

School visit FAQs

Bag storage

During your visit, there is a lockable room provided for bags, coats and lunchboxes to be left. The workshop leader will have the key so that you can get back in if needed throughout your visit.

Lunch

Children should bring a packed lunch with them on their visit. We cannot provide refrigerated space for this, lunch will be stored with bags in a locked room so that children don't have to carry it around with them. Lunch will be eaten in a space provided (in good weather, outdoor space is available, but we will always have an allocated space inside). Schools are expected to use the bins provided to clear up after they have eaten. During lunch, Ushaw staff and volunteers will go and eat their lunch, and supervision of the visiting group is the responsibility of the accompanying adults.

Cafe

We have a cafe on site offering a range of hot and cold drinks, and food such as sandwiches, soup, cake and snacks. Staff and adults accompanying the visit are free to buy food and drink in the cafe as long as there are enough adults to supervise the children on the visit. Anything you do buy can be put in a take out container and consumed wherever the children are eating.

Toilets

There are toilets available on the main visitor route. These are available for public use, so we wait until they are empty and then stop any members of the public entering the facilities while the children are using them. Ushaw staff are not permitted to participate in personal care, or to be in the bathrooms with the children. If you have children who need this support, a member of your school team will need to provide this.

General Public

Please be aware that our visitor route is open to the general public, however when we are doing a classroom based activity, this will be in a room that is not accessed by the public.



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Coaches

If you are using coach transport, please advise the driver to park in the overflow car park and walk the group up to the main house. If the coach needs to stay on site for the duration of the visit, please let us know as early as possible so that we can make arrangements. Mini busses are also welcome to park in the overflow carpark. Accessible parking suitable for cars or mini busses is available, please discuss this with us ahead of time so that we can ensure you get the most appropriate instructions.

Ratios

Staffing ratios should be dictated by the needs within the group on the visit following an understanding of the activities taking place and a full risk assessment. The DfES guidance suggests that for visits to local historical sites and museums and local walks, the ratio in normal circumstances would be:

- 1 adult for every 6 pupils (years 1 – 3), Foundation Stage 1 settings must have a higher ratio
- 1 adult for every 10-15 pupils (years 4 –6);
- 1 adult for every 15 – 20 pupils (year 7+).

There must always be a minimum of two adults

Ushaw's staff leading the workshop can not be counted in these ratios.

All adults accompanying the visit do so free of charge.

Pre-visit

Staff planning and accompanying the visit are entitled to a free pre-visit. This is in order to allow a full and thorough risk assessment to take place, and to familiarise yourselves with the site in advance of bringing your group.