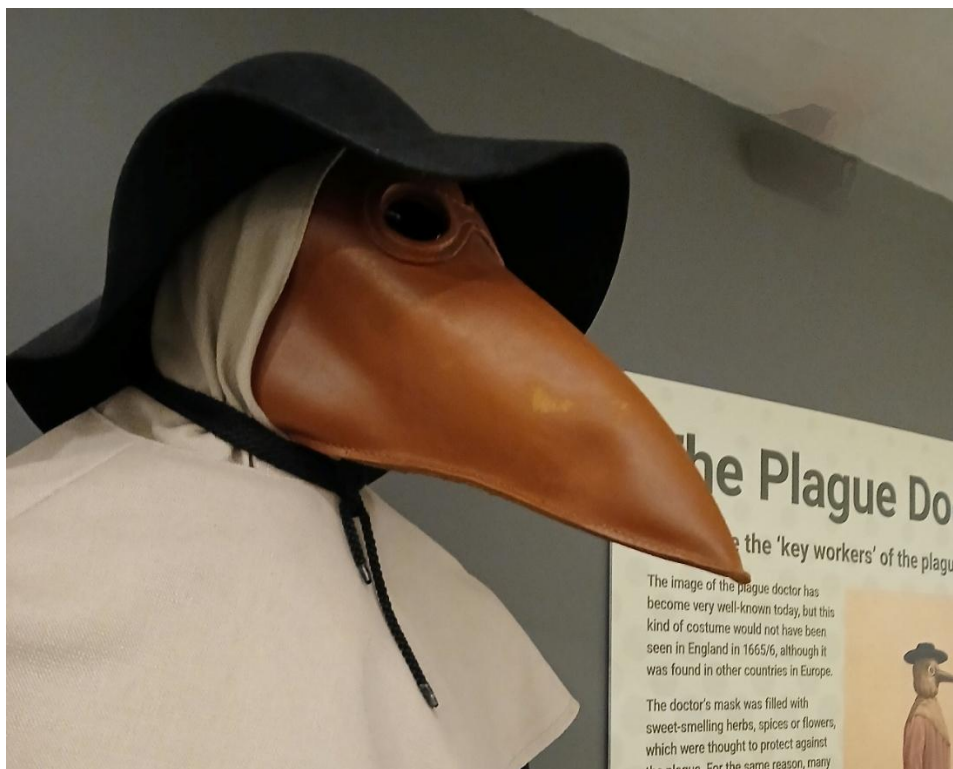




School Visits

Teacher Information Pack

2026 / 2027



Telephone: 01433 631 371

E-mail: bookings@eyam-museum.org.uk

Website: <https://www.eyam-museum.org.uk/>

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Eyam Museum. This pack is designed to give you information on what we offer for schools and how to book an educational visit to the museum.

ABOUT US

Eyam Museum is a small independent museum in the famous “Plague Village” of Eyam in the Peak District. We tell the stories of Eyam, including its experience of plague, lockdown, and survival in 1665-1666 and Eyam’s wider social history and industrial heritage.

Housed in an old methodist chapel on the edge of the village, our museum welcomes over 30,000 visitors a year, including over 4000 school children.

We are run by a small team of paid staff and a large team of volunteers. We open to the public 6 days a week during the peak season from Easter to end of October (closed on Mondays, except Bank Holidays) and reduced hours during the off-peak season (see www.eyam-museum.org.uk for full hours).

OPENING TIMES FOR SCHOOL VISITS

We offer school visits **Tuesdays to Fridays, from February to December, between 10am and 2.30pm.**

We welcome school groups from KS1 to KS3 to come and explore the story of Eyam (especially the plague story!)

Please note we are closed throughout January for maintenance and cleaning and do not host any school visits during this month.

OUR SCHOOLS OFFER AND COSTS

We offer two types of KS1/KS2/KS3 school visits (one during our Peak season and one during the Off-Peak season).

SCHOOL SESSIONS AT EYAM MUSEUM

Season	Duration & Group Size	Session	Session Timings	Museum remains open to the public?	Cost per child (2026/2027)
Peak Season (April to end July/ Sept to end October)	50 mins to 1 hour max 1 class of up to 34 students	KS1/KS2 Self-led explore of museum (includes short introduction by staff & suggested activities/questions to answer) plus self-led activity in upstairs gallery space KS3 Self-led explore of museum (includes short introduction by staff & suggested activities/questions to answer).	10am - 11am 11.30am–12:30pm 1pm - 2pm	YES	£2
Off-Peak Season (February/ March/ November/ December)	1 hour 1 class of up to 34 students	KS1/KS2/KS3 Self-led explore PLUS hands-on plague “cure” making activity with museum staff (includes short introduction by staff & suggested activities/questions to answer, plus making a plague cure which pupils take home with them).	10am - 11am 11.30am–12.30pm 1pm – 2pm	NO	£3

Please note we do not offer school visits on Mondays or before 10am.

TIMETABLE

Peak Season Visit Timetable (April to July/September to October)

	Activity	Timings
Arrive	Bag/Coat Drop	5 mins
	Introduction	10 mins
	Class Splits into 2	
Group 1	<i>Downstairs</i> Explore Museum	20 mins
Group 2	<i>Upstairs Gallery</i> Self-Led Activity	20 mins
	Groups Swap over	
Group1	<i>Upstairs Gallery</i> Self-Led Activity	20 mins
Group 2	<i>Downstairs</i> Explore Museum	20 mins
	Collect bags and exit building	5 mins

Off Peak Season Timetable (February/March/November/December)

	Activity	Timings
Arrive	Bag/Coat Drop	5 mins
	Introduction	10 mins
	Class Splits into 2	
Group 1	<i>Downstairs</i> Explore Museum	20 mins
Group 2	<i>Upstairs Gallery</i> Plague Cure Activity (led)	20 mins
	Groups Swap over	
Group1	<i>Upstairs Gallery</i> Plague Cure Activity (led)	20 mins
Group 2	<i>Downstairs</i> Explore Museum	20 mins
	Collect bags and exit building	5 mins

If you wish to visit the shop you will need to book an extra 15 minutes onto your visit.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS

How does a visit to Eyam Museum link to the National Curriculum?

KS1

- **Significant Historical Events Beyond Living Memory:** The Great Plague in Eyam of 1665-1666/Local History Beyond Living Memory.
- **Historical Enquiry & Concepts:** Children compare how people treated diseases in the 1600s (e.g., plague doctors, sweet-smelling posies, quarantines) with modern-day medicine and hygiene (covid). Supports identifying *continuity and change*.

KS2

- **A Theme in British History Extending Knowledge Beyond 1066:** The Great Plague/Eyam Plague of 1665-1666 falls perfectly into this category!
- **Local History Study:** Derbyshire local history focusing on Eyam, exploring the choices made by citizens who quarantined themselves to protect neighbouring towns.
- **Analysing Historical Evidence:** Pupils encounter historical records like Parish Registers & Letters. This teaches them how to question data and interpret primary sources.

KS3

The National Curriculum requires students to study **"the development of Church, state and society in Britain 1509–1745"**. Eyam fits perfectly into this unit as a case study for early modern British life.

- **Medicine, Health, and Disease:** Students explore how villagers blamed "miasma" (bad air) or divine punishment, while unintentionally discovering early forms of social distancing (holding open-air church services).
- **The Power and Role of the Church:** The Eyam quarantine was orchestrated by the parish rector, William Mompesson, and his Puritan predecessor, Thomas Stanley. This highlights how the Church acted as central authority, community glue, and administrative body during crises.
- **Local History Study:** For schools in the Midlands and North of England, Eyam is a good choice for investigating how nationwide events (the plague spreading from London) impacted local rural communities.
- **Historical Evidence and Interpretation:** Students look at sources like parish burial lists & the boundary stone to evaluate historical significance, reliability, and the human cost of the plague.

HOW TO MAKE A BOOKING

All school visits MUST be booked in advance.

To enquire about a visit, please contact Grace Day, Assistant Manager on

E-mail: bookings@eyam-museum.org.uk.

By telephone (weekdays 9.30am to 4.30pm): **01433 631371**

Your booking is not confirmed until you have returned a completed booking form (a blank form will be emailed to you after the initial discussion) AND your booking date has been confirmed in writing (e-mail) by us.

PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL VISITS

You can pay for your visit in 3 ways:

- Invoice from us after your visit, payment via BACS transfer
- Payment by card (for whole class) on arrival
- Payment by cash (lump sum for whole class) on arrival

If you need to set us up as a vendor for payment from your school or would prefer to organise a pre-visit invoice, please get in contact to arrange.

Please note we are unable to take cash payments from each individual child on arrival. If your pupils are paying you in cash for their visit, please collect this from them prior to arriving at the museum.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

By prior agreement, we can offer out of hours school visits for pupils on Residential visits. Please contact us to discuss.

FAQ'S

CAN I VISIT THE MUSEUM BEFOREHAND TO PLAN OUR TRIP?

Yes, in fact we actively encourage it! To help you plan for your class visit, and to support completing your visit risk assessment, we suggest booking a **free teacher pre-visit** to the Museum. Tel : 01433 631371 or e-mail: bookings@eyam-museum.org.uk to organise.

DO WE HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE MUSEUM DURING OUR VISIT?

It depends on the time of year you are visiting!

Peak Season (April to October)

No. We remain open to the public during your visit if in the Peak Season, so please plan your risk assessment and staffing levels accordingly (see risk assessment at end of pack). The doors will be open.

Off-Peak Season (February/March/November/December)

Yes. We are closed to the public during the Off-Peak season, so you will be the only visitors in the building during these months. The doors will be closed.

CAN WE BRING MORE THAN ONE CLASS AT A TIME?

We can only host one class per booked session, due to the size of the museum. If you are bringing more than one class, we suggest visiting the village and church with your other classes, whilst one class is at the museum. Classes can then swap over.

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO IN EYAM?

You can explore the village and various plague history related sites as part of your visit to Eyam.

THE CHURCH: The village church and the villager's faith played a vital role in the way Eyam dealt with the plague of 1665/1666. The church also kept parish records that helped historians to piece together the story of the Eyam plague. There is a stunning stained-glass window telling the story, as well as an illuminated copy of the records and several display panels. The church graveyard contains the grave of Catherine Mompesson (Reverend William Monspesson's wife who died from the plague) and a memorial stone for Thomas Stanley (the retired priest who helped Reverend Mompesson persuade the villagers to isolate themselves to prevent the spread of plague).

Your class can explore the church via 3 options (See their website for more info)

- A 30-minute self-led visit (£1 per pupil)
- A 1-hour guided tour plus interactive talk (£1.50 per pupil)
- A 1-hour guided tour plus a take home DVD (£1.50 per pupil)

Please note that school visits to the church must be booked in advance. Please see the School Visits section on their website for further details: <https://eyamchurch.org/>

VILLAGE HOUSES: Many of the houses where families were affected by the plague have green information plaques on them. *Please note that the houses are lived in and not open to the public.*

The 3 cottages nearest the church include the house where the 1665 plague entered the village on fleas living in a box of cloth.

Please respect the village and those who live here as you explore. Village roads can be busy and the pavements are shallow, so it is best to explore the village in smaller groups. Please make sure you don't block access for other pedestrians or homeowners.

LYDGATE GRAVES: To prevent spread of the disease at large funeral gatherings, the villagers had to bury their dead near to their own homes. The Lydgate Graves (up the Lydgate, just to the right of Eyam Tea Rooms) are one example of this (and an easy 15-minute walk from the museum).

BOUNDARY STONE: You can visit the Boundary Stone where villagers left money for food supplies during the plague (a 35-minute walk from the museum and further down the path from the Lydgate graves). We would recommend this site over Mompesson's Well (another boundary location) as it is an easier walk than the steep and narrow road up to The Well and is mostly off-road.

RILEY GRAVES: The Riley Graves (a 50-minute walk from the museum) are a set of graves for the Hancock Family. Mrs Hancock lost 6 members of her family in one week and had to bury them all by herself. The Riley Graves are up a long hill outside of the village so make sure you plan enough time if you are visiting them.

Village Map: Eyam Museum sell a £1 village map with information about the village, its historical sites and suggested walks. You can purchase one on your pre-visit or on the day.

WHERE ARE THE TOILETS?

The museum does not have a visitor toilet. A large block of public toilets is located in the car park opposite the museum (beside the coach drop off point). We suggest your class/group uses the toilets prior to your visit. Please note if your pupils need the toilet during their time in the museum, they must be accompanied by a school adult.

There is a disabled toilet in this block also that the museum holds a key to. Please ask a volunteer/staff member for the key if needed.

WHERE CAN WE EAT OUR LUNCH?

We are a small museum and currently do not have a lunch space onsite.

You can book a lunch space at Eyam Church Centre (the building beside the church) in the centre of the village (£25 per hour). Please contact the Church Centre via telephone on 01433 630930, or e-mail: admin@eyamchurch.org to book.

You can also find out more on their website:

<https://eyamchurch.org/for-newcomers-1-1>

If the Church Centre is unavailable, then the Mechanics Institute can also be booked as an indoor eating space. Please visit their booking website to check availability and prices: <https://hallbookingonline.com/eyammechanics/>

There is a sports field behind the car parks opposite the museum which has outdoor picnic benches. The benches can be used in dry weather, and the field is a great place to burn off some energy! There is no shelter at the sports field.

CAN WE VISIT THE MUSEUM SHOP?

Pupils are very welcome to visit the museum shop, in small groups. Please note you will need to set aside at least 15 minutes for your pupils to visit the shop, so this will reduce your time exploring the museum.

Please let us know if your pupils will be visiting the shop.

WE DIDN'T BOOK A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM, CAN WE JUST TURN UP?

No, sorry! All school visits MUST be booked in advance to help us manage numbers and to ensure we have sufficient staff and volunteers on site.

LOCATION AND HOW TO GET HERE

We are located on Hawkhill Road, Eyam, Derbyshire, S32 5QP.

See our website for a map of how to find us: [Visit Us | Eyam Museum](#)

TRAVEL BY MINIBUS/COACH - DROP OFF POINT

The museum is directly opposite a bus stop and a Derbyshire Council Car Park (with 2 x coach parking spaces), so your coach /minibus can drop off your students there. Please note there may be a charge for coaches parking there.

There is a road between the dropping off point/car park and the museum, which takes one minute to cross (please note there are no designated crossing markings).

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus

The 257 bus, operated by Andrews of Tideswell, runs between Sheffield and Bakewell and stops at Eyam. See their website for the timetable. Stagecoach operates the 65 bus between Meadowhall, Sheffield and Buxton which also stops at Eyam. See their website for timetable.

If you plan to take your whole class/group on the bus, please contact the bus company prior to your visit to discuss with them.

Train

The nearest train station is Grindleford, a few miles from Eyam. Trains run along the Hope Valley from Manchester Picadilly and Sheffield. Limited Bus services pick up from Grindleford Station and stop in Eyam.

TRAVEL BY CAR & PARKING

Eyam lies just off the A623. If you are using satnav, our postcode is S32 5QP. The village has 2 car parks, both in front of the museum. Derbyshire Council Car park is directly opposite the museum on Hawkhill Road and charges apply. The Parish Council car park is just behind the Derbyshire Council Car Park and there is an honesty box for payment. Coaches cannot park in the Parish Council car park.

ADULT HELPER NOTES

Please give these notes to your adult helpers before your trip.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR EYAM MUSEUM VISIT

- On arrival at Eyam Museum your group will be met and welcomed by a member of the staff or volunteer team. The entrance to the museum is small, so it is helpful if pupils have removed bags/coats prior to entering the museum. Staff Member/Volunteer will give instructions about storing any bags on arrival and will help your group to do this (5 minutes)
- Pupils will be sent into the first gallery for a short introduction and discussion, with an explanation of what will happen during your visit (10 minutes) .
- Post Introduction, class splits into 2. One half explore downstairs (in smaller groups) with a set of questions and activities to do; one half goes upstairs to do the self-led activity or led activity with museum staff team, if booked. (15/20 minutes)
- If your class is doing the self-led activity, adult helpers may have to support pupils in reading out and doing the activity (easy instructions and all resources will be left for you).
- After 15/20 minutes, groups swap over to either explore downstairs or complete the activity upstairs (15/20 minutes)
- Once both groups have completed downstairs and upstairs, visit ends, group collects bags and heads offsite.

THE ROLE OF SCHOOL STAFF/ADULT HELPERS WHILST ONSITE AT EYAM MUSEUM

- Teachers and adult helpers are responsible for the school group whilst at the museum. Please supervise your class/smaller group at all times.
- Please ensure that your pupils listen to and understand any instructions given by the museum staff/volunteer team. This includes what they can do and touch.
- Please support the pupils with any activity sheets and self-led activities, making sure they spend time thinking about the questions and activities they are asked to do. This may involve reading out activity instructions to your group.
- The museum has no public toilets. There is a toilet block opposite the museum across the road. If pupils need to use the toilet during the session, they must be accompanied by a teacher or adult helper.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Food/Drink: Please do not consume any food or drink in the museum.

Pupil illness during visit: If a pupil is sick/unwell during their visit, please inform a staff member or volunteer ASAP so they can find a quiet space for the pupil or provide materials to clean up any mess.

Accident/Injuries onsite: If pupils or accompanying adults injure themselves during your visit, please inform a staff member or volunteer immediately. We have trained First Aiders on site, and systems in place for recording and investigating any accidents.

In the event of a fire: If there is a fire, a loud alarm will sound. Please gather your group/class together (making sure you have accounted for everyone in your party) and follow instructions issued by the museum staff to exit the building from the nearest fire exit. Please **do not** stop to take bags or coats. Our meeting point is across the road in the car park.

Visitors will not be allowed back into the building until the Museum Manager has given the all clear.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

KS1

- Ensure pupils understand the following vocabulary: Plague, Bubonic plague, Quarantine, Isolation, Buboe, Bacteria, Plague doctor.
- Locate Eyam on a map of the UK. Find London on the same map to see how far the plague travelled to get into the village.
- As a class you could try reading *A Parcel of Patterns* by Jill Walsh about the plague coming to Eyam, or the time-travelling *Children of Winter* by Berlie Doherty. For a London-based story, *Plague: A Cross on the Door* by Ann Turnbull is ok (please note that the villagers of Eyam did NOT put crosses on their doors).
- Sing the Nursery Rhyme “Ring a Ring a Roses”. Talk about how this links to the plague (see info below).

It's thought that the 'roses' are the red skin rash that some plague sufferers experienced. At the time of the plague in 1665, people believed that disease could spread through unpleasant smells. To protect themselves against bad air, plague doctors wore distinctive beaked masks, stuffed with sweet smelling herbs and flowers. Other people carried around sweet smelling bunches of flowers or herbs (posies!) to keep the smells away. 'Atishoo' was sneezing (as you would when you caught the plague). 'We all fall down' is thought to mean death from the plague.

KS2

As KS1 (above) PLUS

- Listen to the 3-part KS2 BBC radio series [Primary Drama KS2: Eyam, the Plague Village - BBC Teach](#)
- Watch the Horrible Histories Plague Song for symptoms of plague (see YouTube). Although this is about the plague during the 1300's the symptoms and treatments are the same!

KS3

- Ensure pupils understand the following vocabulary: Plague, Bubonic plague, Quarantine, Isolation, Buboe, *Yersinia pestis*.
- Read *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks (11 years plus)
- Find Eyam on a UK map, and London. Find out where else had the plague in 1665/1666.
- Read [Eyam plague: The village of the damned - BBC News](#)
- BBC Bitesize has a good section on the Great Plague of 1665/1666: [The Great Plague - The Great Plague - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize](#)

POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

KS1/KS2

- Write a letter or diary entry pretending you are a villager living in Eyam during the plague. How do you feel? What has happened to you and your family/your neighbours? Are you trying any plague cures?
- Write your own nursery rhyme about the plague.
- Design an outfit to protect you from the plague. You can see images of Plague Doctor's protective outfits here for some inspiration: [The Doctors – Doctor Schnabel's Plague Museum](#)
- Investigate germs and how they spread. There are some great learning ideas here: [How To Teach Kids About Germs: 20 Activity Ideas And Resources - Teaching Expertise](#)
- Find out more about Plague "cures". BBC Bitesize has some information here (will need to be edited down for KS1/2) [The Great Plague of 1665 - Renaissance medicine - the beginnings of change - AQA - GCSE History Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOLS VISITS

Date of RA: 11 Sept 2026

By: Emma McBeath, Museum Manager

We recommend you complete your own Visit Risk Assessment and organise a free pre-visit prior to bringing your class to help you plan. Call 01433 631371 to organise your pre-visit.

Potential Hazard	Risk Level Low/Med/High	Who is at Risk	Control Measures
Arrival in Eyam	Medium/Low	Visitors	- The road and car park can be busy at times. Students should always supervised when in the car park and when crossing the road. Please note there is no designated crossing area. - There are both steps and a ramp up to the main entrance of the museum. Please be aware the surfaces can be slippery in wet weather. Supervise students when using ramp and steps.
Overcrowding in the museum (including entrance)	Low	Visitors, staff, volunteers, objects	- School groups met at entrance by staff/volunteers to explain entrance rules and to manage storage of bags and coats. Bags must be stored in the storage area as the museum is small. Adult helpers/ teachers can keep their bags with them. - School staff to give accurate group numbers to museum welcome desk team on arrival - The museum can only host one class (of up to 34 pupils plus accompanying adults) at a time. Where school is bringing more than one class, split the visit around the village with classes each taking turns to visit the museum. - During the visit, class to be split into 2 once inside building, and again into smaller groups for exploring downstairs. Please ensure appropriate adult: child ratios. - Class to follow instructions given by Museum team to manage flow through areas
Members of the public	Medium	Visitors	The museum remains open to the public during Peak Season school visits, so there will be members of the public in the museum during your visit. Please ensure your groups are supervised at all times with appropriate adult: child ratios.
Staff/Volunteers working with pupils	Low	Visitors, staff, volunteers	- Staff/volunteers will never work on a one to one basis with school visitors. Hands on activities run by staff/volunteers will always take place with school adults working with the groups - There will always be a minimum of 2 museum staff/volunteers onsite during school visits
Slips/Trips	Low	Visitors, staff, volunteers	- Floors cleaned regularly - Hard notices for floors in wet weather/spills - Floors and furniture to be checked daily prior to opening to the public, to ensure no slip/trip hazards - All workforce to remain vigilant to slips/trips hazards - Any reported hazards to be investigated promptly, and area closed immediately if necessary.

			• Pupils supervised whilst moving round the building • Pupils reminded there should be no running through the museum or up and down stairs. • No food or drink allowed in the museum
Pupils becoming separated from their group and leaving the building.	Low	Visitors	• We remain open to the public during Peak Sason school visits. Please ensure your group has appropriate adult: child ratios and pupils are supervised at all times.
Injuries or accidents or sickness	Low	Visitors, staff, volunteers	• Any injuries, accidents or sickness to be reported to a member of museum staff immediately. We will need to complete an accident report and follow this up with an investigation if required. • There is at least one member of museum staff who isa qualified first aider onsite • First Aid kit available at welcome desk • Please report any sickness related spills/messes. We have a specific cleaning kit available for sickness related spills
Injuries to person or from hands-on activities	Low	Visitors, staff, volunteers	• Safety briefing before visit starts • Instructions with all activities • Close supervision by adult helpers/teachers • Clothing regularly washed (e.g. hats and aprons) and/or swapped out with spare sets regularly • Activity resources regularly checked for damage and removed or replaced as required
Handling Objects (sharp or rough edges, heavy)	Low	Visitors	• Safety briefing before activity starts • Safe handling instructions included with activity instructions • Appropriate adult: child supervision ratios • Objects suitable for handling • Regular condition checks on objects to identify damage or wear and tear
Fire	Low	Visitors, Staff, volunteers, objects	• Frie alarm panel checked every morning • Fire alarm panel serviced annually • Frie exits clearly marked and kept clear • In the event of fire, an alarm will go off. Please listen to the museum staff/volunteers and follow their instructions. They will signpost you to the nearest exit to evacuate the building. Please ensure you have everyone in your group. Do not stop to pick up any coats or bags. • The evacuation meeting point is in the car park opposite. No one will be allowed back into the museum until the Museum Manager has declared the site safe.
Limited Toilet Facilities	Medium	Visitors	• There are no public toilets onsite • Toilets are located across the road from the museum in the car park. Pupils must be escorted at all times by a school adult helper/teacher. Please also let the museum welcome desk team know you are exiting the building and inform them when you return

Updated Sept 2026