



Risk Assessment Guidelines for School/Group Visits

What we believe: Real play is about being outside, climbing trees, exploring - all in a secure, safe, and fun environment. Allow BeWILDerwood to become your classroom and step into our world.

What we have: A wood full of opportunities for outdoor play and imagination.

Where we are: Situated on the A49 north of Whitchurch.

The Serious Stuff:

Local council: Cheshire West and Chester County Council.

Safety: We are inspected by ROSPA annually.

Risk Assessments: Our internal risk assessments are carried out by qualified staff. They are updated annually, and we consult with an external Health and Safety Consultant on our Health and Safety system.

We advise that you carry out your own individual risk assessment for your visit. A free entry ticket can be provided to support you with a site visit – please book this in advance with the office.

Maintenance: Daily visual checks of the park are carried out and recorded. Remedial action is immediate where the priority is high and is otherwise prioritised on a risk-assessed basis.

Food Safety: We are regularly inspected by the local Environmental Health Department. All our food outlets operate in accordance with the Food Safety Act 1990. Relevant members of staff have completed training for food preparation and hygiene.

Staff: We practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of key staff to work with children, through a DBS disclosure.

First-Aid: Due to the nature of BeWILDerwood, we aim to have as many staff first-aid trained as possible. There are always qualified first-aiders on site who can be contacted via any member of staff by a two way radio.

Hospital: Our nearest hospital is Leighton Hospital, Middlewich Road, Crewe, (01270 255141).



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Emergencies: We have an evacuation plan in place in case of major emergencies such as fire, storm and wind.

Fire Safety: Members of staff have fire training. In case of an emergency, the park will be evacuated.

Emergency Site Access: This could be either at the front or the back of our site and will always be controlled by staff.

Security: Access to the site is restricted to ticket holders. We do not allow commercial filming of children on the site unless we and the parents of the children concerned have given prior consent.

Public Liability: BeWILDerwood Cheshire is covered by Public Liability insurance to £10 million.

Our policy is with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hugh J Boswell (Policy No: 100707714CCI + DOA/EXOL/715403)

Health and Safety Policy: We have an up to date Health and Safety Policy.

Waivers: All visitors including school and groups must have signed a waiver prior to entering BeWILDerwood. Please ensure that all waiver documentation for all persons in your group have completed the waiver prior to arriving on site – this can be done electronically or via a paper form which can be returned to the office.

Site Arrangements:

Arrival: We have a large car park and the coach parking is clearly signed.

Wheelchair access: Our treetop structures are not wheelchair accessible as they are raised with stepped access. Pathways are accessible. Storytelling, crafts and Den Building are wheelchair accessible. Our Cosy Cabin & Munch Bar (Food Outlets) are both accessible for wheelchair users with ramp accessibility. The Bizarre Bazaar (gift shop) has ramps on both entrance and exit, with plenty of space and smooth levelled flooring. Some off pathway areas are mulch covered creating an uneven surface so wheelchair users may require extra assistance.

Lost children: All our staff members have radio contact. Your wristbands have an area to write a telephone number on too.



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Pupil/Staff ratio: Children must be supervised by adults at all times including on structures and groups must ensure that they have a sufficient number of adults to safe supervision. Bewilderwood recommends a ratio of at least 1 adult for every 5 children. For school groups we offer a free adult ticket with every 5 children's tickets, to support schools to do this. Bewilderwood retains the right to ask any group of any size to leave where we believe that children are not being safely supervised.

Conduct: Children are the responsibility of group leaders and should be supervised by them at all times during their visit. BeWILDerwood have staff to supervise certain areas of the park and they are always available to help and direct, however, children must be supervised on structures at all times. Visitor guidelines and terms and conditions are available on our website.

Familiarisation: Organisers of school groups are welcome to make a site visit in advance of their trip. This must be booked through the office.

Risks:

Smoking: The Park operates a 'No Smoking' Policy in all areas.

Open Water: Access to water/marsh is generally restricted by fences and balustrades, and warning signs are present in applicable areas.

Slips/trips and falls: BeWILDerwood is an outdoor adventure park open to the elements. Necessary precautions are taken to prevent incidents. Should an incident occur, first aid trained staff are available to assist, and we have a robust incident reporting and investigation system to avoid recurrence.

BeWILDerwood Structures: All of our structures are inspected regularly and maintained to the highest standards. We ask that all signs and rules of structures are adhered to in the interests of your own safety.

Natural/biological: Please observe any signs with regards to vegetation and refrain from touching plants, fungi or plant material and animals.

Areas within BeWILDerwood:

Broken Bridge: This structure involves climbing, bridge walking, scramble nets and sliding. Please ensure skin is covered.



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Slippery Slopes: This structure involves climbing and sliding. Please ensure skin is covered.

Wobbly Wires: This structure involves climbing and using zip wires.

Mish Mash Maze: This structure involves a jungle bridge.

BeWILDerville: This structure involves climbing, crawling, rope and bridge walking.

Den Building: A contained area using large wooden sticks to create dens.

Sky Maze: This structure involves climbing, crawling, bridge and ladder walking.

Treetop Tangles: This structure involves climbing, clambering, rope tunnel walking and scramble nets.

Loopy Lakes Walk: This area features open water which is protected by fence lines. Two life rings are also positioned on the route.

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