

## St George's Church, Stamford: Risk Assessment Guidance for School visits October 2021

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

St George's, Stamford, is a mediaeval church open during the week by appointment for visits or services. Health and Safety policies are in place and are regularly reviewed. Risk Assessments are regularly carried out, both in terms of Health and Safety and Child Protection. It is considered that visiting St George's, Stamford is a very low-risk activity.

- Schools who visit the church must ensure that they have the statutory ratio of adults to children. 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.
- There is a low risk of tripping outside the church on uneven flagstones. Flagstones and other trip hazards are regularly monitored. Inside the church the 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.
- Usual access is via the main west door of the church. There is disabled access via the north side door. There is disabled access to the toilet. Schools should identify any special access requirements.
- Fire exits will be clearly identified at the start of the visit, in addition to the main west door there is an exit in the North Transept, and south porch in the Chancel by the organ. Free access via the walkways must be available at all times. In the unlikely event of emergency evacuation children, school staff and accompanying adults shall leave through the nearest fire door to the agreed assembly point (pavement near the Arts Centre or Wharf Road car park) which will be identified with school staff.
- The normal seated service capacity is – 240 (up to 40 seats have limited sight of the Chancel or limited legroom). Pushchairs should be parked by the kitchen with the removal of the back 2 rows of chairs if necessary.
- The school is responsible for first aid; there may be trained church first aiders present depending on nature of the visit. A first aid kit and incident book are located in the kitchen area to the rear of the church.
- If a member of your group wishes to use the toilet facilities, please ensure that they are supervised by school staff. The toilets are unisex.
- Personal items are left at your own risk. Groups are asked to keep their valuables with them at all times.
- Church staff and volunteers have undergone the relevant safer recruitment including DBS Checks, and Safeguarding Training.
- Photographs of pupils are only taken with the permission of the school.
- Groups visiting the church are considered to be at no greater risk than in a supervised classroom.