**Alton Castle Activity Risk Assessment - Climbing**

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| **Hazards** | Who is affected | Likelihood | Severity | Risk Control Measure | Comment Actions | Residual risk |
| Harnesses and helmets incorrectly fitted | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Very Likely | Harmful | All participants are briefed in the correct fitting of all climbing equipment  Activity Leader to conduct pre use check of equipment at the start of the session, each time this equipment is put on and prior to an individual climbing.  Participants work in a buddy system to check each other and then checked by the Activity Leader | Leader to provide safety briefing. Leader to conduct formalised Safety check of Participants. Repeat check after a Participant returns to the session after a toilet visit etc. | Low |
| Hair, jewellery or clothing trapped in equipment | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Harmful | Before climbing participants are asked to remove jewellery (especially rings), tuck away hair, loose clothing and draw cords etc. | Leader to provide safety briefing, monitor and check. | Low |
| The belay device and belaying | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Harmful | Either Activity Leader will belay or will monitor the participants belaying themselves.  Activity Leader to train the participants in the correct techniques to belay (and then supervise) prior to belaying | Leader to provide safety briefing and demonstration of peer belaying. Activity Leader to brief the participants on the possibility of rope burn when belaying and how to avoid. | Low |
| Injury due to falling or being dropped | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Disabling or fatal injury | The speed of lower off is controlled by the Activity Leader. Leader to be in position of maximum usefulness so as to physically take control when needed. | Activity leader to directly (Hands on) supervise lower offs. | Low |
| Traversing areas – walking beneath sections where others are climbing | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Disabling or fatal injury | Young People briefed about dangers & requested to clear away from the mats quickly after a fall. High level of vigilance maintained. |  | Low |
| Karabiner is cross loaded or rope runs over collar or thimble causing the gate to open and potential for loss of hitch. | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Disabling or fatal injury | Alton Castle will only use belaying Karabiners fitted with a locking bar which prevents reversing, cross loading or inadvertent gate opening. Karabiners will be attached so that they are back bar loaded i.e. gate facing the floor. |  | low |
| Fall from Height | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Disabling or fatal injury | Locally Accredited Supervision & working within remit of accreditation. Appropriate specialist equipment used. Helmets worn at base of wall. | Proper briefing of young people, behaviour monitored and managed appropriately. Vigilance of all staff during activity. | Low |
| **Peer Belaying** | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Disabling or fatal injury | Instructors to dynamically risk assess belay teams for ability (competence and responsibility) to peer belay. Instructors fully understanding the difference between direct “hands on” & remote “hands off” supervision. | Activity Leaders to position themselves in the position of maximum usefulness so they can directly supervise “hands on” at a moment’s notice. |  |
| **Equipment failure, inappropriate use of equipment** | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Unlikely | Disabling or fatal injury | Ropes and other safety equipment are constantly checked, monitored and replaced when necessary. Equipment maintained according to EN/CE/UIAA recommendations. Instructor to actively monitor participants use of equipment | Activity Leaders to monitor equipment and report any defects. Senior Instructor to periodically inspect and maintain equipment log. Annual inspection of Anchor points By external inspector. | Low |
| **Misuse** | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Unlikely | Harmful | Activity Leaders are trained and locally accredited to run the activity. |  | Low |
| **Clipping into gear loop** | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Disabling or fatal injury | All gear loops must be removed from harnesses. |  | Low |
| **Inversion/fall** | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Unlikely | Harmful | Activity Leaders will provide clear instruction to avoid inversion or falls  Activity Leaders to ensure correct use and fitting of equipment  Activity Leaders to use an improvised chest harness where needed (i.e. oversized or undersized participants). | Activity Leaders to fit improvised chest harness where required. | Low |
| Falling objects | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Very Unlikely | Disabling or fatal injury | Helmets must always be worn whilst taking part in the activity  A safe area must be established away from the activity (off the crash mats).  Activity Leader to brief the participants on action to take if accidentally dropping dislodging something (i.e. shout ‘below’) and action to take if you hear ‘below’ being shouted |  | Low |
| Trips/slips and fall whilst un-roped | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Very Unlikely | Very Harmful | All participants are to be briefed not to run around the climbing wall and to be careful when walking up to climb. Red holds for low level traversing, imposition of Stop line for un-roped climbing.  Participants are to be briefed not to climb until instructed to do so by the Activity Leader. | Activity Leaders to check each climber. | Low |
| Falls whilst low level Traversing. | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Harmful | Activity Leader to brief the participants in the correct techniques for Traversing. Red holds are for low level traversing.  Participants not to go above the second panel “Red Line”.  Crash mats with joint seals and topper are in place. | Leader to provide safety briefing covering the preferred option of beating a hasty down climb or checking over the shoulder before attempting a two footed landing, uncontrolled falls to be avoided.  Leader to check joint seals prior to session commencing. | Low |
| Asthma attacks and other medical conditions | Visiting Children, Teachers and Staff | Unlikely | Harmful | All group members will be told to bring any medication over to the Climbing wall with them. Other medical conditions should have been reported to the programme leader and the team will be informed.  Teachers will be advised of suitability of the activity.  A First aid kit is kept in the climbing wall. Activity Leaders are First Aid trained and have access to a mobile phone | Leader to provide safety briefing.  Leader to check that medication is present | Low |
| Visiting teachers ‘helping’ at wrong time without training | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Harmful | Teachers to be briefed by Activity Leaders as to what is required of them prior to the activity. | Leader to provide safety briefing and monitor school staff | Low |
| Mismatch in size / weight within smaller groups | Visiting Children, Teachers and Staff | Likely | Harmful | Ground anchors to be used. |  | Low |
| Mats in the wrong position / trip hazard | Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff | Unlikely | Harmful | Activity leader to ensure that Crash mats are properly located prior to each session. |  | Low |

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| Risk assessment Conducted By | Reviewed By | Date | Next scheduled review | Signed | Signed Off By |
| Dom Salter  MLTB SPA | Dom Salter | 17th May 2018 | May 2019 | C:\Users\dom\Documents\My Documents\personal\AA-Sig.png |  |