

General Risk Assessment: School Groups

Date: 08/05/2025	Assessed by: Amy McDowall	Checked / Validated* by: Hannah-Lee Chalk	Location: Manchester Museum	Assessment ref no n/a	Review date: 01/08/2026
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Task / premises:
General educational group visit to Manchester Museum, including museum galleries and public spaces.

Activities may include:

- Use of public galleries, shop and other spaces
- Use of public picnic facilities
- Use of public toilets
- Use of quiet room / prayer room

Please note that:
This is an internal risk assessment for the venue only.
It is the responsibility of the school teacher / group leader to carry out a risk assessment for their visit.
School teacher(s) / group leader(s) are in overall charge and must stay with the group at all times: Members of museum staff are facilitators only.
Guidance on recommended ratios for all trips can be found online: <https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/learn/schools/>

Advice for school teacher / group leader that must be noted in advance is highlighted in yellow.

Activity	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing measures to control risk	Risk rating	Result
Attending the museum	Fire risk External threat or major event (e.g. on Oxford Road)	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Injuries caused by fire and smoke inhalation or evacuation procedure	• Trained gallery attendant staff (Visitor Team members) will provide appropriate instructions in case of emergency and will manage any evacuation • Annual fire evacuation practice carried out • Access to fire exits kept clear • Regular removal of combustible waste • Electrical equipment is kept away from combustibles and switched off when not in use • Invacuation procedures are also in place to move visitors to safe areas in the building in the event of a major external incident	Medium	Adequate

Activity	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing measures to control risk	Risk rating	Result
Groups in public spaces	Lost child	Pupils: Safety and safeguarding	- Care and supervision of children is the responsibility of teacher(s) / group leader(s) - Adult to child ratio guidance provided by museum at https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/learn/primary-schools/ and https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/learn/secondary-and-post-16/. - Visitor-facing staff (Visitor team & volunteers) are trained to implement lost child procedures including the use of closed-channel radio communication	Medium	Adequate
Use of and movement around public spaces including entrance	Wet / slippery floor due to weather / cleaning Use of stairs Free-standing artefacts Display panels Furniture	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Slips, trips, falls Scrapes and bumps on edges	- Health & safety directions given (e.g. signage) as appropriate - Reasonable standards of cleanliness are maintained - Any identified damage or hazards are reported to museum staff / maintenance staff accordingly - Floors are kept clear of items and any educational resources are stored away from walkways - Handrails available on stairs - Lifts available if needed - Appropriate supervision levels from accompanying adults - Any accidents / incidents reported to member of staff / first aider and recorded appropriately - Free-standing objects are clearly marked and cordoned off	Low	Trivial
Using the lift	Automatic doors Lift breakdown	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Trapped fingers Getting stuck in lift	- Children under 16 are not permitted to use the lift during school visits unless accompanied by an adult - Care and supervision of children is the responsibility of teacher(s) / group leader(s) - Adult to child ratio guidance provided by museum - Lifts have sensors on doors - Lifts maintained regularly - Lifts fitted with call buttons in case of breakdown	Low	Trivial

Activity	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing measures to control risk	Risk rating	Result
Use of and movement around galleries	Corners of display cases Glass cases Gallery furniture	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Banging into corners of display cases / gallery furniture Banging head on glass or under viewing cases Trips and falls	- Care and supervision of children is the responsibility of teacher(s) / group leader(s) - Adult to child ratio guidance provided by museum at https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/learn/primary-schools/ and https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/learn/secondary-and-post-16/. - Galleries inspected daily by staff to comply with cleanliness and maintenance standards - Any potential hazards are clearly marked - Accidents and incidents are reported, recorded and monitored - Visitor-facing staff (Visitor Team) present on galleries - First aider available	Low	Trivial
Use of main public picnic area	Corners and edges, middle island, and furniture Wet or slippery floors due to spills Microwave	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Bangs and scrapes on edges of furniture Slips, trips and falls Burns	- Care and supervision of children is the responsibility of teacher(s) / group leader(s) - Adult to child ratio guidance provided by museum - Groups and visitors are asked to report spillages to reception to ensure prompt cleaning can be arranged - Wet floor signs are provided - Regular checks are undertaken by visitor team and the area is monitored by cleaning staff during busy times - Microwave is Pat-tested and used only with adult supervision - First aider available	Low	Adequate
Use of public toilets	Wet or slippery floors Improper conduct	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Slips and falls Safeguarding	- Care and supervision of children is the responsibility of teacher(s) / group leader(s) - Adult to child ratio guidance provided by museum - Reasonable standards of cleanliness maintained - Users asked to report damage / hazard to reception to ensure prompt cleaning / maintenance can be arranged	Medium	Adequate

Activity	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing measures to control risk	Risk rating	Result
Use of quiet room and prayer room	Furniture and resources Improper conduct	Pupils, teachers, accompanying adults: Slips, trips and falls Safeguarding	• Care and supervision of children is the responsibility of teacher(s) / group leader(s) • Adult to child ratio guidance provided by museum • Reasonable standards of cleanliness maintained • Users asked to report damage / hazard to reception to ensure prompt cleaning / maintenance can be arranged • Children under 16 are not permitted to use the quiet room or prayer room unless accompanied by an adult	Medium	Adequate

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