



Kenelm Youth Trust

Alton Castle & Soli Retreat Centres

Alton

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Alton Castle Activity Risk Assessment – Indoor Climbing Wall

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 by hand over hand lowering.	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.	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 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 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,	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).		Low

	Teachers and Staff			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		
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 and daisy chains 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
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.						
Risk assessment Conducted By / Qualification	Reviewed By	Date	Next scheduled review	Signed	Signed Off By	
Dom Salter MLTB SPA	Dom Salter	23 rd May 2019	May 2020			