



WINCHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

# Risk Assessment Information



## Risk Assessment Guidance for School Groups

Winchester Cathedral is nearly one thousand years old and as well as conducting acts of worship every day, it is also open to the general public. Our Health and Safety policies are regularly checked and updated as required and visiting the Cathedral is considered to be a low risk activity. If maintenance work is being carried out, all hazardous areas are isolated and warning signs displayed.

### Cathedral Grounds

- Low tripping risk. – Flag stones, cobbles and kerbs.
- Quiet road around the Inner Close approaching the Learning Centre. Children must be carefully supervised. Please be aware that the Christmas Market is set up in the Inner Close from early October and operates from mid-November to early January.

### Cathedral

- There is ramp access to the entrance of the Cathedral.
- Uneven flooring. Low tripping risk.
- Steps lead down into the crypt where there is access to the viewing platform only. Children must be in single file down the steps. Unfortunately, there is no wheelchair access to this area.
- Steps up to the east end – there is a wheelchair lift on the north side. This must be operated by a trained guide, Virger or member of the Learning Team.
- Three steps down into the Quire. Unfortunately, there is no wheelchair access to this area.
- Fisherman's Chapel transept – small step up into the chapel. The narrow door prevents wheelchair access.
- Calefactory door. Sometimes used by Cathedral staff with groups. Three small steps down. No wheelchair access.
- South door. Emergency access. There is a wheelchair ramp here.
- Votive candles. Children must be fully supervised when lighting candles and one candle per group should suffice. During guided tours, it is useful if an adult with the children stands by any lit candles to avoid accidental contact.
- A fire alarm test takes place regularly on Fridays between 10am – 10.30am. The alarm is a siren and, in the event of an emergency, Cathedral staff will supervise evacuation. The meeting point for school groups following an evacuation is behind the War Memorial at the front of the Cathedral. School staff will be asked to do a roll call of children and adults with their group and report any absences to Cathedral staff wearing high visibility yellow vests. Please do not return to the Learning Centre until you have checked with Cathedral staff. The Centre is designated as the Control Centre for the emergency services.
- There are designated qualified first-aiders on site. If there is a medical emergency in your group, please report it to the Entrance Desk team in the Cathedral who will radio for a first-aider.
- All accidents must be reported and entered in the accident book kept in the Virgers' Vestry in the south transept.