

Covid-19 advice for schools

Following government guidance, we have introduced a number of new measures to keep visitors to our attractions safe, including restricting the number of people in the attraction, ensuring social distancing and adding extra cleaning and hygiene precautions for visitors, staff and volunteers. Our procedures have gained the 'Good to Go' certification from Visit England, so visitors can be assured that we have followed government COVID-19 guidelines.

This document details the measures in place for school visits to JORVIK Viking Centre, DIG and Barley Hall and contains a list of steps we require all schools to follow during their visit.

Health advice relating to the COVID-19 virus is being regularly revised by WHO and the Department of Health; our policies and advice relating to minimising risk of infection to staff, volunteers and visitors will be updated regularly to remain in line with national guidance.

Please be aware that due to the dynamic nature of the current situation we reserve the right to implement additional safety measures which may affect your visit. We advise that you check our websites to apprise yourself of any updates to this document and our procedures as the date of your visit approaches.

Our COVID-19 mitigation measures for School Trips

Social distancing measures are in place at all of our attractions. These comprise:

- Limiting venue capacity
- Pre-booked timeslots to ensure school groups are kept separate from other visitors
- Signage throughout the buildings
- Floor markings throughout the buildings to act as a guide to spacing (JORVIK and DIG only). Directional map guides for Barley Hall
- One-way systems or staff guided directional flow implemented throughout the attractions
- Controlled access to visitor toilets and restrictions on the number of visitors using them at one time
- Pre-purchase only in our shops (Souvenir Packs) and for coins at JORVIK

Sanitisation procedures are in operation across our attractions. These comprise:

- Ongoing and extra cleaning all day by a designated member of staff
- Additional cleaning regimes for all identified touch points in the buildings
- Hand sanitiser stations throughout
- Regular fogging of JORVIK ride capsules and DIG excavation pits with water-based sanitiser

Additional barriers to contamination are covered by the following requirements:

- Masks and / or visors worn by all staff and visitors throughout public parts of buildings (usual exemptions apply)
- Perspex screens at admissions / shop areas
- Contactless payment encouraged at admissions / shop areas
- Monitoring of staff and visitor temperatures via thermal cameras at point of admission; those with an elevated temperature will not be admitted.

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What we need from you

We ask you to do your part to assist us in implementing the measures outlined above. You can do this by following the steps below.

Before you visit:

- Ensure that you have considered the appropriate group sizes to bring on a trip. Each time slot we offer for an attractions visit, workshop or lunch space has a capacity of 35 pupils and adults. Each school party booked on to these slots will be treated as a single bubble. That means that the people within that bubble will sometimes be asked to share spaces in the attraction with each other in close proximity (such as on the JORVIK ride cars, which seat up to 6 people per car, or seating areas for talks and lunches). Please only book slots for pupils and adults who can mix in a bubble in this way and check you have our recommended 1:6 ratio of adults and pupils for the whole group.
- For the purposes of track and trace, the group leader will be our point of contact in respect of current government guidelines. We will be using data collected from site bookings to meet these guidelines should the need arise.
- All members of your party, including children, should wear a mask during your visit. These will not be provided, so please attend with adequate supplies. Usual exemptions apply, and the current list of these can be found on the gov.uk website.
- Brief your pupils about our procedures and ask that they listen carefully and follow any instructions provided by our staff, including not touching the exhibitions unless instructed to, using hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities when advised and standing in the designated places for activities and talks.
- Continue to check the Education pages of our website for updates to this document and our procedures as the date of your visit approaches.

Please be aware that due to the dynamic nature of the current situation we reserve the right to implement additional safety measures which may affect your visit. Our team will be monitoring the situation as it relates to local lockdowns and will be in touch ahead of your visit if our interpretation of the government's advice is that we should not accept a visit from a school in an affected area.

In any cases where we have to cancel a booking due to circumstances beyond your control we will work with you to establish a suitable date for you to visit at your earliest convenience or transfer your booking to a virtual outreach session.

When you visit:

- As you enter the attractions, a thermal camera (JORVIK) or hand-held thermal sensor used from a distance by staff (DIG and Barley Hall) will detect if any member of your school party has a raised temperature. If a member of your party is found to have a persistent elevated temperature your group will not be permitted to enter the attraction. We recommend that you carry out your own temperature checks prior to embarking on your journey to us. We recommend making a contingency plan for your schedule in case this should happen given the disappointment and disruption that this is likely to cause.