

**Learning Experience – Werribee Open Range Zoo**

Risk Management / Safety and Venue Information

Over 50 years’ experience delivering education programs to Victorian students has demonstrated that the best education outcomes are achieved at our sites through a common-sense balance of student independence and supervision, appropriate to age level and school regulations. Generally speaking, we recommend *the minimum amount of supervision necessary* and encourage students to explore our sites as independently as possible. Given this, the information below is provided to help teachers and students prepare and plan a safe visit to Werribee Open Range Zoo.

Zoos Victoria also provides free teacher PDs so you can familiarise yourself with each of our properties plus sharpen your teaching skills with fresh strategies you can take back to the classroom.

Visit <https://www.zoo.org.au/education/education-events-and-pd/> for more information.

|  |
| --- |
| **Hazard Location:** Werribee Open Range Zoo, K Road, Werribee, Victoria  |
| **Hazard Description:** Child safety at Werribee Open Range Zoo during school excursion  |
| **Hazard Identification** | **Risk Reduction Control Measures** |
| **Walking through the Zoo grounds –** lost child/ren | * Ensure students are familiar with [map](https://www.zoo.org.au/werribee/werribee-zoo-map/) and prepared for walking through a large site. (African Trail 1000m 60 minutes, Werribee River Trail 1000m 35minutes, Australian Trail 500m 20minutes)
* Follow recommended supervision ratios of 1:3 for Early Childhood, 1:5 Primary School and 1:10 Secondary School
* It is recommended that secondary school students are allowed to independently explore the zoo in small groups and that upper primary students do so on a case-by-case basis, or with adult supervision, in small groups. Early Childhood and lower primary school students should be accompanied by a supervising adult in small groups. Students remain the responsibility of the school teachers at all times
* Implement appropriate supervision strategies including:
	+ Early Childhood/Primary Schools: name badges, mobile phone number displayed on students, regular role calls, establishing meeting points and meeting times
	+ Secondary Schools: teacher mobile phone contact, regular meeting points and times, a zoo map for each group (printed at school or on own device)
* Gather all students and adults at beginning of the day to outline meeting times and ensure site orientation
* Encourage missing students to report to any Zoo staff member
* Zoo staff have emergency management systems in place to handle missing students as well as visitor and medical emergencies
 |
| **Walking through the Zoo grounds** – exposure to extreme weather | * Ensure students are provided with adequate sun protection and water (water points throughout zoo – [see map](https://www.zoo.org.au/werribee/werribee-zoo-map/))
* Become aware of undercover areas in case of extreme weather. i.e. African Huts located at beginning of African Trail
* First Aid officers are on duty at all times and can be located at the Zoo Entry
* Werribee Open Range Zoo complies with all access requirements for students with a disability
 |
| **Safari bus tour** – lost personal item dropped out of vehicle’s windows | * Safari bus guides provide all visitors with a safety message at the commencement of the 40-minute bus tour
* Safari bus is fitted with an intercom to communicate any safety concerns teachers have directly to the Safari guide
* Zoo staff have emergency management systems in place to handle medical emergencies while on a safari bus tour
 |
| **Car Park** – accident with vehicle upon entry and exit to the zoo | * A bus pick-up and drop-off zone is located just past the zoo entrance in designated drop off lane.
* All visitors (including students) must use designated and marked walkways to the zoo entrance
 |
| **Child Protection** | * All Zoo staff are compliant with National Police Checks and, where applicable, compliant with Victorian Working with Children Checks or Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration
 |
| **Role of the Zoos** Management and employees recognise that they jointly have a key role in prevention and mitigation activities to reduce, or minimise the effects, of emergencies that may occur. Review of existing policies and acting in accordance with statutory and world zoological practices combine to ensure all measures possible are addressed to reduce the likelihood of an emergency.  |

**In case of emergency while at Werribee Open Range Zoo, please call the Duty Officer on 0409 211 275**