

Pre Visit and Booking Information

Continuity and Change Workshop

St Cross offers school groups the opportunity to take part in its Continuity and Change Workshop specially targeted at KS2 pupils. This experiential workshop gives pupils the chance to explore different aspects of St Cross including:

- Taking the dole – refreshment offered to travellers for over 800 years
- Meet a Brother – an introduction and Q&A session with a resident Brother
- Old and New Buildings activity – examination of building materials and features of the hospital
- Church Detectives activity – exploring key features of the church and understanding their significance
- Food and Hospitality activity – getting to know the historic kitchen at St Cross and what it was like in medieval times
- Preserving the Past activity – thinking about aspects of craftsmanship at St Cross and why it is important to preserve old buildings.

School groups are welcomed by a Brother and given an introductory session. Teachers and their helpers from school then lead their class, divided into four smaller groups, around a range of activities. At the end of the day pupils meet with the Brother again to share their learning and ask any questions.

Full details including a map, programme for the day and helpers' notes can be found in the section **Your Visit Information and Resources!**

Behaviour

St Cross positively welcomes visits from school groups. However we would remind you that the Hospital is home to 25 elderly men and we request that all children and adults behave accordingly. There are signs up which denote areas not open to the public and we ask you to respect these. The church is a place of quiet contemplation and reflection and again the children should be aware of the appropriate behaviour in this area. Teachers and adult helpers remain responsible for the behaviour and safety of the children in their charge throughout the visit.

As the visit is largely self-led school groups must bring at least four adults in order for the session to work.

Parking and transport

St Cross Hospital is located just off the St Cross Road, B3335. There is no parking on site. Coaches can drop off at the bus stop at the end of the small turning to St Cross.



The number 1 bus stops close by.

Toilets

There are a small number of public toilets near the entrance to St Cross. These work on a saniflow system so only toilet paper can be deposited down the loo!

Lunch

Schools groups can book the bowling green for lunch. In the event of bad weather school groups can use the ambulatory (covered walkway) for their lunch.

Shop

The shop is very small and not suitable for large numbers of children. However you can pre order goody bags from the shop for £1 (RRP £1.55) before you visit. The bags include a pencil, rubber, sharpener and badge. Teachers should collect the money from pupils and the bags can be picked up on departure.

Disabled Access

All areas involved in the session are wheelchair accessible but in some cases through different entry points to the norm. Please make us aware of any special requirements at the time of booking so we can ensure access for you.

Risk Assessment

We advise all teachers to visit the site before bringing a school group. However the following information should help you with your risk assessment.

General

- St Cross is a living, working community and is open to the general public so there may be other people around during your visit.
- As an historic property there are steps, uneven and rough surfaces throughout.
- Stone floors may become slippery particularly if wet.
- Occasionally cars or work vehicles come on to site.
- The toilets are close to the entrance to the site and are available for all visitors to use.
- The Master's Garden has a deep, unfenced pond in it. This is not an area that is part of the education session but access to the garden is unrestricted.
- Doors can be a trap hazard for fingers

Education session specific risks

- The access door to the cellar has a low ceiling height.
- Some chemicals to produce food smells are used in the kitchen as part of the session. They are contained in glass jars with muslin covers. Children should not remove the covers.
- Some of the furnishings in the kitchen e.g. range, screen etc may have sharp edges.
- Children will be handling some objects during the session. All objects need careful handling and instructions are given for safe handling within the activity.
- Children receive the "dole" when they arrive at St Cross. This usually involves ginger beer and a piece of bread. You should inform St Cross if you have any special dietary requirements.

Note to teachers

When entering the church you can sometimes smell a gas like smell. This is a naturally occurring gas and is completely harmless.

Donation

The workshop is free however if you would like to make a small donation of £12 to cover the cost of the Brother's time and the dole we would be very grateful.

Pre Visit and Booking

We do encourage teachers to make a pre visit. To arrange this or to book contact the Deputy Clerk at the Hospital of St Cross, St Cross Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 9SD –
tel: 01962 878218