**RISK ASSESSMENT**

**DEPARTMENT : Education**  **ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN BY : James Woodward & Gareth Hutchinson**

**HAZARD TYPE : School Visits DATE : March 2012**

**REVIEWED : April 27th 2021**

Please note: this risk assessment highlights key areas where risks could occur and actions taken by Drusillas to alleviate them.

It is not an exhaustive list and we recommend that teachers / leaders perform preliminary visits to familiarise themselves with Drusillas Park.

Free preliminary visits can be arranged with Drusillas Education Department (01323 874117, education@drusillas.co.uk)

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| **HAZARD** | **WHO MIGHT BE HARMED?** | **IS THE RISK ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED?** | **WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE RISK?** |
| **List hazards here:** | **List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards which you have identified:** | **List existing controls here or note where the information may be found:** | **List the risks which are not adequately controlled and the action you will take where it is reasonably practicable to do more. You are entitled to take cost into account, unless the risk is high:** |
| **Car Park** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Designated coach parking areas
* Drusillas requests that children remain on coach whilst staff check in
* Drusillas staff assist coach parking on busy days
* Protected, fenced off area in front Admissions building and toilets
* Traffic warning signs, marked pedestrian routes and crossing points
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| **Slips, trips and falls** | **Children****Teachers and leaders** | * Maintenance programme in place to keep paths in good condition
* Notices requesting children do not climb on rocks near penguin pool
* Non slip surfaces present where necessary
* Wet floors dried immediately
* Wet floor signs displayed if necessary
* Safer surfacing installed around play equipment where necessary
* Barriers installed and maintained around high equipment.
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| **Park improvements**  | **Children****Teachers and leaders** | * Any maintenance and construction work is fenced off
* Vehicle use on site is kept to a minimum during opening hours but occasionally occurs. Vehicles have a walker in attendance at such times.

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| **Open water at Croc Pool, Lemurland moat and Spitting Frog Pond**  | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Low fencing at Croc Pool and Spitting Frog Pond
* Lemurland is supervised during opening hours
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| **Illness caused by contact with the animals** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Drusillas follows the advice issued in the information sheet ‘[Preventing or controlling ill health from animal contact at visitor attractions - Industry Code of Practice](http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/preventing-or-controlling-ill-health-from-animal-contact-at-visitor-attractions-industry-code-of-practice)’. This document can be downloaded from the Visit my Farm website: <https://www.visitmyfarm.org/component/k2/339-industry-code-of-practice/339-industry-code-of-practice>
* All instruction, supervision, signage, hand washing and eating arrangements are in accordance with the HSE guidance
* COSHH risk assessments for zoonotic diseases have been undertaken
* Animals have regular faecal checks for zoonoses
* Anti-bacterial gel is applied to children’s hands by Education Officers following animal encounters
* Group leaders are told to ensure hands are washed with soap and water
* We advise that hands are always washed before eating
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| **Bites and scratches from the animals in the walk through enclosures**  | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Animals are used to public
* Supervision by Drusillas staff and volunteers
* Visitors told not to touch any walk-through animals and ensure all food and drinks are put away
* Visitors are warned that Lory Landing is a free flying aviary, that the birds may land and defecate on them and that the birds cannot be stroked.
* Viewing windows enable lorikeets to be seen without entering enclosure.
* Visitors purchasing nectar in Lory Landing are instructed on conduct
* Children’s buggies are not allowed in Lemurland or Lory Landing
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| **Shock from electric fences** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Lemurland contains electric fencing; it is low voltage (mild shock), out of reach of small children and young adults and warning signs are displayed.
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| **Bites and scratches during handling in education sessions** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Animals are used to be handled by Education Officers
* Children are advised on behaviour and how to stroke the animals.
* No food or drink can be consumed in the classrooms.
* Under 2’s cannot handle animals
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| **Artefact handling in education sessions** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Educations Officers advise on safe artefact handling
* Education Officers verbally advise visitors not to put hands in or near mouths, and not to eat or drink in session.
* Anti-bacterial gel is applied to individual hands of visitors by Education Officers
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| **Play areas** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Equipment designed, manufactured and installed to meet European Safety Standards.
* Signage is in place stating play areas are unsupervised by Drusillas staff so that teachers and leaders are reminded to supervise their groups
* All equipment regularly checked (daily in summer)
* All equipment undergoes an annual independent inspection
* Signage present detailing the age suitability of the equipment.
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| **Railway** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Daily inspections
* Annual ADIPS inspections and certification
* Secure doors on carriages
* Visitors are verbally requested to keep arms and legs inside carriage whilst train is moving
* Safety signage present
* Path crosses the train track next to the railway station. An automatic barrier and siren warns customers when the train is arriving or departing.
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| **Exit turnstile** | **Children****Teachers and leaders**  | * Equipment designed, manufactured and installed to meet European Safety Standards.
* Safety signs in place
* Warning markings on the ground
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| **Hello Kitty Secret Garden, Rainforest Carousel and Go Safari!** | **Children****Teachers and leaders** | * Rides designed, manufactured and installed to meet European Safety Standards.
* Daily inspections
* Has had ADIPS inspections and certification
* Safety signage present
* Rides are operated by trained staff who give verbal safety instructions
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| **Get Wet!** | **Children****Teachers and leaders** | * Visitors are asked to follow the ‘Rules of Play’ that are on signs at the attraction.
* Get Wet! uses recirculated water that is treated to meet current regulations.
* There is no standing water at Get Wet!
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| **Covid-19 additions** | **Staff****Children** **Teachers and leaders** | * See Drusillas Coronavirus risk assessment for Park precautions and advice.
* Smaller groups welcomed to aid distancing, but class bubbles acceptable.
* Smaller groups encouraged in the Rainforest Room.
* All staff and visitors encouraged to use sanitiser when entering classroom.
* Education staff to wear masks when meeting classes, during animals encounters and when in close contact situations.
* Hand sanitiser to be used after changing face coverings.
* Animals encountered used on rotation basis. Invertebrates only viewed due to deleterious effect of sanitiser.
* Seating and hard artefacts cleaned between groups / bubbles.
* Furs / soft artefacts to be left minimum two days between groups.
* Conversation prior to visit to be had between group leaders and education staff regarding any dressing up in sessions. Self-dressing of education staff or holding up items suggested.
* Any dressing up equipment used to be washed or left for minimum two days between schools.
* Air conditioning to be used as a minimum when groups present.
* Any indoor room used for lunch (in winter due to adverse conditions) to have contact surfaces cleaned in between groups / bubbles.
* Amazon Adventure is currently closed.
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| **Other information**  | * First Aid available from Mungo’s Trading Post.
* Lost children taken to Mungo’s Trading Post.
* Drusillas has an emergency team and contingency plans. Please follow the instructions issued by staff during any emergency. In the event of a full Park evacuation please return to your vehicles in the car park.
* Drusillas has public liability insurance of £10,000,000
* Anyone with a serious phobia should advise the education staff before an animal handling session.
* Those with asthma or allergies may wish to exclude themselves from close contact with the animals. Please be aware that some of the animals are fed nuts and this may affect those with a severe nut allergy. We advise that teachers / group leaders inform education staff of nut allergies when bookings are made.
* Pregnant women, the immuno-suppressed and the chronically ill should refrain from animal contact.
* Children should be supervised by an adult at all times.
* Please do not climb on the animal enclosures or bang on the glass as this may frighten or upset the animals.
* Please do not feed the animals.
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**Education sessions and Covid**

**Can animals carry or suffer from Covid?**

* Evidence in a few carnivore species, but not those kept at Drusillas or that children might encounter. Unlikely that an animal might be a vector if sanitiser used.

**Can children touch artefacts?**

* Children use sanitiser as entering the classrooms, so yes. Hard artefacts are cleaned after use. Difficult to clean furs, etc. - to be kept away for three days before others can touch,

**Can children do dressing up?**

* To be discussed with class teachers. Obvious risks due to close contact and possible repeated use.

If a Year group is a bubble, then can be used for all classes. Difficult to use for different bubbles without thorough cleaning, and only have one set of many items. Hard items can be cleaned, some items can be washed, others must be left for three days before being reused.

**Education officers.**

* Education officers need to be close to children for dressing up and animal encounters, plus may see more than one school in a day. Hand hygiene importance understood and followed. Preferable to wear masks for safety but can lead to communication issues. Process of sessions discussed with teachers so all comfortable.

**Different schools visiting**

* In Terms 1 and 2 only school a day booked into the classrooms. Drusillas was closed Term 3 and 4. As year progresses and to fit in with schools and business needs, multiple schools will visit on a day at times. Benches and artefacts to be cleaned in between sessions. If a lunchroom needs to be used can clean tables in between groups (NB only available in winter months). Picnic areas, interactives and general Park areas are not cleaned in between groups.
* Due to enhanced procedures number of sessions that can be taught in day, plus availability of topics may be reduced. Some artefacts usually seen may not be used due to rotations.

**Air conditioning and ventilation**

* Drusillas air conditioning is limited to the rooms that it is in (recycles the classroom air, doesn’t spread through building) so should be able to have on if necessary. Possibly preferable not to but need to maintain level of comfort.
* Rainforest Room has windows that can be kept open (smaller room, more constrained space). Discovery Centre does not have windows. Doors open to potentially busy public and off-show areas. When Rainforest Room not in use can open connecting door and ventilate through there, but education officers will open doors in between sessions.

**Changes to bookings**

* This is a new and novel situation for most people. Bookings may have to be adjusted to follow government advice (e.g. lockdown or Tier changes). Bookings are made without any financial obligation and can be cancelled or changed by the school at any stage. If Drusillas education officers are asked to isolate by Track and Trace / contact tracing, then sessions will need to be cancelled.