting tunnels	All	Low risk	Regular maintenance and safety inspections. Ground surface designed to limit injury if fall occurs. Regular safety inspections. IAS meets BS EN 1176 standards	Supervision of children by school appointed staff

Wasp stings	Risk of sting. Allergic reaction to sting Anaphylactic shock (rare)	All	Low risk	Regular removal of waste from bins around catering and picnic facilities. First Aid facilities.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Adverse Weather	Exposure to extremes of weather conditions. Possibly causing sunburn/ Dehydration. Adverse reaction to cold or wet conditions.	All	Low risk	Indoor shelters/areas Freely available potable water. Shaded picnic areas available throughout. Wet weather gear and sun cream available in zoo shop.	Ensure suitable footwear and wet weather clothes and/or protection from the sun are not forgotten.
Heated Tropical House	Heat exhaustion	All	Low risk	Teachers advised to bring water. Cooler temperatures maintained in science room area. Water refilling station at exit of exhibit. First aiders on duty in zoo.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff.
Disorientation	Child becomes lost, may enter out of bounds areas, contact with unknown adult	All	Low risk	Marwell lost child procedure in place.	Correct ratio of adults to children. Regular head counts and supervision of children by school appointed staff.
Potentially poisonous plants in Tropical House	Allergic reaction, gastric upset	All	Low risk	Careful planting to minimise potential of contact	Supervision of children by school appointed staff.
Interactive graphics/interpretation	Trap fingers, injury from walking into protruding objects	All	Low risk		Supervision of children by school appointed staff.