Teacher Information Pack

Self-guided School Visits

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We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. This pack is designed to give you all the practical information you need to book and plan an enjoyable and safe visit.

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Introduction

**About the Palace of Holyroodhouse**

The Palace of Holyroodhouse is His Majesty The King's official residence in Scotland. It has been the scene of important and dramatic events across the centuries involving Robert the Bruce, Mary, Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Queen Victoria, and more.

**About Royal Collection Trust**

Royal Collection Trust looks after the Royal Collection, one of the most important art collections in the world and manages the public opening of the official residences of His Majesty The King. Through our work, from exhibitions and learning programmes to publications and retail products, we aim to ensure that the Royal Collection and Palaces are valued and enjoyed by everyone.

**Our nursery and school programme**

A visit to the Palace provides a memorable setting for learning and unique opportunities to meet Experiences and Outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence. Our expert-led interactive sessions are suitable for pupils in nursery, primary and secondary school. To find out more about our nursery and school programme visit: <https://www.rct.uk/discover/school-visits>

**Self-guided visit**

As well as our programme of facilitated sessions we also offer self-guided visits of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. These visits are perfect for pupils from Second Level to Senior Phase requiring a general or focused visit. During self-guided visits pupils can collected a multimedia guide which has a tour suitable for children from 7-11 and a tour suitable for young adults and adults.

**Self-guided prices**

A self-guided visit of the Palace of Holyrood is £3 per pupil. Please be aware these prices are for pupils studying in the UK; for pupils studying internationally bookings must be made through our Group Bookings Team.

One teacher or adult helper is admitted free of charge at the following ratios:

* Early Years – P1 - 1 adult: 3 pupils
* P2 – P4 - 1 adult: 6 pupils
* P5 and above - 1 adult: 10 pupils

Additional teachers or adult helpers above this ratio to support SEND pupils are admitted free of charge.

Booking your visit

**How to book your visit**

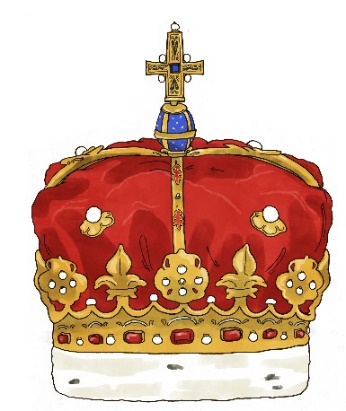
To book your self-guided visit for pupils studying in the UK please consider the following and then contact the Learning Booking Team:

* Preferred date of visit and possible alternatives
* Preferred arrival time
* Numbers of children and supervising adults

Learning Bookings Team  
Ticket Sales and Information Office  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1A 1AA

T. (+44) (0)303 123 7323  
F. (+44) (0)20 7930 9625  
[learning@rct.uk](mailto:learning@rct.uk)

Once you have made your booking you will receive a reservation letter. This reservation letter will confirm details of your booking including times and numbers of pupils and adults booked. Please read this carefully and if anything is incorrect contact the Learning Bookings Team. If your booking requires payment, the letter will confirm the date by which full payment must be received. All bookings are made subject to our terms and conditions. To see these please visit <https://www.rct.uk/schools/teacher-information-documents>



Before your visit

**Health and safety**

The Royal Household is committed to the principle of ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the general public within the royal residences. Under the guidance of our Fire, Health and Safety Branch, an established policy sets out staff and management responsibilities for all areas of activity and for the conduct of risk assessments.

The following statements summarise the main provisions of this policy:

* All areas at The Palace of Holyroodhouse, open for visitor admissions have been assessed both for compliance with current Health and Safety requirements and with the provisions of the Equality Act (2010).
* Regular inspections by operational, maintenance, and health and safety staff ensure that high levels of safety and visitor service are maintained. Cleaning and maintenance staff are available at all times during public opening hours, together with supervisory staff under the direction of a Duty Manager.
* Emergency procedures are published for all public areas, and staff undertake regular fire and evacuation training. All wardens are in radio contact.
* Trained first aid staff are available, supported by a permanently staffed fire surveillance team who are able to provide strong first aid cover

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**Risk assessments**

The Royal Household has undertaken workplace risk assessments to cover all areas of operation, with a particular focus on visitor access and they are reviewed on a regular basis.

In order for you to carry out risk assessments specific to your class we offer complimentary planning visit tickets.

**Security**

On arrival your belongings will be subject to a bag check. Try to bring as little as possible with you as it will help you to get through this process more quickly. For full information, please visit [Practical Information for visiting the Palace of Holyroodhouse (rct.uk)](https://www.rct.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse/practical-information-for-visiting-the-palace-of-holyroodhouse) .

**Complementary planning visit**

Once you have booked your visit you are entitled to 2 complimentary tickets to the Palace so you can undertake a planning visit.. To book your complementary planning visit please contact the Learning Bookings Team.

**Pre-visit resources**

We have a range of resource available to help your class prepare for their visit. To explore these visit <https://www.rct.uk/discover/school-resources>

**Pre-visit SEND resources**

We also have resources to support SEND pupils including a visual story. To see these please visit <https://www.rct.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse>.

**School gift bag**

Royal Collection Trust has produced a giftbag for pupils. The giftbag contains mementos including a flag, postcard, notepad, pen, badge, pencil and eraser and can be pre-ordered for £3. For more information and to pre-order please visit <https://www.rct.uk/schools/teacher-information-documents>

Your visit

**Getting to the Palace**

|  |  |
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| By coach and bus | Bus number 35 stops near the Palace.  Limited free coach parking is available adjacent to the Palace on the North Approach. Alternative pay-and-display coach parking is available on nearby Regent Road. |
| By train | Edinburgh Waverley. The Palace is a 15 minute walk from the station.  Visit [National Rail Enquiries](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/) for times and fares. |
| By tram | The nearest tram stop is York Place. The Palace is a 20 minute walk from the station. Visit [Edinburgh Trams](https://edinburghtrams.com/) for times and fares. |

**Arriving at the Palace**

Please arrive to the Palace promptly for your self-guided visit at the time stated on your reservation letter.

**Visiting the Palace**

In order that everyone has a safe and enjoyable visit to the Palace, we ask all teachers and adults helpers to read the following guidelines:



**School Visit Guidelines**

* During the visit, teachers and adult helpers are responsible for pupils’ safety and behavior.
* Teachers and adult helpers must stay with the class at all times.
* Pupils are kindly asked not to run in the Palace. Teachers and adult helpers are asked to manage this.
* Pupils are kindly asked not to get too close or to touch paintings, objects or furniture. Teachers and adult helpers are asked to manage this.
* In the case of an emergency teachers, adult helpers and pupils are asked to follow the instructions of members of the Security Team and Visitor Services Team (Wardens).
* Photography is permitted within the Palace. Please be aware that visitors to the Palace may try to take photographs of pupils. Wardens are vigilant and will speak to visitors if this occurs and ensure photographs are deleted. If you witness this happening before a Warden please speak to a Warden so they can speak to the visitor and ensure photographs are deleted.

**Lunch**

Unfortunately, we do not have an indoor space for self-guided school visits to have a packed lunch in. You are however more than welcome to use the Physic Garden for this. The Palace of Holyroodhouse also has a café where lunches can be purchased.

After your visit

**Post-visit resources**

We have a range of resource available to help your class continue their learning after their visit. To explore these visit <https://www.rct.uk/discover/school-resources>

**Keep in touch and stay involved**

We love to see and hear about your visit to the Palace and the learning it has inspired back in the classroom. If you would like to share any of this with us through social media please mention @RCT or use the hashtag #HolyroodPalace.

You can also stay in touch by subscribing to our school e-mail updates. Each term you will receive the latest news and details of upcoming school sessions, resources and teachers events. To sign up visit <https://www.rct.uk/schools/sign-up-to-our-school-e-mail-updates>

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Palace of Holyroodhouse Map

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| A picture containing text  Description automatically generated  2 | Abbey Strand Centre |
| 3 | Palace of Holyroodhouse |
| A picture containing text  Description automatically generated  4 | Gift Shop |
| A picture containing text  Description automatically generated  5 | Physic Garden |

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