

Covid-19 advice for schools

We know that many national restrictions have been lifted, but like many indoor attractions and museums across the country, we want vulnerable people and those awaiting vaccination to feel safe and welcome for their visit. We also need to consider the safety of our team, who meet hundreds of visitors face-to-face every day.

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. 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.

Health advice relating to the COVID-19 virus is being revised by 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 admitted separately to other visitors
- Signage and floor markings throughout the buildings
- One-way systems or staff guided directional flow implemented throughout the attractions
- Controlled access to visitor toilets and limitations on the number of students using them at one time
- Controlled access to our shops and limitations on the number of students using them at one time, with pre-purchase options available to save time (Souvenir Packs)

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 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 throughout public parts of buildings and recommended for visitors except for in our shops where wearing masks is now mandatory (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.
- Our staff will continue to wear face coverings unless exempt, and we strongly encourage you to ask all the adults in your group to wear a face covering during your visit. These are mandatory when visiting our shops, in line with government guidance.
- 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. 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 and DIG) or hand-held thermal sensor used from a distance by staff (Barley Hall) will detect if any member of your school party has a raised temperature.

We recommend that you carry out your own temperature checks prior to embarking on your journey to us. We also recommend making a contingency plan for your schedule in case this should happen given the disappointment and disruption that this is likely to cause.

If a member of your party is found to have a persistent elevated temperature, admittance would be decided at the Managers' discretion and may result in a child or party not being admitted. The decision will be taken only when necessary in order to protect other visitors and our staff from infection of Covid-19. Please refer to the current government guidance on attendance of children with symptoms at school and on school trips:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>.

All information correct at time of writing (29th November 2021).