

Visit Parliament programme

Your frequently asked questions



What is the maximum number per group?

The maximum number per group is 32 including no more than 4 adults. You may however split your group if it is too large and book more than one time slot. Our suggested ratio is one member of staff per fifteen students. For primary schools, if your ratio is one to five, we can accommodate you, but the adults may have to wait in Central Lobby and not be allowed up to the public viewing gallery as we have a limited number of seats.

What is the minimum number per group?

The minimum group size is 5 students plus no more than 2 accompanying adults. Groups of fewer than 15 in total may be combined with another small group in the same session in order to maximise use of places available.

What ages do you cater for?

Bookings are open to school Years 3-13, ages 7-18, including sixth form colleges. Unfortunately, we cannot offer places to groups older than Year 13 because of the limited number of places available which are always over-subscribed. University and adult groups should contact our Parliamentary Outreach Officer, Clare Cowan on 020 7219 6664.

Can we bring a group of university/PGCE/adult students?

University and adult groups should contact our Parliamentary Outreach Officer Clare Cowan on 020 7219 6664 or your local MP who can apply for a tour permit. To find the name of your local MP follow the links from www.parliament.uk Citizenship PGCE students should contact the Education Outreach team at education@parliament.uk

What happens if we are late?

Please telephone our bookings line as soon as possible on 020 7219 4496 and indicate when you expect to arrive. The visit will still finish at the published time however we will adapt the programme to include as much as possible within the time slot. Unfortunately, we are unable to be flexible with end times due to the popularity of the programme.

Can we eat our lunch in Parliament?

When planning your visit, please bear in mind that we do not have the facilities for students to eat their lunches. The Palace of Westminster is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a working building; we do not have the flexibility other visitor attractions may have to take over space for this purpose. If the weather allows you may wish to eat lunch in nearby St James' Park. Alternatively, there are a range of cafes and restaurants nearby and a cafeteria in Westminster Hall where lunch can be purchased.

Is there parking available?

There is a drop off point immediately outside Portcullis House and a collection point alongside the Palace of Westminster near Victoria Gardens. We are unable to provide parking spaces for vehicles anywhere on the Parliamentary Estate for reasons of security. There is a NCP car park at Abingdon Green, opposite the Victoria Tower, but it does not take coaches. There is a coach park in Kennington, Oval Way Coach Park, telephone 020 7582 5564.

Is there provision for groups with special educational needs?

All of our visits can be adapted to suit groups with SEN. Please let us know of any wheelchair users or mobility needs in advance of the visit so that we can make the necessary arrangements thereby providing a smooth running visit. If there are special educational needs it helps our Education Officers to have information about the nature of those needs in order to best support your visit. There are appropriate toilet facilities for wheelchair users in all buildings and along the visitor route.

Do we need to contact our MP in advance?

We will contact your MP in advance of your visit to Parliament and invite them to meet your group. This part of the visit is greatly improved if your students have the opportunity to prepare questions in advance. We can pass on questions should s/he not be available for the question-and-answer session due to work commitments. There is no need for you to contact your MP directly.

Can we take photographs?

You are welcome to bring a camera to record your group's visit and may take photographs during the education session and at the end of your visit.

Do you have information to help us to prepare in advance for our visit?

See our website for...

Games: www.parliament.uk/education/online-resources/games.htm

Lesson plans: www.parliament.uk/education/online-resources/lesson-plans.htm

Printed resources: www.parliament.uk/education/online-resources/printed-resources.htm

Videos: www.parliament.uk/education/online-resources/videos.htm