

How far ahead should I book?

It is wise to book in good time, especially if you have a specific date in mind. June and July are particularly busy months. It's always worth a call however to see if you can get a last minute booking.

How much does it cost?

We make a small charge for each child to cover administrative, workshop and printing costs. Payment can be made on the day by cheque or cash, or you can be invoiced after your visit. Please contact us for further information.

How many children can I bring?

We can manage 60 children at one time comfortably depending upon what you want to do. Year groups of up to 150 can sometimes be accommodated using Cathedral guides and/or pursuing their own activities. It's always worth a phone call to find out what's possible!

Where do we report?

If we are taking groups for activities please report to the Education Centre in The Close. This allows us to give you a proper welcome and drop off bags etc. If you are not using Cathedral staff or facilities please let the Entrance Desk staff know that you have arrived.

Do we need to bring anything with us?

You may like to bring a camera! Clipboards and pencils are useful as are overalls for messy workshops.

What is expected of school staff?

School staff must stay with the children at all times and experience trails, tours and workshops with the children.

Can we bring children with special needs?

We welcome children with a wide range of special needs – learning, physical, emotional and sensory. Just let us know when you book and we will make any necessary preparations including parking for wheelchair users in the Outer Close.

Where do we park?

Unfortunately, the Normans did not design the Cathedral with parking in mind! Coaches can drop off and pick up groups at King Alfred's statue in The Broadway. Only ten minutes walk from the Cathedral. Be sure to let you coach driver know, as it is a long walk from the coach park! Minibuses will have to park in the public car parks. Please ask for advice when you make your booking.

Where can we eat our packed lunch?

The Outer Close provides a grassed area for picnics as do the Abbey Gardens in the Broadway. The Education Centre may be used for lunch but must be booked in advance.

What if I don't want my day organised by the Education Centre?

Groups are still asked to book in advance and pay a small charge. Unbooked groups will be charged at a higher rate. We will let you know when you book what is happening in and around the Cathedral and if there are major events that will affect your visit. Remember that funerals happen with very little notice!

What do we do if we are delayed?

This is sometimes unavoidable. If you are delayed please let us know by phoning **01962 857224** or **857246**. Volunteers will wait for 20 minutes after the start time.

What other facilities are available?

A classroom can be booked in advance along with a flip chart, white board, slide projector and multi-media projector. There are toilet facilities at the Education Centre including those for disabled children. The gift shop has a range of gifts, posters and postcards for sale.

Can I make a preliminary visit?

School staff are welcome to make a preliminary visit. Please contact the Education Centre to arrange a date and time.

What about a risk assessment?

A risk assessment and code of conduct are available to download and a Code of Conduct. This does not replace your own risk assessment criteria but is designed to aid planning your visit.

Produced by: Cheryl Bryan, Director of Children's Education

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