

How to make a booking

Please make your enquiry through the Education Department 01722 555180 or email education@salcath.co.uk.

If it is helpful, we can prepare a draft schedule with our suggestions for particular sessions that suit your topics and timings. Visits may be during school terms as well as holiday periods and weekends, subject to availability. A booking confirmation will be emailed once the content of your visit has been arranged with a more detailed schedule of the visit nearer the time, which will tell you where to meet and with whom.

The Education Department's office is open during Wiltshire term time Monday to Friday 9 - 5pm.

Risk assessment

Whilst we have our own risk assessments in place, we strongly advise staff/ group leaders to make a visit beforehand to complete their own. All groups are responsible for the supervision of their own children. Copies of the Education Department's own guidelines to risk assessments are sent with booking confirmation.

Travel

Coaches are unable to access the Close. There is a designated drop-off point in Exeter Street - maps are available on request. Entry to the Cathedral Close from here is a 5 minute walk through St Ann's Gate. Minibuses may park in the Close at £6 per vehicle per day, on a first-come-first-served basis and subject to availability.

Where to meet

Your meeting place will be indicated on the schedule for your visit. Most visits begin at the main Cathedral Visitors' Entrance located at the west end of the Cathedral.

Delayed arrival

If you are delayed at all in reaching the Cathedral, please ring our Donations Desk on 01722 555156. Unfortunately our volunteer helpers may not always be able to wait until you arrive, but the Education Department staff will always try their best to accommodate your visit and create a revised schedule.

During the visit

The Education Department staff and volunteers will do all they can to ensure that your visit runs smoothly. Whilst we actively lead sessions we encourage all staff/adults with the group to involve themselves as much as possible.

Supervisory staff are expected to remain with their children at all times. The Education Department usually works with children in groups of approx. 10 for primary age children and up to 15 for secondary aged pupils, so please ensure that you have enough staff present to provide one supervisory adult per group. Whilst session leaders are able to deal with minor infringements, the visiting group leader is responsible for overall discipline. Tower tour restrictions - children aged 5 to 10 years must be individually accompanied by an adult (height restrictions also apply - 1m22 / 4ft), children between the ages of 11 and 15 years inclusive, ratio 1 adult to 5 children, students aged 16 to 17 years inclusive, ratio 1 :10.

Lunch

Due to limited storage facilities we request that lunches are brought in small containers or bags. Lunches may be consumed under cover in the Cloisters. Please advise children and staff to dress warmly as it can be very draughty! The Cathedral lawns are available for picnics in fine weather.

Toilets

There are toilets including disabled facilities in the Cloisters at the Cathedral.

Shop

The Cathedral has a shop which you may like to visit during the course of your day, selling a number of

low-priced items of interest to a range of different age-groups. We recommend that children are supervised and enter the shop in groups of no more than 10 at a time.

Paying for a visit

Prices are charged per pupil, with all supervisory staff free. Groups are usually invoiced after the event and according to numbers. Tours are £2.50 with additional workshops from £1.50 per session per pupil, with individual sessions usually lasting an hour. For more detailed information on costs please contact the Education Department.

Education staff and volunteers

All our staff and volunteer helpers in the Education Department are DBS checked and are required to attend Disability Awareness and safeguarding training. Our Teaching Officers are both fully qualified, experienced teachers, as are many of our volunteers.

Self-guided visit

Schools and other groups are welcome to visit the Cathedral without the assistance of the Education Department. However, we would still recommend registering with the Education Centre as access to the Cathedral can sometimes be seriously affected if there is a large-scale public or private event taking place which is not otherwise publicised. The Education Department can keep you informed of any changes. We would nonetheless be pleased if you would still make a contribution to the Cathedral for your visit. Suggested donations are £2.50 per child and £5.25 per adult.

The Cathedral receives no subsidies or financial help from the Government or from the Church of England and has to be entirely self-sufficient. To cover the £12,000 it costs to run and maintain the building each day, we ask visitors to make a voluntary donation to help us preserve this iconic Cathedral for future generations and to continue our long tradition of music and worship. Please note there is no separate charge for the tours of the Cathedral floor provided by the guides.

We are very happy to work with group leaders and tailor a visit to fit your specific requirements.

The Cathedral Education Department Tel: 01722 555 180 Email: education@salcath.co.uk