

RISK ASSESSMENT

DEPARTMENT : Education
HAZARD TYPE : School Visits

ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN BY : James Woodward & Gareth Hutchinson
DATE LAST REVIEWED : 3rd September 2026

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)

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	
Slips, trips and falls	Children Teachers and leaders	- Maintenance programme in place to keep paths in good condition - 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. - A full risk assessment on trips slips and falls has been carried out.	
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.	

Open water at Lemurland moat and Jurassic Jungle, squirrel monkey and Spitting Frog ponds	Children Teachers and leaders	• Low fencing at Jurassic Jungle, Spitting Frog and squirrel monkey ponds. • Lemurland is supervised during opening hours	
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'. This document can be downloaded from the Visit my Farm website: https://visitmyfarm.org/resources/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	
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	
Shock from electric fences	Children Teachers and leaders	• Lemurland contains electric fencing; it is low voltage (mild shock), out of reach of children and warning signs are displayed.	
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 touch animals	

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	
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.	
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 warn customers when the train is arriving or departing.	
Exit turnstile	Children Teachers and leaders	• Equipment designed, manufactured and installed to meet relevant safety standards. • Safety signs in place • Warning markings on the ground	
Rainforest Carousel, Go Safari! and The Rainforest Adventure	Children Teachers and leaders	• Rides designed, manufactured and installed to meet relevant safety standards. • Daily inspections • Has ADIPS inspections and certification • Safety signage present • Rides are operated by trained staff who give verbal safety instructions	
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!	

Covid-19 / Public health situations	Children Teachers and leaders	Drusillas follows the latest government advice.	
Food Allergens	Children Teachers and leaders	Information on allergens found with food served in café's can be found at https://www.drusillas.co.uk/food-and-drink and via QR code in café	
All Hazards	Children Teachers and leaders	- Emergency and escape drills are carried out regularly in the park - Drusillas provides comprehensive first aid facilities with qualified first aiders - Workplace hazards are made clear to staff during training - Proactive inspection and maintenance procedures in place to identify hazards and rectify issues	

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 education 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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