

Risk Assessment Guidelines for S&L Workshops and Home Education events 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
Location Hazards	Injury through collision with obstacles, handling equipment in classroom.	All	Low risk	Good housekeeping maintained at all times. Adult supervision.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Animal Artefacts	Allergic reaction. Risk of infection through pathogen entering body e.g. through open cut or ingestion, if hands not washed.	All	Low risk	Hand washing notices and verbal reminders. Hand sanitiser for use before and after entry (optional) No eating/drinking allowed in classroom.	School appointed staff responsible for; recording known allergies (and phobias) and carrying medication, checking any open wounds are covered.
Step when entering room	Risk of trip injury	All	Low risk	Warning signs. Verbal warning.	Supervision of children by school appointed staff
Rotating activities and props	Increased likelihood of misuse of new equipment/props	All	Low risk	Pre-session check of all equipment Clear brief to visitors if needed Props/artefacts requiring supervision – out of reach or labelled adequately.	Fragile items/ stationery handled only by adults or passed around in controlled manner if participant too young

Crowding, movement and mixed mobility	Increase chance of collision, reduced visibility or overstimulation for neurodivergent participants	All	Low	Clear movement maintained Monitor and regulate numbers through classrooms Quieter breakout space	Maintain adult – child ratios
Buggies, Prams & Storage	Blocked evacuation routes Tripping over stored items	All	Low	Designated buggy parking area outside classrooms Clear signage and verbal reminder Regular check that exits remain unobstructed	Store buggies only in designated areas
Stairs, Seating, and Movement in a Tiered Space	Trips on steps Falls from seating rows Overcrowding at entry/exit	All	Low	Accessible lift available and signposted Lighting maintained during entry/exit Educator positioned to monitor movement	Support children on steps Use lift for prams, mobility needs, or sensory overload Store prams in atrium or outside, away from fire exits
Low Lighting, Sensory Props, Electrical Items	Trips in dim light Overstimulation (sound, light, textures) Electrical hazards from lighting or projectors Small props posing choking risk	All	Low	Low light zones kept clear of obstacles Sensory props risk assessed for size and durability Electrical equipment PAT tested and cables secured Option to reduce sensory intensity if needed	Inform staff of sensory sensitivities Support children in using props safely
Evacuation with Mixed Ages & Buggies	Delays in evacuation Panic or confusion	All	Low	Staff trained in evacuation routes Clear signage Buggies stored away from exits	Follow staff instructions promptly

