

Kenwood, Hampstead

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.

- The drop off point for coaches is on Hampstead Lane which can be a very busy road. Cars drive onto the site and across the car park using the same route as pedestrians.
- Utility vehicles operate across the estate. Please take care when moving around the wider landscape. A mobility vehicle is in use on Thursdays, operating as a shuttle service from the car parks to the house and café.

There are uneven surfaces which may change in level throughout the house and gardens.

- Some areas have loose gravel surfaces and there may be potholes and various trip hazards around the site. Some cobbles and slabs may be slippery when wet.
- The area in front of the house is fronted by a chain link fence which could pose a trip hazard if jumped.
- Visitors should follow the main path to the house.
- The external steps around the site are made of stone and can be uneven.

The historic house may pose various hazards, including uneven surfaces, low lighting and historic objects.

- Please ensure that students do not sit on the windowsills.
- Windows and display cabinets throughout the house are not fitted with safety glass.
- There are low lighting levels throughout the house to help conserve the fabric, objects and paintings.
- Any bags must be carried or worn on the front to avoid accidental damage inside the House.
- Many stairs and steps within the house are uneven in width and may be worn.
- Some floors are covered with rugs, the edges of which could be trip hazards.
- Some tables have sharp corners, which are at 'head height' for small children.
- Please join us in protecting and conserving the objects and paintings in the house and instruct your students to not touch any items unless advised in the house. Please encourage a 'look only' policy.

Wheelchair access to the Education room is limited.

- Please ensure you access the Education Room via the Service Wing which is wheelchair accessible. This is located by the back of the house, next to the café. Access needs to be supervised by a member of staff.
- Use of the staircase at the front of the house to access the Education Space is not recommended. Please ask a member of staff for assistance.

Features in the historic grounds of the estate may pose a hazard, including water features.

- There are a number of water features on the grounds, including a two large ponds. The edges of these are fenced but extra care should be taken in these areas.

The estate is an open access site for members of the public; dogs and wildlife may also be present on site.

- Hampstead Heath is popular with dog walkers. Dogs are required (by a byelaw) to be on leads in most areas when walked in the estate. The only exception to this is West Meadow, near the dairy. Staff will always request that any loose dogs are put on a lead, but extra vigilance should be taken whilst in the grounds.
- Other wildlife, including birds, may be present on site and there may be a risk of zoonotic infection. Visitors should wash hands before eating.
- Visitors should be aware that animals may bite.

Trees onsite may pose a hazard, including low hanging branches and walls.

- There are low hanging bushes and trees. Please be wary of these when exploring the grounds.
- To ensure your safety and to protect and conserve the landscape please do not climb on any of the walls or trees.
- There are mature trees on site that may drop branches due to dry weather conditions or pest damage; care should be taken when passing under or near large trees.