

Common Family Activity Hazards

This table contains examples of common hazards when hosting family engagement events in historic churches. These can be copied and pasted into your risk assessment, where relevant.

Please also check the Activity Overview Document to find hazards specific to those activities.

Hazards Identified	Risk (How people may be harmed)	Precautions / Control measures	Residual Risk	Further precautions necessary
Lost child.	Harm to child from an accident or inflicted by stranger.	Children to be always supervised by carers/ adults/ guardians. Organiser to make clear that they cannot be left in charge of children without a guardian present. Organiser to contact police in the case of an emergency.	M	Do not leave children unattended signage. CCT lost or missing child procedure document easily available to organisers.
Photographs of children.	Photographs used inappropriately or without guardian's consent.	Organisers aware of photography guidance. If a photograph is taken in which an adult or child's likeness can be identified, a photography consent form must be completed.	M	Photography today signage visible. Photography consent forms available.
Open door policy.	Risk of a child wandering out or unsafe strangers wandering in.	Children to be always supervised by carers/ adults/ guardians. Organiser to make clear that they cannot be left in charge of children without a guardian present. Organiser to contact police in the case of an emergency.	M	Do not leave children unattended signage.

Wet floors due to weather conditions, or water being 'walked in'.	Trip / slip – impact injury, bruising, cuts, fractures, broken bones, head bumps	Risks reassessed on day of activity and risk assessment updated. Good housekeeping should be maintained to allow safe movement around the building. Encourage visitors to wipe shoes on entrance.	M	
Extremes of weather and temperature	Chills, illness, pneumonia etc. / heatstroke, exposure, sunburn etc.	Risks reassessed on day of activity and risk assessment updated. Weather-appropriate clothing to be worn; water breaks will be regularly taken; shelter will be sought if rain becomes heavy.	L	
Evacuation in the event of an emergency.	Panic resulting in trip/slip, crush/impact injury. People being trapped resulting in burns, smoke inhalation, death	Good housekeeping should be maintained to allow safe movement around the building. In the event of an evacuation, visitors should be led/directed by organisers to safely exit the building.	M	Organiser to continually check exits are clear.
Steps both into and inside the church	Tripping/ slipping resulting in falls with broken bones, strains, bruises, head injuries	Children to be supervised at all times. Organiser to assess the steps before activity commences. Any moss/ice etc. to be identified and acted upon. Warning about safe ascent/descent to be given to all participants before approach to steps. Handrail always to be used when present.	M	Organiser to instruct visitors to not walk and write on activity sheet/ clipboard. Whilst walking, visitors should be checking surroundings and come to a stop to write or draw.

Uneven floors	Tripping resulting in bruises, strains, breaks, head injuries	Organisers to highlight any particular trip hazards. Visitors not to be looking at activity materials whilst walking around.	M	
Climbing	Falls - impact injury, bruising, cuts, fractures, broken bones, head bumps.	Children to be supervised at all times. Many of items are old and may not be secure/sturdy. Organisers to encourage sensible behaviour at all times.	M	Do not leave children unattended signage.
River	Falls, slips, drowning	Children will be supervised at all times whilst on the estate.	M	Do not leave children unattended signage. Activities not near river. Participants will be cautioned about stream edge and riverbank.
Small activity materials and other items, if broken.	Choking, swallowing	Children to be supervised at all times and asked to be sensible with materials. Items should be monitored by organisers and removed/replaced if damaged.	L	Do not leave children unattended signage.
Scissors	Cuts from scissors	All scissors should be child safety scissors. Young children should be accompanied whilst using scissors.	L	Do not leave children unattended signage.
Any items left on the floor including wires.	Tripping/slipping resulting in broken bones, strains, bruises, head injuries	Organisers and children should keep the working area tidy. Anything on the floor should be picked up as soon as it is spotted. Wires should be highlighted or taped down.	M	Coloured ribbon tied around wires to make more visible.

Sheep or other animals on site.	Poo in mouth or eyes. Attack by animal.	Children will be cautioned that they are in an area where animals are present, and they should wash their hands regularly.	L	Organiser will provide handwashing equipment. Do not leave children unattended signage.
Bee/ Wasp	Sting from Bee or Wasp/ allergic reaction.	Areas with higher levels of bees/wasps should be cordoned off. Visitors made aware of the possibility of bees or wasps, especially in wildlife conservation areas.	M	
Cars	Collision resulting in injury or death.	Activities placed far away from any possible vehicles. Visitors warned if cars are on site.	M	Do not leave children unattended signage.
Colouring Pens and Pencils	Poking to eyes, ears, nose, mouth etc.	Children not to be left unattended and asked to be respectful and sensible with the resources.	L	Do not leave children unattended signage.
Dim lighting	Increased chance of fall resulting in broken bones, strains, bruises, head injuries	Extra lighting provided if possible. Visitors notified of any specific trip hazards.	M	
Unprotected radiators or heaters	Buns.	Signage to draw attention to heater.	L	Do not leave children unattended signage.

<p>Risk of contracting COVID-19 or other viruses from touching a contaminated surface and then transferring virus by touching own mouth, eyes or nose.</p> <p>Inhalation into the lungs through close contact with an infected person through respiratory droplets.</p>	<p>Most people who contract COVID-19 will develop mild flu like symptoms but up to 2% of people, typically those with specified underlying health conditions and/or over 70, may experience more severe symptoms. The worst-case foreseeable harm/ injury is a fatality.</p>	<p>Hand sanitiser will be available for all to use</p> <p>Where possible materials will be cleaned between morning and afternoon sessions with antibacterial wipes or spray</p> <p>A plastic bag will be available for rubbish.</p>	<p>M</p>	
<p>Food or plant materials that can be smelled or ingested.</p>	<p>Allergic reactions from smell or accidental ingestion.</p>	<p>Organiser to ask if visitors have any allergies.</p> <p>Young children to be accompanied so they do not have the chance to eat food or plant materials.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Do not leave children unattended signage.</p>
<p>Allergic reaction to food.</p>	<p>Allergic reaction to food given out at an event, for example as a reward.</p>	<p>Organiser to ask adult visitors if they or any of the children in their care have allergies.</p> <p>Children to be accompanied so they do not have the chance to eat food without guardian's consent.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Do not leave children unattended signage.</p>

Access to restricted or unsafe areas: bell towers, crypts, organ lofts, vestries etc.	Increased chance of fall resulting in broken bones, strains, bruises, head injuries	Areas not suitable to the public to be roped off/ locked with signage saying no entry.	M	Do not leave children unattended signage.
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This list is not exhaustive. Use your best judgement and it is always better to be over prepared than under prepared.

The CCT has a Risk Assessment Template that can be found on our website, as well as more information on holding a safe event.

If you have hazards labelled as high risk that you can not remove or resolve through further precautions, you should get in touch with your CCT contact who may advise you to cancel the activities.

