

## Self-Guiding at St Paul's: Teachers' Guidelines



Please see the information below to support you on your visit to St Paul's Cathedral.

Please see your confirmation email for details about your booking, payment information and risk assessment guidance. Our team will be in touch two weeks before your visit to offer additional support and resources.

### Arriving & Departing

Your school/group name will be on our admissions list with security staff and the Visitor Experience Team upon arrival. Please enter through the West Doors entrance. Bag searches are in place to ensure your visit is safe.

For transport links please see our [Visitor Information](#) pages on the website. For further information on coach parking please see the [City of London website](#).

### Access

The North Transept entrance has step free access, and this is the recommended entrance for wheelchair users and those requiring step-free access. The entrance leads directly onto the Cathedral floor. There is a lift serving the Cathedral floor and Crypt. For more details please visit our [Accessibility](#) pages on the website. Please make sure you let us know upon booking if you have students or staff who have require step free access so that we can send any further information you might find helpful. Please be aware that the Dome & Galleries is not accessible and for wheelchair users and is not step free.

### Group Sizes

We ask that large groups stagger their entry times. On the booking website you can choose entry times at half hour intervals per class but it is more likely you will be asked to wait just 5 or 10 minutes during busy periods. If you have any questions about this then please contact us by emailing [learning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:learning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk) and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We ask that classes/groups are split into smaller groups with their accompanying adults (we recommend a maximum of 10 students per group) as they look around the building to

support the quality of their visit, adequate behaviour management and to allow space for other visiting groups.

### Toilets

The Cathedral toilets (including accessible toilets) are located in the Crypt opposite the shop.

Groups can also use toilet facilities provided by the City of London in Paternoster Square, through the Temple Bar gateway opposite the NW Crypt entrance to the Cathedral. A charge of 50p is made for their use.

### Visiting the Dome & Galleries

If you have booked the Dome Galleries please note that all schools/groups must provide a minimum of the following ratios for visiting the Dome Galleries and students who remain on the Cathedral floor must be accompanied by an adult.

4 - 8 year olds (primary) - one adult to six children to Whispering and Stone Galleries only

9 - 11 year olds (primary) - one adult to eight children to Whispering and Stone Galleries only

11 - 18 year olds (secondary) - one adult to ten children to Whispering, Stone, and Golden Galleries (Golden Gallery for 11-18 year olds - subject to availability)

### Shop

You are welcome to visit the Cathedral shop located in the Crypt. Please ask students to enter in small groups and ensure that they are appropriately supervised at all times by adults.

### Eating and Drinking

We ask that you do not eat and drink in the Cathedral except water. We are unable to accommodate Self-Guiding groups onsite with a lunch space but please do use the churchyard gardens or there are bookable lunch spaces available at the [YHA St Paul's](#).

There is a new café onsite that groups are welcome to use to purchase food.

### Health & safety

Please remind students to move around the building slowly and sensibly. The Crypt of the Cathedral may be dimly lit and if the Cathedral floor is busy they will need to take care when walking past any lit candles. Should you need First Aid please ask a Visitor Experience Assistant who get someone first aid trained for you immediately.

An announcement will be made over the public address system in the case of an evacuation. Please follow any instructions and ask a Visitor Experience Assistant if you need any further advice.

If a member of your party gets separated from the group advise them to go to the desks at the West End, Main Stairs or Crypt and report to a member of staff.

Teachers are responsible for the behaviour management and safety of the children in their charge at all times.

### **Photography**

Photography is permitted inside the Cathedral, and on the Stone and Golden Galleries but not on the Whispering Gallery, or during the prayers and services. Filming is not allowed.

We do ask that you don't use tripods or take group photos inside.

### **Prayer and Worship**

St Paul's Cathedral is an active place of worship and there is a short prayer every on the hour, every hour. We ask that all visitors pause during the prayers and be still and quiet.

There is a daily Eucharist service at 12.30-13.00 under the Dome, so please bear this in mind if you are self-guiding. Groups are more than welcome to join any worship they wish to.

**If you have any further queries regarding your booking please do not hesitate to email St Paul's Learning Department [learning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:learning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)**