The Chesterfield Observatory

Risk assessment for groups visiting the Chesterfield Observatory

- The responsibility for people aged under 18 is that of the party who booked the visit and should be supervised at all times. Members of the society who are present during the visit are not responsible for the supervision of children, this responsibility lies fully with the adults accompanying the group. A responsible person or persons should stay with the group at all times. There should also be an appropriate adult to child ratio. The lecture room has a maximum seated capacity of 25 in total.
- The observatory is well lit, inside and out with illuminated emergency exit signs at the exits of the dome and lecture room. The only time the dome lights will be turned off is during observing. While the main lights are turned off, a red light will be on to maintain visibility in the dome and on the steps. The emergency exit signs will always remain illuminated.
- To observe through the main 18 inch telescope, it is necessary to use the steps provided by the observatory. Care must be taken while climbing the steps and all instructions given to visitors must be followed at all times.
- The site receives regular inspections inside and out to make sure any hazards are minimized and so that everything is maintained properly.
- There are security systems in place (security cameras and secure fencing) to ensure the safety of members and visitors, but also to safeguard expensive equipment at the observatory.
- All electronic equipment is PAT tested. Water systems are checked regularly for legionella. The first aid box is accessible in the main lecture room and is checked regularly in case it requires renewing. The two fire exits are kept clear, with an assembly point located at the entrance of the car park. The observatory is entirely wheelchair accessible. Although the dome is accessible to wheelchair users, the steps up to the telescope would be difficult to negotiate. The toilet is accessible for disabled visitors. It is not a guarantee that any members present will be first aiders, therefore you may want someone in your party who is first aid trained. Fire extinguishers are located in the entrance of the lecture room and are checked on a monthly basis.
- All areas of the observatory are kept clean and tidy. Anything that needs attention should be reported so maintenance work can be carried out as soon as possible.
- All visitors are advised to take care in the observatory dome to avoid accidental contact with the telescope and other equipment. The main telescope in the dome is sensitive and any contact with it could affect its alignment, along with the equipment that's attached to it.
- Care needs be taken around the telescope or other equipment while in the dome. It is the responsibility of the group leaders that this is carried out and children adhere to this for their safety. Visitors will be instructed to keep to the wall until told otherwise.
