

Wingspan Risk Assessment & Management Form

Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre (Wingspan) recognises the importance of providing a safe environment for school visits to our premises for the requirements of school Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experiences. This policy outlines our requirements for school visits to our Centre.

Raptors are Predators

Wingspan's raptors are free-flying during displays. This means that they are free to hunt other prey during the display period (such as rats, mice, stoats, other birds etc) and can do so. **Please ensure that you have informed your school group that raptors are hunters and are fed raw meat, and that this is natural and appropriate for predators.**

Location

School visits are accepted to our National Bird of Prey Centre, 1164 Paradise Valley Road, Ngongotaha, Rotorua. Email: wingspan.nz@gmail.com; Phone: (07) 357 4469

Accessibility

Wingspan is based on flat terrain suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. Disabled access to the toilets is with assistance only. The aviaries and the museum are all under cover. The flying area is outside and can become wet and muddy.

Timeframes for School Visits

Booking school visits are essential (email is the preferred method) **at least two weeks prior to the planned visit.**

Wingspan reserves the right to advise that a proposed day is not acceptable, and require the proposed visit to be rescheduled to a mutually agreeable date.

Visits are accepted between 9 am and 3 pm, however the best time to arrive is 1:30 pm in time for the flying display that start at 2 pm.

Please advise Wingspan at the time of booking if a particular project focus is required i.e. flight, feathers or conservation.

Adult to Student Ratio to be provided by the School

Wingspan requires that all school groups provide a minimum adult to student ratio as outlined below:

- **1 adult per 6 children (primary students)**
- **1 adult per 10 students (Intermediate or secondary students)**

Wingspan reserves the right to refuse entry to the entire visiting party if these ratios of adults to children are not provided by the visiting group on the day of the visit. *Wingspan staff are not included in these ratios.* Please contact us if you are unable to fulfil these ratios.

Visitor Behaviour

Adults from the school party are responsible for child/student behaviour while on Wingspan's premises. We have live birds on the premises in aviaries and flying free during flying demonstrations. Visitors (students or adults) may not:

- Attempt to touch or otherwise aggravate the raptors (eg poking fingers or objects into aviaries)
- Run anywhere on Wingspan's premises
- Attempt to enter any part of the premises that is marked "private" or "no access"
- Attempt to feed the raptors, unless supervised by a Wingspan staff member and instructed to do so (for example, during a flying display)
- Interfere in any way with Wingspan's activities
- Breach any of Wingspan's health and safety policies and procedures
- Respect for other visitors and be aware of other people around them
- Students should be seated quietly at the end of the aviaries by 2 pm, prior to the flying display
- Any student visiting the toilet or leaving the main group must be accompanied by an adult appointed by the school
- Teachers should avoid using a whistle at Wingspan, as these are used as a training tool for our birds



Students are expected to treat Wingspan's premises, staff, and raptors with respect. Wingspan reserves the right to request the immediate removal of any student and/or party that breaches any of the expected standards of behaviour on the site.



Equipment for Trips to Wingspan

What to bring to Wingspan

Wingspan is an all-weather operation. All members of your school party must have appropriate clothing for all weather conditions, including rain and wind:

- Sunblock and hats for fine days
- Warm clothing for cold or windy days
- Waterproof clothing for rain

Wingspan has a limited number of umbrellas that can be used during free flying displays that must be returned after use.

Hazards and Risks

Wingspan has a comprehensive hazard register for our operations. A copy of this is available on request from Wingspan. Key hazards that students may be exposed to include:

Hazard	Location	Controls
Bites or scratches from birds	Free flying area Aviaries	Wingspan provides a leather glove for holding birds during displays Supervision by Wingspan staff during displays Policy requirement: not to poke fingers or objects into aviaries
Exposure to adverse weather conditions	Free flying area	Wingspan provides some umbrellas for use by visitors Policy requirement: visitors to provide appropriate all-weather gear
Uneven Surfaces	Entrance areas Museum	Students and teachers should take care to avoid slipping and tripping by ensuring that they walk, not run and are mindful of others around them.

Emergency Management

Fire

The main emergency identified at Wingspan is fire risk. The emergency assembly point is at the wooden eagle statue in the main carpark. Wingspan staff will act as Wardens.



You are required to have a named list of every person in your school group so that people can be checked off in an emergency evacuation.

Injury

All staff at Wingspan has a current First Aid certificate, and a first aid kit is held in the main Centre administration/entry building, and in the staff only area of the museum.

Wingspan has a 'Lifepak' Defibrillator on site.



NB. An epipen is not held on site.

Please ensure that any person with significant allergies or other serious medical conditions has their own epipen or other required medication.

Please note it can take 20 minutes or more for emergency services to reach Wingspan's premises.

Reporting Requirements

If any member of your party has a near miss or is injured (even minor injuries such as small scrapes and bruises) or becomes unwell on Wingspan's premises, **you are required to report this to a Wingspan staff member before you leave the site for entry into our online Incident Register. This is to comply with our requirements under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.**

Policy authorised by

Wingspan Director

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Wingspan Contact Details:

Email: wingspan.nz@gmail.com

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