

Kenelm Youth Trust Activity Risk Assessment – Indoor Climbing

Hazards	Who is affected	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Control Measure	Further Risk Control Measure / Actions	Residual Risk
Harnesses fitted incorrectly.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Harmful	All participants are briefed in the correct fitting of all climbing equipment. Activity Leaders 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.	Activity Leaders to provide safety briefing. Activity Leaders 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 and belly button piercings), tuck away hair, loose clothing and draw cords etc. if piercings can't be removed, a latex free plaster to be applied if possible.	Activity Leaders to provide safety briefing, monitor and check.	Low
The belay device and belaying.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Harmful	Either Activity Leaders will belay or will monitor the participants belaying themselves. Activity Leaders to train the participants in the correct	Leader to provide safety briefing and demonstration of peer belaying. Activity Leaders to brief the participants on the possibility of rope burn	Low



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				techniques to belay (and then supervise) prior to belaying.	when belaying and how to avoid by hand over hand lowering	
Use of GriGri belay system	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Harmful	Activity leaders are trained by technical advisors in the use of the GriGri belay device.	Activity Leader will control the "lower off"	
Injury due to falling or being dropped.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Disabling or fatal injury	The speed of 'lower off' is controlled by the Activity Leaders.	Activity leaders to directly (hands on) supervise all 'lower offs'.	Low
Traversing areas – walking beneath sections where others are climbing.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Disabling or fatal injury	Young people briefed about low dangers & requested to clear away from the mats quickly after a fall. High level of vigilance maintained.		Low
Carabiner is cross loaded, or rope runs over collar or thimble causing the gate to open	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Disabling or fatal injury	KYT will only use belaying carabiners fitted with a locking bar which prevents reversing, cross loading or inadvertent gate opening.	Self-locking (triple lock) carabiners are also in use. GriGri belay device is also used.	Low



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Peer Belaying.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Disabling or fatal injury	Activity Leaders to dynamically risk assess belay teams for ability (competence and responsibility) to peer belay. Activity Leaders fully understand the difference between direct “hands on” & remote “hands off” supervision.	Activity Leaders to position themselves in the position of maximum usefulness to take control.	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.	Proper briefing of young people, behaviour monitored and managed appropriately. Vigilance of all staff during activity.	Low
Equipment failure, inappropriate use of equipment.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Disabling or fatal injury	Ropes and other safety equipment are pre-use checked, monthly checked, monitored and replaced when necessary. Activity Leaders to actively monitor participants use of equipment.	Activity Leaders to monitor equipment and report any defects. Activity Manager to carry out monthly checks and maintains an equipment log. Annual inspection of anchor points by external Inspector.	Low
Misuse.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Disabling or fatal injury	Activity Leaders are trained and locally accredited to run the activity*.	Door to climbing wall is locked and code only given to staff not children. Young people are always supervised in the climbing wall area. Safety boards fitted to cover the climbing	Low



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					wall area to prevent unauthorised use.	
Clipping into gear loop.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Disabling or fatal injury	All gear loops have been 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	Safe area established away from the activity (off the crash mats). Activity Leaders 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.	Helmets no longer worn from following advice from external TA -given the relatively low height of the wall and the good depth of crash mats, helmets potentially catching on something poses a greater risk.	Low



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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, Stop line marked for un-roped climbing. Participants are to be briefed not to climb until instructed to do so by the Activity Leaders.		Low
Falls whilst low level Traversing.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Harmful	Activity Leaders 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.	Activity 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. Activity Leader to check joint seals prior to session commencing.	Low
Asthma attacks and other medical conditions.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, 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.	Activity Leader to provide safety briefing. Leader to check that medication is present	Low



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				<p>Teachers will be advised of suitability of the activity.</p> <p>A first aid kit is kept in the climbing wall. Activity Leaders are First Aid trained and have access to a mobile phone.</p>		
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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.	Activity Leader to provide safety briefing and monitor school staff	Low
Mismatch in size / weight within smaller groups.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Harmful	Ground anchors and daisy chains to be used.		Low
Mats in wrong position / trip hazard.	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Harmful	Activity Leaders to ensure that crash mats are properly located prior to each session.		Low

The Minimum National Governing Body Qualification to lead this activity is: M.L.T.B. Climbing Wall Award or staff have had their competence confirmed by an appropriately qualified and experienced technical adviser.

*Technical Adviser is Stuart Honick of Peak Climbing School: www.peakclimbingschool.co.uk

Risk assessment conducted by:	Signature:	Date:	Approved by:	Signature:	Next scheduled review date:
Richard Moore		April 2024	Sandra Satchell		April 2025



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