



## The Lake District Wildlife Park Risk Assessment Guidance

In order to enjoy your contact with wildlife park animals and their environment we have produced these guidelines to help you and The Lake District Wildlife Park (LDWP) work together to ensure an enjoyable and educational visit. This does not replace your own formal risk assessment.

### Risk 1: Handling live animals carries the risk of infection

- **School's Responsibilities:**

**Wash hands** after handling. Explain health issues prior to visit. Discourage children from putting fingers in mouths.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

To provide adequate **hand washing** facilities. **Hand washing** facilities are located within the Toilet block next to Reception, at the covered picnic area and inside the Green Barn. Staff will explain risks and suitable behaviour prior to handling. **Please note Hand Sanitisers are not sufficient to thoroughly clean your hands. Please ensure hands are washed with soap and water after touching animals and before eating or drinking.**

### Risk 2: Handling animal artefacts carries the risk of infection

- **School's Responsibilities:**

**Wash hands** after handling. Explain health issues prior to visit. Discourage children from putting fingers in mouths.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

To provide adequate **hand washing** facilities. **Hand washing** facilities are located within the Toilet block next to Reception, at the covered picnic area and inside the Green Barn. Staff will explain risks and suitable behaviour prior to handling.

### Risk 3: Young children and those with a low immunity are more at risk of infection

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Children under four have restricted access to handling animals to comply with health and safety guidelines. Those with low immunity should refrain from handling animals. Explain health issues prior to visit.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Staff will explain risk of infection. Clearly displayed signs in all animal handling areas.

### Risk 4: Those with allergies e.g. animals, nuts, eczema etc are more at risk of an allergic reaction

- **School's responsibilities:**

Those with allergies should refrain from handling the animals. Explain health issues prior to visit. Make staff aware of children who have allergies.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Staff will explain the risk of allergic reaction to fur, feathers, food, etc. **Hand wash** signs are clearly displayed in all animal handling areas.



### **Risk 5: Does animal handling stress the animals and if so is it safe?**

- **School's responsibilities:**

Children should refrain from making loud noises and moving around during the animal handling sessions. **Wash hands** both before and after the animal handling sessions so they do not smell of food.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Staff will explain risk and suitable behaviour prior to handling. Appropriate animals are selected only. Animals for handling are rotated from our collection. Staff will remove animals from handling sessions if they show signs of becoming agitated.

### **Risk 6: Feeding and petting domestic stock carries risk of infection**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Explain health issues prior to visit. **Wash hands** after petting animals. Discourage children from putting their fingers in their mouths. Discourage sampling of animal food or use of taps.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

To provide adequate **hand washing** facilities. **Hand washing** facilities are located within the Toilet block next to Reception, at the covered picnic area and inside the Green Barn. Clearly displayed signs in all petting areas.

### **Risk 7: Close contact with wild animals**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Explain suitable behaviour around wild animals prior to visit. Do not run towards or make loud noises near the wild animals. Do not feed or touch any animals unless specifically invited to do so.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Display clear and appropriate signs. To provide adequate **hand washing** facilities. **Hand washing** facilities are located within the Toilet block next to Reception, at the covered picnic area and inside the Green Barn. All close contact animals are harmless if we respect them.

### **Risk 8: Panic caused by phobias**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Adults and children with phobias should make themselves known to LDWP staff before an animal handling session.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Education staff recommend calmly leaving the animal handling session if you feel an animal will cause a phobic reaction. Clear signs around the Wildlife Park and the Wildlife Park map indicate the animals in each closure.

### **Risk 9: Droppings around the Wildlife Park carry a risk of infection**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

**Wash hands** before and after eating. Discourage children from putting hands in their mouths. Explain health risks prior to visit.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

To provide adequate **hand washing** facilities. **Hand washing** facilities are located within the Toilet block next to Reception, at the covered picnic area and inside the Green Barn. To ensure picnic area is cleaned daily.



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### **Risk 10: Unpredictable weather**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

All children should bring both warm and waterproof clothing/sunscreen and hat as many of the Wildlife Parks exhibits are outdoors.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Many exhibits are housed under cover and a dry picnic area is provided on wet days.

### **Risk 11: Lost children**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Provide an adequate number of responsible adults to supervise the children. Arrange meeting points throughout the day. Advise children to follow signs to reception area if they become separated from their group.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Wildlife Park staff trained to deal with lost children. A park tannoy announcement can be made to alert and locate supervisor. All Wildlife Park staff are approachable and helpful.

### **Risk 12: Lost property**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Children should label all property that they bring to the Wildlife Park. Please report to reception to retrieve lost property.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

All lost property will be collected and brought to reception daily.

### **Risk 13: Access to amenities for visitors with disabilities or special needs**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Make the Wildlife Park staff aware of any special needs requirements.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Provide a disabled toilet. All sessions and tours are adaptable to special needs of each group. Fauna regularly maintained to prevent obstruction of view.

### **Risk 14: Playground**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Full supervision required for children using the playground.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

We ensure a regular maintenance and cleaning regime.

### **Risk 15: Many animals will bite if given an opportunity or provoked**

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Advise staff and children to read all warning signs on enclosures before approaching an exhibit. Do not feed animals. Hands, feet and bags etc should be kept away from the enclosures as they may be mistaken for food (particular care to be taken with Goats, donkeys and parrots).

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Clear signs are located around the enclosures explaining any risks. First Aid is available from Wildlife Park Manager.



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### Risk 16: Escaped Animals

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Inform a member of the Wildlife Park staff. Move to safe area e.g. café, classroom etc

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Recapture the animal alert the public when area is safe. Maintain high levels of health and safety for public and animals.

### Risk 17: Fire

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Inform a member of Wildlife Park staff. Move to an open area in the park.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Escort the public from the building and extinguish the fire, alerting Fire Service if necessary.

### Risk 18: Medical Assistance

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Anyone on regular medication should carry it with them or get a supervisor to store all medication and know how to administer it. Inform a member of Wildlife Park staff if a member of your group is unwell or in need of medical assistance.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

First Aid is available in the reception area. Wildlife Park staff can request for an ambulance on their radios. All areas of the Wildlife Park have access to an ambulance.

### Risk 19: Café

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Those with food allergies may prefer to bring their own food (only food purchased in the café is to be eaten on the café premises). To ensure children and staff **wash their hands** carefully prior to eating.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

The café is supervised and run by our own catering manager according to strict health and safety guidelines. To provide adequate **hand washing** facilities. **Hand washing** facilities are located within the Toilet block next to Reception, at the covered picnic area and inside the Green Barn.

### Risk 20: Tractor and trailer rides

- **School's Responsibilities:**

Adequate adult supervision is required.

- **LDWP Responsibilities:**

Wildlife Park staff will explain health and safety issues and suitable behaviour. Training provided for Wildlife Park staff in operation of equipment. Equipment maintained to a high level of health & safety.

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## Other areas to be aware of:

**Water area/ponds:** Although fenced off supervision around these areas is advised.

**Toilets:** They are cleaned regularly and are available near the entrance. There is also extra **hand washing** facilities around the Wildlife Park.

**Child protection “Stranger Danger”:** Unfortunately all children’s parks attract unwanted visitors at times so please make sure all children are well supervised. We do have a child protection policy.

**Animal Foodstuffs:** As some of our animals are carnivores the food we give them may consist of mice, fish or chicks. This may upset some of our younger visitors during feeding times.

**Rodents and crows:** Due to the concentration of animals and foodstuff at LDWP we can attract other animals. We are aware of this problem and have an ongoing policy to deal with unwanted pests.

**Please note Hand Sanitisers are not sufficient to thoroughly clean your hands. Please ensure hands are washed with soap and water after touching animals and before eating or drinking.**

## THE LAKE DISTRICT WILDLIFE PARK



[www.lakedistrictwildlifepark.com](http://www.lakedistrictwildlifepark.com)

### SAFE BUT WILD

**A visit to The Lake District Wildlife Park is great way for children to discover the world of animals and conservation, creating memorable experiences and a better understanding of the natural world.**

If you have any questions about any of the information on this sheet or any particular concerns about your visit to The Lake District Wildlife Park please call reception on 017687 76239.



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