

## Risk Assessment

### **Risk Assessment Guidelines**

Children under the age of 16 must be supervised at all times during their visit and are the responsibility of the teacher/group leader.

### **Pre-Visit**

We recommend that teachers make a pre-visit to the museum to plan their class visit. Teachers can visit the Museum free of charge.

### **Before your visit**

Surgeons' Hall Museums contains many extraordinary objects that can provoke strong reactions. All objects were collected to be used as teaching tools to improve patient care. It is important to be aware that some students in the class may have particular sensitivities to the displays. The Museum contains preserved human and animal remains showing general anatomy as well as diseases. Some individuals may have a medical condition similar to those presented or have a relative who is affected. However, it is also important to be aware that the majority of our collection is over 100 years old and not always reflective of illness in the present day. Groups will need prepared for what they will see and should be able to talk about their reactions. A virtual tour of the Museum is available online at Surgeons' Hall Museums Virtual Tour - Surgeons' Hall Museums, Edinburgh. This can be used to prepare students for what they will encounter on their visit. It can also be useful for parents who wish further information about the Museum. Do not hesitate to contact the Museum's Learning Officer if you require further information on how to prepare your group.

### **Museum Staff**

Different staff will be on hand to help you during your visit.

*Learning Officer* will lead the workshop, welcome you to the Museum and look after you during your visit.

*Front of House Staff* look after the galleries and help visitors during their visit.

### **Fire alarm**

The Museum has clear procedures for evacuating in the event of a fire. Front of House Staff or the Learning Officer will escort you outside.



### **Getting Lost**

The Museum is small but it is split over several floors, it is helpful to agree a meeting point such as the reception desk in case your group is split up.

### **Potential hazards around the Museum**

#### **Museum Entrance Hall:**

- When it is raining, there is a slight risk of slipping and falling.

#### **Throughout the Museum:**

- Large plate glass cases, doors or walls which you might not see very well.
- Potentially slippery floors and changes in flooring type and level.
- Sharp edges of walls, cases and stairways.
- Lifts.
- Fire extinguishers should NOT be touched.
- Objects, plinths and stands at low level that could be tripped over.
- Balconies.
- Open spaces – please discourage pupils from running.
- Small staircases and narrow areas can lead to overcrowding and children bumping into each other.