

## Health and Safety Issues at Buckfast Abbey

Buckfast Abbey is more than just a site that people visit - it is a living and working community, which means that there is a wide range of activity around the site. With this in mind Buckfast Abbey Trust has a broad Health and Safety policy which looks after the welfare of monks, visitors and staff.

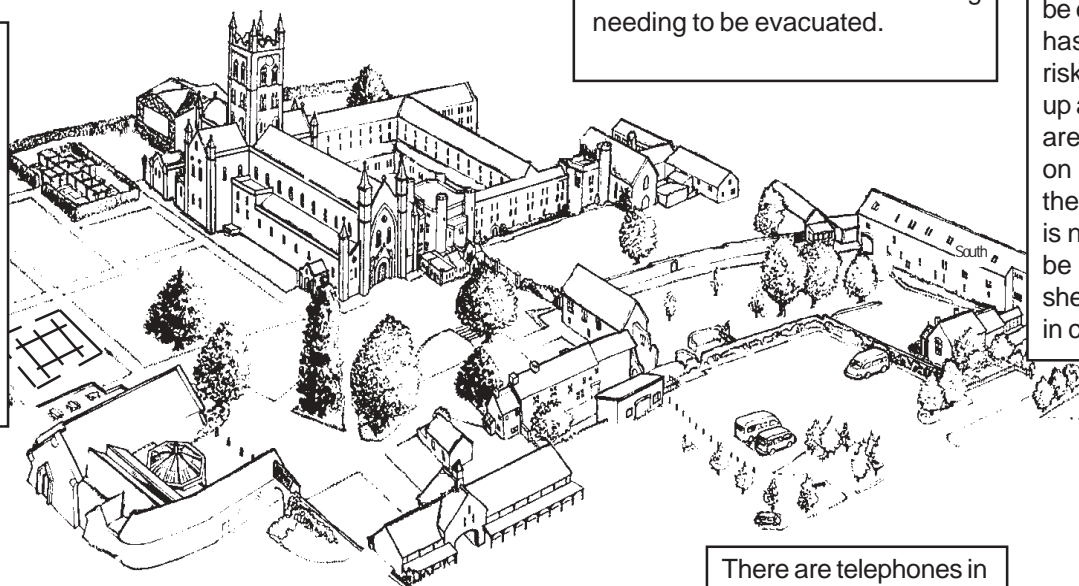
If you need to prepare a Risk Assessment for your School Visit to Buckfast Abbey we hope that the following notes will be of use to you. If you have any further questions please call the Education Department (01364 645517) If necessary your call may be passed on to a member of the Buckfast Health and Safety Committee.

The Abbey Church. This building contains all the usual features associated with a liturgical space. A votive candle rack is situated in the Lady Chapel (North Aisle) and occasionally in the Holy Cross Chapel (South Aisle). Visitors may light a candle and place it in one of these racks. Children wishing to do this should only do so in the presence of an adult from your party. We recommend that all pupils are supervised in these areas. There are some areas where light levels are low.

Roadways and Paths. Vehicle access beyond the parking areas is restricted to disabled parking (in front of the Church) and Abbey Works vehicles (usually small buggies with restricted speed) Although there are very few vehicles moving around the site at times when schools visit, vigilance is always necessary. Some paved areas can be slippery when wet or icy.

Water. There are unfenced moats around the Monastic Produce Shop and in the Physic Garden.

Insurance. The Buckfast Trust holds Public Liability Insurance. Details available on request



All public areas of the grounds can be accessed by paths on which there are no steps. There is a flight of steps, without a handrail, between the Church and Bookshop – but these can be avoided by using the adjacent paths. The entrance of the Church is level. Currently, the only area which can be reached solely by steps is the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (the chapel at the East end with the large stained glass window.)

**School staff are responsible for the safety and discipline of their pupils at all times during a visit.**

We ask that the leader of each individual group making up a school party has with them, at all times, a list with the names of the pupils in that group. This will be needed for a rôle call in the event of a building needing to be evacuated.

School groups are permitted to visit only those areas of Buckfast Abbey open to the public. These are indicated on maps sent to the school prior to the visit and on leaflets available on-site. Please respect all 'Private' signs.

The Education Centre. The 'hands-on' nature of this area means that risk cannot be eliminated. The Education Department has sought to take all steps to minimise risk. A Risk Assessment has been drawn up and periodic Health and Safety checks are made. Pupils are given information on the safe use of particular exhibits in their introductory talk in the Centre. If it is necessary for the Education Officer to be temporarily absent from the Centre she will always inform the member of staff in charge before leaving.

The Coach Park. This is a busy area with moving vehicles. There are pedestrian areas in front of the parking areas (in the region of the Video Presentation) where you may gather your pupils together rather than on the parking surface.

There are telephones in all buildings which can be used to call the Emergency Services. Each building has a First Aid Kit. The Abbey has several qualified First Aiders (FAW certificate) and many staff have had some first aid training.

Fire. All buildings have fire alarms and fire fighting equipment. All fire exits are marked. Fire Alarms are checked on a weekly basis.

Across the site all electrical and mechanical equipment is regularly checked and maintained.