

Queen's House Ice Rink

School Groups – Hazards and Risks for Ice Skating

These notes should assist schools in preparation of their Risk Assessment of hazards for their school trip to the Queen's House Ice Rink.

Arena Group, the operators of the rink, have tried to highlight the main hazards relating to the skate area and skate activity. This does not include other aspects of the visit/school trip or transportation and movement to and from the rink.

HAZARDS & RISKS:

- Handling and putting on skates – skate staff will brief pupils on the rules of how to and how not to handle skates by the blades (blades are sharp/risk of injury); teachers are to supervise
- Fitting of skates – skate staff will oversee this; risk of injuries to ankles if not fitted correctly – teachers to supervise, ask skate staff for assistance if unsure
- Skating on the rink – all pupils will receive a briefing and will have the rules of the rink explained. Teachers are to ensure that these rules are understood and adhered to.
- Inexperienced skaters - if skate aid penguins are available they will need to be shared amongst the group. Skate marshals will assist novice skaters on how to use skate aids and how to hold onto the barrier walls. Experienced teachers with the assistance from the skate marshals, are to advise which children should be removed if struggling.
- Trips & falls on the rink – risk of falling on the rink due to speed or trips resulting in the risk of injury, to ankles, arms and wrists. Skate staff will brief pupils on how to get up from the ice after a fall. There is the risk of injury to hands on the rink after a fall - skate marshals will advise in the briefing and we advise all children to wear gloves. Surface of the rink is likely to be wet. Any injury to be dealt with by skate marshals/manager and first aiders. (All marshals are first aiders.)
- Removal of skates – as with putting skates on, only handle by the boots – risk of injury if handled by blades. Skate staff will supervise and assist if required
- Trip hazards in access and exit, skate exchange areas – general area, ramps, steps and matting in the various access areas – skate staff and teachers to highlight and supervise children
- You can skate on our rink up to any age, although you are responsible for skating safely and it is not recommended for anyone with serious illness, heart conditions or pregnant mothers to be.
- All skaters skate at their own risk.

GENERIC PUBLIC SITE RISKS:

- Lost Children - Arena Group and Queen's House Ice Rink have procedures in place with security and management on site – teachers are to agree a meeting point in the skate area prior to the skate

- **Adult/teacher supervision** – schools needs to have a statutory number of adults required for school trips and numbers in the party. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for details.
- **Parental agreement** – schools are responsible for getting parental agreement prior to pupils being allowed on the rink
- **Risky behaviour** – teachers are responsible for children at all times. Children will be briefed by skate marshals regarding rules and behaviour on the rink