

Risk Advice

Educational Visits

The following advice is provided as a guidance tool to highlight some of the potential hazards you could encounter during your school visit. It does not cover every eventuality and should not be used as a full risk assessment. We strongly encourage teachers to carry out their own risk assessments prior to their visit, and provide complimentary admission passes on booking.

LOCATION	HAZARD	REQUIRED CONTROLS	RISK LEVEL
Coach Car Park	Vehicle movements.	Adult supervision. Follow instructions from castle staff.	Low
Ticket Office Area	Vehicle movements. Other visitors possibly blocking visibility.	Adult supervision. Check both directions for traffic. Cross the road with care. Stay in groups.	Medium
Woodland Walk & Cascade Garden	Wooden bridges, without handrails. Wire mesh underfoot. Could become slippery in wet weather.	Use with care, keep hands clear of the gates.	Low
		No leaning through railings. Wire mesh underfoot, but could be slippery in wet weather.	Medium
	Woodland pathways off main footpath.	No running. Cross in single file. Take care in wet conditions. Adult supervision.	Medium
		Watch out for muddy or slippery conditions after rain.	Low
Summer Pavilion	Building closed to public due to unsafe boarding. Steps to veranda closed off.	Adult supervision. Do not permit anyone to climb over the boards onto the veranda.	High
Exiting Woodland Walk onto Main Drive	Vehicle movement in both directions including the Land Train.	Adult supervision. Walk in pairs. Check in all directions for vehicle of Land Train movements.	Medium
Ruined Mill area	Walls above mill race.	Adult supervision. No sitting or climbing on these walls.	High
Drawbridge entrance to Castle	Uneven cobblestones.	Do not run. Take care when walking.	Low
	Parapet walls.	Adult supervision. No sitting or climbing on these walls.	High
	Vehicle movements through gate tunnel.	Look and listen.	Low
Walls surrounding the Castle Island	Steep drop on all sides.	Adult supervision. No climbing on these walls.	High
Approaching Castle entrance	Steep drop from all walls leading to steps down to lower level.	Adult supervision. Do not permit anyone to climb on to any walls.	High
Stone steps leading down to lower level	Steep and uneven steps.	Descend single file. Use handrails. Wait at the bottom until all the group has descended. Adult to descend first.	Medium



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Lower level walk along moat edge.	Pathway runs parallel to moat edge, could be slippery due to wet conditions or bird droppings.	Strict adult supervision. Walk single file. Stay in group and keep to the inner edge. No running or pushing.	High
Final bend on lower level walk, prior to entering the Cellar.	Path narrows at the bend by open water.	Strict adult supervision. Adult to remain on the corner until the group has entered the Cellar.	High
Cellar	Single deep step at Cellar door entrance. Change in light level.	Take care when stepping in.	Medium
	Slope upwards, uneven floor. Wine barrels on either side.	Take care. Adult supervision. Do not let students sit on the barrels.	Low
	Three flights of steep, twisting and uneven stone steps leading upwards from the Cellar into the Heraldry Room in the Castle.	Ascend with care using the handrails provided. Ascend in single file.	Medium
Inside Leeds Castle	Steps down to Lower Bridge Corridor.	Take care when descending. Do not touch the wheelchair hoist.	Low
	Wooden spiral staircase leading to upper floor.	Ascend single file, using rope handrail.	Low
Crossing the Causeway	Vehicle/Land Train movement. Other visitors. Puddles in wet conditions.	Look and listen for traffic. Keep away from edges of the Great Water.	Low
Lady Baillie Garden	Varied levels, terraces and walls. Drop down to Great Water edge.	Adult supervision. Do not climb on terrace walls.	Low
Wildfowl	Birds roaming freely in open areas.	Do not approach wild birds.	Low
Maze	Uneven steps up to the central mound.	Use handrail. No running.	Low
	Steep drop down from walls at the top of the mound.	Adult supervision. No climbing or standing on these walls.	High
Maze Grotto	Uneven surfaces, steep stone steps at entrance and exit. Narrow passageway.	Hold handrails. Do not run/push. Walk single file in passageways and when using steps.	Medium
	Wooden steps at the side of Grotto exit. Slippery in wet conditions.	Move sensibly.	Low
Play areas	Variety of play equipment at different heights and abilities.	Adult supervision. Observe age restrictions of the two play areas.	Medium

