

St Ursula's Church, Berne
Risk Assessment – Use of Garden
(for a general area that applies to many activities)

Full Assessment / Review Carried Out:

Small Change Made:

On:	By:	Approved On:
2022-10-22	Sue Higson & Agnes Derory	2022-12-06

On:	By:	Description of Change
2023-06-05	Tricia Carrick	Use new template (no content changes)

Assessment to be reviewed: October 2025
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Summary

*Currently free-format – add lines and columns as necessary
 (Can identify areas of concern, actions to be taken, or anything else that needs to be highlighted)*

Notes:

1. This assessment will be (partly) revised whenever a topic is identified.
 In addition, a full review will be undertaken every 3 years.

1. General Points

Note that all tools and equipment are kept in a locked shed when not in use, and are not available to the general public.

First aid supplies for accidents are kept in the first aid cupboard.

Parents are responsible for their children.

2. Risks to Public

What could cause harm?	Existing precautions in place	Additional precautions required	Responsible
Uneven paving stones			
The paving slabs are uneven and could lead to tripping and stumbling		Sand could be put between the slabs in places, but the more serious ones should be newly laid. This can be done at the same time as the next item.	TCom
Umbrella on terrace			
The slabs holding it down are above the surface and represent a hazard for tripping etc.		In the long term, we need to set the stand under the ground in concrete. This is a specialist job. In the short term, benches are placed over the slabs when the patio is in use.	Council
Car Park / Bike Parking			
Cyclists could be overlooked by car drivers		Consider another parking area for the cycles. Put up a sign warning about cycles in the car park	Council
Toxic plants			
Some plants may have toxic berries if ingested in quantity. Toxic mushrooms may grow in the grass		Identify the affected plants, and mark with a sign to symbolise that the children should not pick them. Remove toxic wild plants and fungi.	Gardening team

What could cause harm?	Existing precautions in place	Additional precautions required	Responsible
Tree Climbing			
The lightening rod on the Douglas Fir is used to climb the tree. This is dangerous for the lightening rod which can come loose, plus the children might fall		Refix the lightening rod to the tree with no gap between the rod and the tree, and up the side away from the gap in the branches. Tell parents that the children are not permitted to climb the trees in the garden	TCom and Council
Lower hall bank			
The bank is quite steep and attractive for the children to climb on. Risks are however low even if they fall		No additional precautions	
Slippery Leaves			
In Autumn when the leaves all fall from the trees, then they are slippery on the paths.	The Garden team already clear the leaves, plus the paths are pressure washed annually.	Maria to monitor for excessive leaves, especially if wet and notify the gardening team who should arrange for someone to remove them from the paths.	Office
Children playing generally			
Children run on to the street or climb the gates or trees		Parents to be reminded that their children are their responsibility. Keep gates closed where possible and try and make the garden Kid friendly	
Children playing with the gravel			
Injury through throwing of gravel, ingestion of gravel etc.		Discourage children from playing with the gravel. Consider a proper sandpit or similar for the children to dig in.	

What could cause harm?	Existing precautions in place	Additional precautions required	Responsible
Garden furniture including wooden table and stools			
Broken furniture could cause injury. The wooden table and chairs are heavy and could fall on a child.		Gardening team to do regular checks of the furniture and arrange for repair or disposal as required. Other users should also notify the office of any breakages. Maria to include in rental contracts. Discourage the children from tipping the wooden stools over. Note they are covered in winter to protect them.	