Scenarios that we discussed how to handle

- Someone starts sharing their medical history with you for what feels like eternity.

- A flat Earther visits the stand and starts arguing with you and goes on to tell other visitors that everything you say is a lie.

- A visitor with whom you initially have a nice conversation starts behaving increasingly inappropriate, making weird remarks, invading your personal space, etc.

- Someone is doing one of the hands-on experiments and hurts themselves.

- You see a parent hard-handily grab their child and tell them off. Later you notice that the child is covered in bruises, and you suspect them to be related to domestic violence.

- A Royal Society Fellow starts making remarks about how your research is nothing new and we already knew all of these things 50 years ago.

- Someone is intoxicated and you are afraid they will break something on the stand.

- Someone is so excited about one of the experiments that they will not stop playing with it, and a line starts to form rapidly.

- You can see from the corner of your eye that one of your colleagues is not having a good interaction with a visitor, but your activity is busy with a large group of people that you cannot leave unsupervised.

Quiz Questions

[KM] = Key Message, [LO] = Learning Outcome

1. What is a magnetic field? [KM1; LO1]
a. The thing that makes fridge magnets stick
b. A force field around electric wires
c. The thing that makes a compass point north
d. All of the above

2. If I tell you I am a paleomagnetist, what do you think I study? [KM2]
a. Dinosaurs and fossils
b. The magnetic sense of birds
c. Earth's magnetic field in the past
d. Antique compasses

3. Where in Earth do you think its magnetic field comes from? [KM3]
a. The ocean bottom
b. The hot rocky mantle
c. The liquid outer core
d. The solid inner core

4. What creates the Earth's magnetic field? [KM3]

a. Lots of little magnets
b. One big magnet
c. Hot churning liquid iron
d. Rusty old lava

5. What does the Earth's magnetic field NOT do? [KM1; KM3]
a. Make compasses point north
b. Tell us about the inside of our planet
c. Protect satellites in space
d. Make volcanoes erupt

6. When were the continents all together in Pangaea? [KM3]
a. Three thousand years ago
b. Three million years ago
c. Three hundred million years ago
d. Three billion years ago

7. When in the past do you think compasses would have pointed south instead of north? [LO2]
a. Never
b. 781 years ago
c. 7810 years ago
d. 781,000 years ago

8. How do you think scientists know that compasses would have pointed south in the past? [KM2; LO1]]
a. By looking at fossils with a microscope
b. By measuring rocks with a magnetometer
c. By reading maps of old explorers
d. None of the above

9. How do you think scientists who study Earth's magnetic field are most likely to collect their rock samples? [LO4]
a. They find them in a museum collection
b. They drill them straight from the ground
c. They go down a deep mine shaft
d. They collect them from the bottom of the ocean in a submarine

10. Have you visited the stand "Magnetic to the core"
a. Not yet
b. Yes for less than 10 minutes
c. Yes for more than 10 minutes

11. If yes, do you agree or disagree with the statement: "I learnt lots of new things about Earth and its magnetic field?"
a. disagree
b. Neither agree nor disagree
c. agree

12. Would you like to find out more about the Earth's magnetic field (for example, by visiting www.geomagnetism.org [on the fridge magnet])?

a. Definitely not
b. Perhaps
c. Definitely

13. When did you last read a science news article online or in print (not health or medical)
a. In the last week
b. In the last month
c. Longer/never/can't remember

14. Could you tell us one cool thing that you learned?

Question for surveyor:

15. Does the participant appear to be in school?
Yes / No