

This generic Risk Assessment is intended to advise teachers bring pupils on a site visit to **any old kirk/burial ground** but was developed specifically with Kirkmichael in mind during the course of restoration and visits to other kirks, ruined and active. Teachers are of course welcome to carry out their own preliminary visits too.

It should be noted there are **no toilets** at either Kirkmichael or Old Cullicudden, but toilets at Resolis Primary may be used by other schools by prior arrangement.

Nature of Risk	Level of Risk	Impact of Risk	Mitigation of Risk
Falling masonry/slates	Low – High only if very windy	Shock, bruising, broken bones, death	Keep a distance from building if windy. Check for tiles on the ground around the building – if these are present, be vigilant in windier weather
Unstable gravestones	Low	Shock, bruising, broken bones, death	Advise all pupils on arrival that they must not climb on, push or lean against gravestones or monuments either inside or outside kirk buildings and mausolea.
Collision with motor vehicle	Medium	Serious injury, death	Maintain vigilance at all times in the proximity of other vehicles in the car park. Ask pupils to behave respectfully, and not to run or mess about. Consider erecting advance signage notifying drivers of pedestrians on the road if need be.
Sudden changes in level	High	Shock, bruising, broken bones	Advise all pupils to be vigilant in the burial ground as there are often abrupt changes in level which are difficult to see. Discourage running or messing around.
Tripping hazards	Medium	Shock, bruising, broken bones	Advise all visitors on arrival of the nature of the uneven ground.
Poisoning from ingestion of plant species (e.g. yew or ivy)	Low	Vomiting, nausea, death	Advise all pupils not to touch the ivy, yew or other plants likely to be growing within the kirkyard and wash or hand-wipe hands before any food is consumed
Adverse weather conditions	Low	Chills, slipping	Advise all pupils in advance to wear warm waterproof clothing and footwear, especially boots or wellies if wet.

<i>Environmental: damage to monuments</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Irreparable damage</i>	<i>Advise all pupils on arrival that they must behave respectfully and follow the guidance of site tour leaders. Our stones and monuments are not suitable for rubbing or casting.</i>	
<i>Environmental: contamination of environment through litter</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Impact upon wildlife and atmosphere of monument</i>	<i>Advise all pupils not to eat or chew gum within the burial ground and to take litter home. Teachers please check at end of the visit and remove any litter.</i>	