

LINTON ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Safety Guidelines for Visiting Schools and Groups

All staff employed at the zoo have Health and Safety training and we do everything possible to make the environment safe for all visitors, however we are unable to provide a risk assessment appropriate for your individual needs. We have provided the following guidelines to allow you to complete your own risk assessment depending on the age and numbers of children you bring on the visit. A teacher may wish to visit the site prior to your trip.

1. Children visiting the zoo are the responsibility of the staff accompanying them and there should be adequate numbers of adults to supervise them. Children under the age of 14 years must not be left unattended or allowed to wander freely, do not let any child out of your sight at any time.
2. We would like to suggest that children are supplied with a label or badge so that if anyone is separated from their group our staff can see clearly to whom they should be returned thereby ensuring their safety. First aid is available from the Gatehouse and we have a good health centre in Linton but we strongly recommend that your group includes trained first aiders in case you should be unfortunate enough to have someone fall sick or have an accident.
3. Visitors are not allowed to climb on fences, up any trees or on tables or chairs and should be encouraged to behave appropriately when walking around the zoo. There is a children's play area with climbing frames and slides for closely supervised play. You will need to assess the suitability of this play equipment for your children's age and ability.
4. The zoo animals are all given a special diet and cared for by trained keepers. Visitors are not allowed to feed any of the animals at any time, not even grass.
5. As stated by our safety signs around the zoo, feeding of any animals is prohibited so there should be no reason to put hands near the enclosures or through the surrounding mesh. Even the non-dangerous species who do not require a safety barrier can bite or peck if they feel threatened. If a personal possession is dropped over a barrier or fence – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RETRIEVE IT – call a member of zoo staff.

6. The zoo is mostly outdoors with some small shelters dotted around. Please consider the weather and ensure that the appropriate clothing is worn for wet or cold weather and that in hot weather hats and sunscreen are considered. The zoo has some woodland-like pathways which may pose a trip risk or be slippery in some conditions should inappropriate footwear be worn.
7. Visitors must walk quietly around the zoo at all times. To burn off excess energy for excitable children, a small area of the grass field, normally used for overflow car parking at bank holidays, could be used for games.
8. We would also ask that, in order not to disturb or frighten our rare or endangered breeding animals (many of whom have young), low levels of noise are to be maintained and whilst we appreciate the children will get excited, they should not be allowed to scream and shout.
9. The toilets are situated near the entrance. Antibacterial soap is provided for hand washing but supervision would be needed.
10. You will need to provide your own antibacterial wipes if you would like to touch any of the animals or artefacts during the animal encounter sessions. All children who touch any animals will have to clean their hands using these wipes.
11. If you wish to use the bouncy castle, you will need to assess the suitability for the age group and ability of the children in your care. It is not for use by visitors over the age of 13 years. The rules of use of the bouncy castle are clearly displayed next to it and must be adhered to strictly. Children using any play equipment must be supervised closely at all times.
12. There are two main areas of water to consider:-
 - Crane pond, surrounded by a stand-off barrier.
 - British Wildlife pool, surrounded by a garden to prevent visitors from walking up to the edge. This area of water should pose no problem as long as children are supervised as stipulated.