



# LEARNING VISITS

## INFORMATION PACK



MUSEUM & ART  
**SWINDON**

All the information you need to  
bring a school or college group  
to Museum & Art Swindon.

**THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE...**



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# VISITING MUSEUM & ART SWINDON



## WHY VISIT MUSEUM & ART SWINDON?

Kick-start learning, ignite pupils' curiosity and bring the curriculum to life! Visits provide a real-world context to enrich classroom learning and build cultural capital. Our Collections are a rich resource for helping pupils explore the curriculum and their local heritage. Visits encourage self-led enquiry, curiosity, playful and creative thinking. We offer a range of approaches and aim to provide high-quality, accessible learning experiences for all. Museum & Art Swindon provides a portal to the past, and a springboard to new ways of seeing, thinking and learning.

## WHAT'S AT MUSEUM & ART SWINDON?

- Using hundreds of fascinating artefacts, the Museum tells the stories of Swindon from earliest times to the present-day.
- Travel back through 155 million years of Swindon's history in the Time Corridor.
- Enter the first of six chronologically-ordered history galleries and dive into the tropical seas of Jurassic Swindon. Come face-to-face with its fascinating creatures.
- In the second gallery, objects from Swindon's first settlements tell the stories of Iron Age and Roman Swindon.
- The third gallery introduces Swindon's Saxon warriors and Medieval life.
- The displays continue to chart Swindon's growth from Civil War to Second World War, and finally explore the town's changing identities in the 20th century.
- Expect lots of interactivity, from dressing up to giant jigsaws and Lego.

Museum & Art Swindon also cares for a stunning collection of modern and contemporary British art, from paintings to ceramics, and L.S Lowry to Grayson Perry. Collection artworks are displayed alongside special touring exhibitions. A superb introduction to modern art for all ages. See the [What's On page](#) on the website for information on current and future exhibitions.

# DISCOVERY VISITS



On a Discovery Visit, pupils take part in a hands-on, curriculum-focused workshop led by our specialist Learning Team, as well as investigating our object-rich galleries.

Half the class start with a 45 minute facilitated workshop inspired by an enquiry question. These workshops enable pupils to deep-dive into history through object handling and characterisation, or develop creative skills through art or imaginative writing. Using resources provided in advance, the second half of the class discover extraordinary stories from Swindon's past in the museum galleries or come face-to-face with inspiring artworks. The groups swap over.

You can choose to extend your visit in the afternoon with lunch in our Activity Space and exploration of our Special Exhibitions.

**Discovery Visits cost £5 per pupil.** They include:

- A digital Teacher Pack to help you plan the practicalities of your visit.
- An optional planning visit with our Learning Team.
- A digital Activity Pack sent in advance to inspire classroom learning before and after the visit.
- A digital Resource Pack sent in advance to support gallery exploration on the day, including resources relevant to your topic of study.
- Entrance to the Museum for up to 34 pupils and free places for all accompanying adults. This includes access to the Museum's unique and precious collections, including history, art and temporary exhibition galleries.
- A 45 minute workshop for each pupil delivered by dedicated Learning Team staff and tailored to the curriculum.
- Sole use of the Activity Space.
- A class set of clipboards and pencils for use on-site.

## DISCOVERY VISIT TIMETABLE

10.00am	Welcome and introduction
10.15am	Gallery orientation
10.30am – 11.15am	Group 1 – facilitated workshop.    Group 2 – gallery exploration (teacher-led)
11.30am – 12.15pm	Group 2 – facilitated workshop.    Group 1 – gallery exploration (teacher-led)
12.15pm	Plenary
	Lunch space available, optional continued gallery exploration. Choose the duration of your visit.



### EYFS

- Swindon's Sea Monsters and Fossils

### KS1

- Swindon Rocks – rocks, fossils and sea monsters
- How We Used to Live – focus on food, transport, trade, leisure, or home life
- Art Adventure – focus on painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture or print-making

### KS2

- Swindon Rocks – soils, rocks, fossils and Swindon's underground riches
- Stone Age Swindon
- Bronze and Iron Age Swindon
- Roman Swindon
- Anglo-Saxon Swindon
- Local History Study: Stories of Migration
- Local History Study: Hidden Histories – diversifying the voices of local history
- Story Quest – supercharge creative writing
- Art Adventure – focus on painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture or print-making

For details and learning aims, please see our **Discovery Visits Information Pack** or our website.

## DISCOVERY VISIT OPTIONS



# SELF-GUIDED VISITS

Explore Museum & Art Swindon at your own pace, with a focus of your choice. We provide information about the collections, exhibitions and curriculum links in advance, plus a digital resource pack with activity suggestions for the visit.

Use our object-rich galleries to kick-start your history or art topic. Explore your topic in the context of Swindon's changing history. Fire imaginations for art or creative writing by exploring the Museum's fascinating stories and collections. Make vital cross-curricular links.

**Self-Guided Visits cost £2 per pupil.** They include:

- A digital Teacher Pack to help you plan the practicalities of your visit.
- An optional planning visit with our Learning Team.
- A digital Activity Pack to inspire classroom learning before and after the visit.
- A digital Resource Pack sent in advance to support gallery exploration on the day, including resources relevant to your topic of study.
- Use of the Activity Space for breaks, lunch, independent activities & storing belongings.
- A class set of clipboards and pencils for use on-site.
- Flexible timings to suit your needs. We recommend at least two hours to explore the whole museum, including art exhibitions and temporary galleries.



## TOPICS SUPPORTED BY A VISIT TO MUSEUM & ART SWINDON:

- Dinosaurs and the Jurassic period
- Rocks and fossils
- Prehistoric Swindon – Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages
- Roman Swindon
- Anglo-Saxon Swindon
- Medieval Swindon
- Victorian Swindon
- Post-war Swindon
- Local significant individuals from the past
- Local Area Study
- Archaeology
- Inclusive histories
- Growth and change in Swindon during the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries
- Swindon through time:
  - Leisure, games and entertainment
  - Transport, trade and money
  - Health, food and shopping
  - Home
  - Migration
- Art – any topic
- Creative writing, English, Literacy
- What is a museum/art gallery?

# BOOKING A VISIT



We welcome visits from Tuesday to Friday during Swindon Borough Council term-times. Booking is essential. Visits should be booked at least four weeks in advance. We welcome groups of up to 34 pupils. There is a minimum charge of £50 for Self-Guided Visits and £100 for Facilitated Discovery Visits.

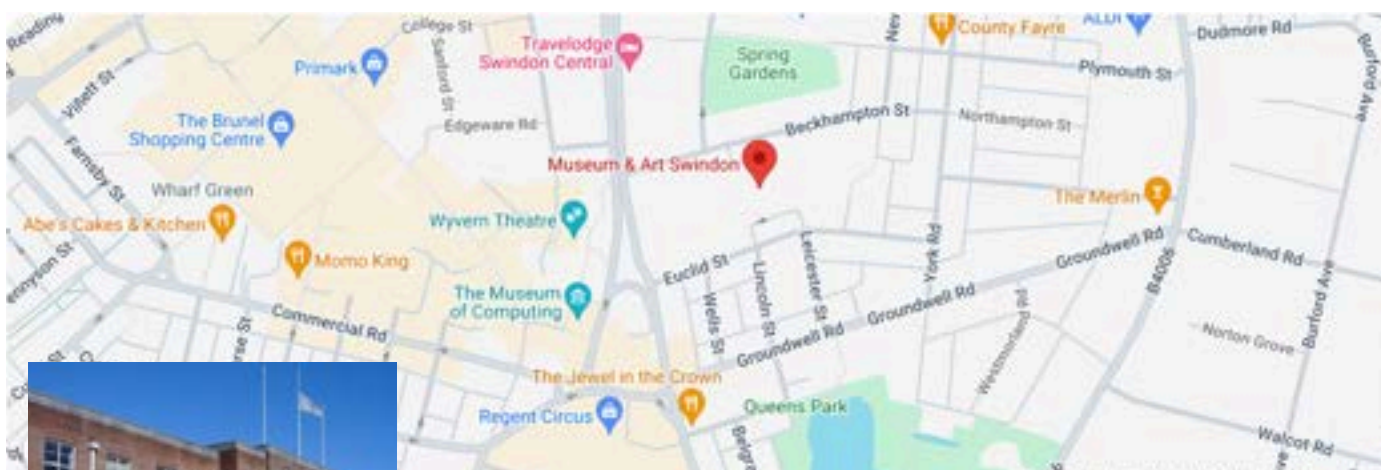
1. To book a visit, please download a Museum Visit Booking Form from the [Museum & Art Swindon website](#). Alternatively, you can request a booking form via email. Once complete, please send it to the Learning Team at [maslearning@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:maslearning@swindon.gov.uk)
2. We will confirm your booking or offer an alternative date if we are unable to accommodate your choice. Once you have received a Booking Confirmation email, the booking is established, the cancellation policy comes into effect, and you agree to meet the visit Terms & Conditions.
3. You will be sent a Teacher Pack with your booking confirmation. This contains information about the visit, including our Risk Assessment and Terms & Conditions (staffing ratios, health & safety responsibilities, behaviour expectations and cancellation policy).
4. You will also receive a digital Resource Pack and a digital Activity Pack. The Activity Pack gives suggestions for classroom learning activities pre and post visit. The Resource Pack contains materials to support your exploration of the galleries on the day of the visit. You will need to print any resources which you plan to use and bring them with you on the day.

## PLANNING VISITS:

We warmly welcome planning visits from staff. A member of the Learning Team can meet you for a quick tour, a discussion about your visit, and chance to ask any questions. This takes about 30 minutes. We find this really helps with planning, risk assessment and organising the day. We welcome guided planning visits any weekday, at a time convenient to you. Please contact the Team if you would like to arrange a guided planning visit.

Alternatively, you are very welcome to drop-in at any time during opening hours to conduct your own visit without a member of the Learning Team (Tues to Sat 10.30am to 4.30pm).

# WHERE IS MUSEUM & ART SWINDON?



## Museum & Art Swindon

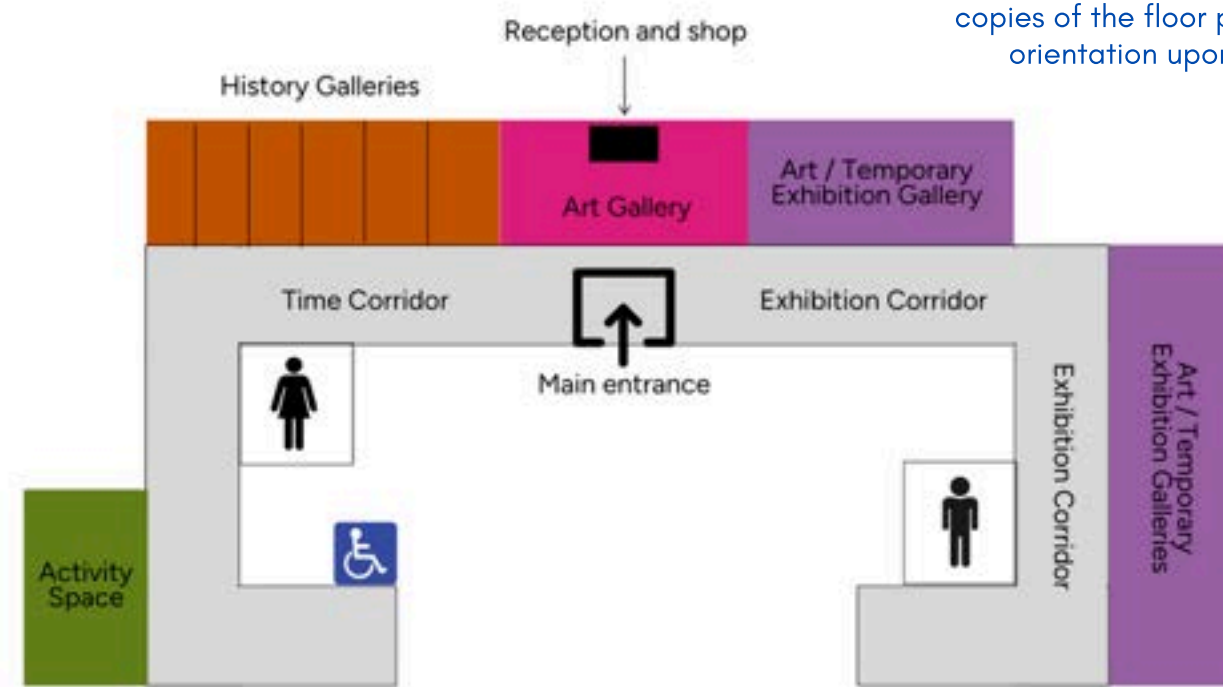
First floor, Swindon Borough Council Civic Building,  
Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH

The coach drop-off point is on Euclid Street, just outside the Museum.  
Please be aware there is no coach parking on site.

## Floor plan of the Museum

All galleries are on the first floor.

Accompanying adults will receive  
copies of the floor plan and  
orientation upon arrival.





# ORGANISING YOUR VISIT



## HOW MANY ACCOMPANYING ADULTS DO I NEED TO BRING?

EYFS and KS1 groups require a minimum ratio of 1:6 staff to pupils. The ratio is 1:10 for KS2 groups and 1:12 for KS3. In the interests of safety, we reserve the right to refuse entry to groups who arrive without this ratio. Some of our galleries hold a maximum of 10 people, so when you are independently exploring the Museum, you will need at least 3 adults capable of actively leading a group to ensure supervision of your whole class. We ask that staff remain with pupils at all times. The Museum is a public space and will be open at the time of your visit.

## WHERE CAN WE EAT? WHERE DO WE STORE BELONGINGS?

Our Activity Space seats 34 and is available for your sole use for lunch, breaks and as a base throughout the day. Pupils will be able to leave belongings here while exploring the galleries. It is a private space, but it is not lockable, so you are advised not to leave any valuables. Food and drink is not permitted anywhere else in the Museum. Please be aware there are no facilities for buying food and drink on-site. The nearest food outlet is a 5 minute walk away.

## WHAT FACILITIES DOES THE MUSEUM HAVE?

- There are 4 female toilets, 4 male toilets and a disabled/non-gendered toilet which should be used by accompanying adults.
- There are trolleys and coat pegs in the Activity Space for storing belongings.
- The Museum Shop sells a range of art and history-themed merchandise for all ages. It is a small area and can accommodate 10 pupils at a time who must be accompanied by an adult. Please let us know prior to your visit if you intend to visit the shop with your group.
- Queen's Park is the nearest outdoor space. It is a 5 minute walk away.

## WHAT IS ACCESS IN THE MUSEUM LIKE?

The Museum has full disabled access. The building is accessed via 10 steps or a disabled-access ramp. The Museum is on the first floor. There are stairs to the first floor, or a disabled-access lift. Once inside the Museum itself, there are no changes in level. There are portable seats and a wheelchair available for use. There are seats in many of the galleries and a disabled access toilet is available. Please make us aware if your group has any access needs.

# ORGANISING YOUR VISIT



## WHAT SHOULD I BE AWARE OF IN TERMS OF INCLUSION?

- We work hard to ensure the Museum is a safe, welcoming and accessible space for all.
- The Museum is a calm space with no audio or additional sounds.
- Some of the galleries are relatively small and hold a maximum of 10 people.
- Some of the galleries have low light levels because of the need to protect objects or artworks on display.
- The Activity Space is relatively small and can seem busy with a full class group. There is a quiet space with chairs in the corridor outside if necessary.
- If pupils need a quiet space while exploring the galleries, the Activity Space is available for your use.
- Our Learning Team are all qualified teachers with extensive experience in delivering museum education. Sessions are differentiated for different ages and abilities. Please let us know on your booking form if there are pupils with additional needs who will require significant differentiation.
- The Museum contains some very precious artefacts and artworks. We would be grateful if schools could ensure that pupils receive adequate support and supervision for their needs.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

- There will not always be a member of the Learning Team with you, although you will always have resources to use. A member of the Visitor Experience Team will always be available at Museum Reception if you have any questions during the visit, or in the event of emergency.
- There is a first aid kit available at Museum Reception on the first floor and a defibrillator at Building Reception on the ground floor.
- The Museum will be open to members of the public during your visit.
- We ask that food, drinks, coats, bags and stationery are not taken into any of the gallery spaces. Belongings, food and drink should be left in the Activity Space on arrival.
- After the visit, we will send you some digital teaching and learning resources for use back in the classroom. These will expand on pupils' learning during the visit and give opportunities for reflection and extension.