



Oceanarium Risk Assessment Guidance

The Oceanarium has over 7 years experience in providing high quality group visit facilities and tours for a wide range of groups, including schools from all over the UK, adult groups, coach tours and special interest groups.

We pride ourselves on an excellent safety record. Group organisers and teachers can therefore feel confident that safety is a priority, and groups are free to enjoy their day.

The Oceanarium complies with relevant safety regulations such as the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, environmental health requirements and also complies with requirements for public liability insurance cover.

Familiarisation Visits

We encourage all teachers and group organisers to take advantage of free familiarisation visits to the Oceanarium to view our facilities first hand and carry out their own risk assessments. Group Organisers and teachers will have regular opportunity to liase with Oceanarium staff to discuss their group visit requirements. To arrange your familiarisation visit please contact Sara Daintree on 01202 311993 Ext 25.

In the event that a pre-visit is not possible, this document provides a general outline of the risks and controls identified throughout the attraction.

General Information

The Oceanarium displays are a low risk area. The displays are on two floors with lift access to the 2nd floor as well as stairs. There are steps around the displays but all of these are clearly marked and alternative routes are available.

Our 'Abyss' display makes use of UV lighting and is quite dark, representing the murky depths of the ocean. Visitors who are intolerant to UV lighting can be guided through an alternative route – please give advance notice when booking if this is the case. Steps in this area are marked out with white tape.

Coach Parking

Unfortunately, there is not a coach park near to the Oceanarium. However, coaches can drop off their passengers in the turning area next to the BIC, just a minute walk to the Oceanarium.

Code of Conduct

- For groups travelling to the Oceanarium by coach, we would recommend that you aim to arrive at Pier Approach 10 minutes prior to your allocated time of visit, to ensure prompt entry into the Oceanarium and avoid congestion in the building.
- As organiser of the visit, please report to the Oceanarium reception on arrival to receive instructions for the group.
- The Oceanarium encourages groups to wait to one side of the foyer until their allocated guide is present. The tour guide will take control of the group throughout the tour. However, the safety of the children will remain the responsibility of the group leader/teacher during the visit.
- The Oceanarium encourages responsible attitudes to the environment as an integral part of our tours and our policy discourages visitors from placing their hands into any of the tanks or displays.
- If a child becomes separated from the group he/she must report to reception immediately.
- In the event of an emergency a member of the Oceanarium staff should be notified immediately.

Lunch

Unfortunately, we do not have any areas within the building where packed lunches can be eaten. The café is for food bought on the premises only.

During the Summer, schools and groups usually eat their lunch in the gardens (1min walk) or on the beach. We advise all organisers to carry out their own risk assessment of these areas.

Toilets

We have two sets of male and female toilets and one disabled toilet, all on the ground floor. One set is located in our Offshore Café at the front of the Oceanarium and the others are situated by the exit to the display.

First Aid

All staff involved in the administration of first aid hold relevant current qualifications e.g. Health & Safety at Work Certificate. First aid is available from the main office, which is located at the back of our Cove Gift Shop.

In case of an emergency, the nearest hospitals to the Oceanarium are

The Royal Bournemouth General Hospital, Christchurch Hospital and Poole General Hospital.

Fire Exits & Procedures

In the event of a fire, do not use the lift.

A current fire certificate covers the Oceanarium. All fire exits are clearly marked throughout the building and are indicated on the attached building plan. All staff are trained to evacuate the building quickly and calmly before tackling the fire, and then only if safe to do so.

For further information, please contact Sara Daintree on 01202 311993 Ext 25 or email sara.daintree@reallive.co.uk