

Jewel Tower, Westminster

Hazard Information for Education Visits

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete a risk assessment prior to the site visit. The following information is intended as an aid and does not replace the group leader's own risk assessment. We recommend coming to the site on a free planning visit, to help you with your risk assessment. Please note: where possible, English Heritage staff at the site will be happy to assist you with your queries, but cannot check or sign any section of your risk assessment.

Environmental conditions at historic sites may change rapidly and you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit. Most accidents are the result of slips and trips so please make sure you wear appropriate footwear and dress sensibly for the site and weather. Please be aware that the site may close at short notice due to adverse weather. Where applicable, stonework and trees at our sites are inspected regularly; however, extreme weather conditions can sometimes affect stonework and trees so as well as following any staff instructions and being mindful of temporary barriers and signage, please remain vigilant at all times. On-going conservation work may pose a temporary hazard; a member of staff will advise you of any works when you visit. Dogs on leashes may be present on site.

All learners who are 16 years or younger must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times whilst on site.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- Due to the secure nature of the location, coaches and cars are not permitted to stop on Abingdon Street.
- Coach drop off is on Tothill Street and groups will have to walk along Abingdon Street.
- Please take care when navigating the route from the drop off point to the site.

Jewel Tower is located in a high security area.

- The Jewel Tower is located directly opposite the Houses of Parliament and may be subject to security alerts and police checks. Please do not be alarmed; site staff will be on hand to assist.
- The fire alarm may be tested during opening hours at Jewel Tower. Visitors will be notified prior to any testing.
- If the alarm is activated and you have not been advised by a member of staff that the alarm will be tested, you are requested to follow the instructions from members of staff and make your way to the assembly point.
- Teachers and group leaders are responsible for taking a roll call for their groups.

Surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use paved pathways and designated walkways wherever possible.

- The flooring in the Jewel Tower is made out of flagstone and may be slippery and uneven in some areas.
- The floors in the exhibition area are uneven and worn.

The tower may pose various hazards due to its historic nature, such as small steps and low doorways.

- There are small steps and a low doorway at the entrance to the exhibition room.
- Special care is needed when leaving the second floor as the first step on the spiral staircase is offset.
- Please ensure that students do not sit on the windowsills.
- The glass in windows and display cabinets throughout the tower is not safety glass.

The historic exterior of the site may pose various hazards, including historic walls and a dry moat.

- There is a dry moat and medieval quay outside the Jewel Tower. The edges of the moat are not fenced and may be slippery or muddy.
- Climbing on the walls poses a significant hazard and is not permitted.