



School Risk Assessment Information

This document provides supporting information to help schools plan a visit to Sydney Opera House and prepare their own risk assessment and risk management plan.

Note: Schools are responsible for completing their own risk assessment. The Sydney Opera House cannot complete this on anyone's behalf.

Please refer to the Sydney Opera House Excursion Information document for all other planning details including commuting, arrival, and lunch arrangements.

Additional information can be found by visiting our website or contacting the Creative Learning Team: Email: creativelearning@sydneyoperahouse.com

1. Before your visit

Supervision

- The recommended supervision ratio is a minimum of one teacher per 15 students for primary and one teacher per 25 students for secondary.
- A supervising adult must be present with the group at all times.

Child Safety

The Sydney Opera House is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children that visit or engage with the Sydney Opera House through its services and programs. This policy and supporting procedures embed the NSW Royal Commission's Child Safe Standards and outline commitments, strategies and actions in relation to:

- Child participation and empowerment.
 - Recruiting child-related employment positions.
 - Working with Children Check requirements.
 - Engaging with families and third parties.
 - Child safety training and communication activities.
 - Authorisation to employ children.
 - Child safety complaints management.
 - Here are links to the [Child Safety Policy](#) and a [child-friendly Code of Conduct](#).
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2. Getting here

Vehicle Access

- There is no general vehicle, bus, or coach access to the Sydney Opera House site.
- Schools with students who have accessibility requirements may request vehicle access by prior arrangement. Contact: accessibility@sydneyoperahouse.com
- Students who are unable to walk long distances may be dropped off by taxi or private vehicle at the Gatehouse, located at the site entrance on Macquarie Street.
- A buggy service operates between the Gatehouse and the building for patrons with accessibility requirements.
- The nearest public transport (rail, bus, light rail, and ferry) is located at Circular Quay, which is a short walk from Sydney Opera House.
- There is a covered walkway from Circular Quay to Sydney Opera House, with a five metre gap between the apartment building at the northern end of Macquarie Street and the escalator leading down to Sydney Opera House's Lower Level.

3. On site

Public Liability Insurance

- Sydney Opera House is fully covered by public liability insurance.
- A copy of the Certificate of Currency can be obtained upon request via email to: creativelearning@sydneyoperahouse.com

Exterior environment

- The exterior of the building is fully paved in various forms of granite, with many steps and changes in floor level throughout the site.
- Suitable footwear and appropriate clothing are strongly recommended for all visitors.
- The site is surrounded by water on three sides. Lifebuoy rings are located outside of the building.

Toilets

Visitor toilets, including accessible facilities, are located at three points:

- Lower Level – near the Food and Beverage outlets
 - Ground Level – inside the Western Foyer (open all day until theatres close)
 - Upper Level – in the main Box Office foyer near the Information Desk
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Accessibility

- There are a large number of steps and floor level changes throughout Sydney Opera House.
- A public lift connects the Lower Level, Ground Level, and Upper (Main Box Office) Level. It can be accessed via an underground corridor near the Welcome Centre on the Lower Level, and via a corridor on the Ground Level (at the top of the escalators).
- Escalators connect the Box Office foyer to the Joan Sutherland Theatre and Concert Hall southern foyers.
- Wheelchair and companion seating are available in all theatres. Please advise of any accessibility or companion seating requirements at the time of booking.
- A limited number of courtesy wheelchairs are available for students attending performances in the Concert Hall and Joan Sutherland Theatre.
- There is a Changing Places facility with hoist available, located in the corridor next to the Box Office on the Upper (Main Box Office) Level.

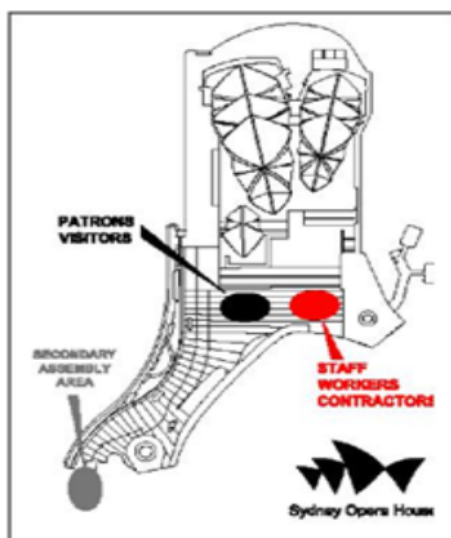
CCTV

- All exterior areas and public areas inside the building are covered by CCTV cameras.
- The Sydney Opera House CCTV Policy is available at www.sydneyoperahouse.com under About Us > Corporate Information > Sydney Opera House Policies.

4. Emergency and Safety

Emergency procedures

- Sydney Opera House has a formal Emergency Plan detailing Emergency Procedures to cope with likely emergency scenarios.
 - The primary evacuation assembly point is the Forecourt.
 - In an emergency, Theatre Managers, Front of House staff, and the Emergency Planning & Response Group will direct school groups to safe locations.
 - The building has a fully compliant fire detection and suppression system, including an Emergency Warning and Intercommunication System (EWIS). These systems are managed by the Emergency Planning & Response Groups, which provide 24-hour, 7 days-a-week coverage.
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5. Risk Assessment Matrix

Hazard	Likelihood	Consequence	Control Measures
Slips, trips & falls (steps, paving, level changes)	High	Moderate - High	Ensure students wear appropriate footwear. Pre-brief students on uneven surfaces and steps. Supervising adults to monitor the group closely in transition areas.
Sun, wind & rain exposure (exposed exterior)	High	Low - Moderate	Advise students and teachers to dress appropriately. Arrange shelter or rest breaks if the weather is severe. Ensure students have water and sun protection.
Proximity to water (harbour on three sides)	Low	High	Brief students before arrival. Ensure adequate supervision near waterfront areas. Note location of lifebuoy rings outside of building.
Medical emergency (student illness or injury)	Low	High	Carry student medical information and emergency contacts. Know the location of the first aid room (staffed 8am–11:30pm). Nearest hospital: Sydney Hospital, Macquarie Street.
Separation / lost student	Low	Moderate	Conduct headcounts at key transition points. At least two supervising adults present at all times. Agree on a meeting point with the group



			before arrival.
Accessibility / mobility needs	Variable	Moderate	Please advise of accessibility needs at time of booking. Use lifts and escalators as required. Courtesy wheelchairs available for Concert Hall and Joan Sutherland Theatre.