

Risk Assessment Guidance

Please note this is only a guide to help you with your risk assessments and we strongly advise that if in doubt you pre-visit.

- Manchester Cathedral is a medieval church open to the general public. Health and Safety policies are in place and are regularly reviewed. It is considered that visiting Manchester Cathedral is a low-risk activity.
- Schools who visit the Cathedral must ensure that they have the statutory ratio of adults to children. Please do not include Cathedral Staff or Volunteers in your calculation. Children remain the responsibility of school staff throughout the duration of the visit and all accompanying adults must remain with their pupils at all times.
- Please bring an up-to-date register with pupil names. It is helpful if staff and pupils are easily identifiable to Cathedral Staff.
- There is a low risk of tripping outside the Cathedral on uneven flagstones. Flagstones and other trip hazards are regularly monitored by the Vergers Department and maintenance work is carried out where there is a problem. Inside the Cathedral the stone flooring is sound and there are no trip hazards. Access steps are all in sound condition. There is no public access to restricted high-level areas of the building. School staff should ensure that pupils walk sensibly and do not run in order to prevent accidents.
- School parties are asked to meet inside the South Porch. This is also where a step-free access ramp to the Cathedral is situated. There is slope access to the area of the church beyond the nave. A temporary ramp is available for access to the Jesus Chapel (and through to the toilet). Unfortunately, there is no wheelchair access to the Regiment Chapel and Chapter House at present. Please inform us if a member of your party has special access arrangements.
- If pre-planned maintenance work is being carried out all hazardous areas are isolated and warning signs displayed. Please be aware that as a medieval building, repairs and upgrading of the site are an ongoing process.
- A fire alarm test regularly takes place on Tuesdays at 9.30am, in the unlikely event of an emergency, Cathedral Staff will supervise evacuation.

- There are designated qualified first-aiders on site.
- If a member of your group wishes to use the toilet facilities, please ensure that they are supervised by a member of your staff. There is a disabled toilet near the Cathedral toilets, accessible by a temporary ramp.
- Personal items are left at your own risk. Groups are asked to keep their valuables with them at all times. Please switch off mobile phones (or put them on silent) while in the building.
- Cathedral staff, guides and welcomers for schools and some of our wider volunteer team (but not all) have undergone DBS checks. Children should be supervised at all times by school leaders.