

Risk Assessment

Due to the nature of Freshwater Theatre Company's work in schools, i.e. facilitators and performers are going into unknown schools, all of which have different and varied hazards, it is not possible to provide specific risk assessments for each and every place of work.

However during the course of their training with Freshwater, facilitators and performers are made aware of the overall and general risks involved in the work, (as outlined below) and how these risks can be got rid of altogether, controlled or minimised. These risks may be to themselves or to the children, adults or property in the schools they are working in.

What are the hazards?

- Carrying Freshwater equipment (props and scenery) through school areas where children and other adults may be present.
- Use of scenery and props in the vicinity of children and other adults.
- Children interacting with Freshwater props and scenery.
- Use of electrical equipment near children.
- Large numbers of children moving into, and being in a space.
- Large numbers of children experiencing a new and exciting activity.
- Physical interaction between children during sessions.
- Physical interaction between facilitators/performers and children during session/shows.
- Use of school equipment during sessions and shows.

Who might be harmed?

- Pupils at the school: both those attending a Freshwater event, and other pupils in the vicinity of any movement, setting up or use of Freshwater props and scenery.
- Freshwater performers and facilitators.
- Adults in the school, (including teachers and teaching assistants, administrative staff, school meals staff, site managers, visiting adults) in the vicinity of any movement, setting up or use of Freshwater props and scenery.

How might they be harmed?

- Pupils (1) May collide with bulky/hard equipment whilst it's being carried.
(2) May get caught by opening/closing doors.
(3) Scenery/props could fall/get dropped on them.
(4) May trip on wires for electrical equipment.
(5) May fall or get pushed by another child.
(6) May get injured by performers/facilitators movements
(7) School equipment may fall/get dropped on them.
- Freshwater performers and facilitators: as per 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 above.
- Adults in the school: as per 1,2,3,4,6,7 above.

Level of Risk

(1) Medium (2) Medium (3) Low (4) Low (5) Medium (6) Low (7) Low

Risk Assessment

What precautions can be taken?

1. Only carry an amount of scenery/props that can be safely carried without endangering others.
Carry equipment with care and attention.
Be aware of movement of children and adults around you.
Always check with staff that you are using the shortest and safest route to the performance/workshop space.
2. Ensure that doors are securely kept open.
3. As much as possible ensure that non Freshwater personnel, and children are excluded from the workshop/performance space at all times other than when the workshop/performance is taking place.
Ensure that all scenery/props are put together securely as per training instructions.
Report any breakages or faults to scenery /props to management, immediately. If they present an immediate risk, do not use them until they are repaired or replaced.
4. Minimise use of 'trailing' wires.
Avoid wires across a major through route.
Wherever necessary gaffer wires to the floor or cover with a PE mat.
5. Ensure sufficient adult supervision is on hand for the number of children involved and the level of activity. Every class must be accompanied at all times by at least one adult with qualified teacher status.
At the beginning of a show/session, always establish ground rules of listening and adhering to instructions from the facilitator/performer and throughout a show/workshop maintain an atmosphere of calm and discipline.
Ensure that physical activities are appropriate to the size of the group and the age, ability and concentration levels of the group.
Check with school staff before a workshop/show if there are any specific issues of behavioural or physical need/risk in the group.
6. Ensure that all physical movements near, and interaction with, children are safe and appropriate.
7. Minimise use of school equipment.
Ensure that any equipment used is fit and safe for the use it is being put to.

Recording of Findings

Specific risk assessments do not need to be made for individual schools, but any incidents must be reported to Freshwater management immediately and put into writing as soon as possible.