



NATURE IN ART

Thank you for helping with this school visit; I hope that you will enjoy participating in the children's discoveries. Your role is important, both in a supervisory capacity (especially at break and lunch times), and as an encourager to the smaller group of children in your care. May I ask you to help us by ensuring that the children in your care listen to instructions and are considerate to other museum visitors, thus ensuring a stress-free day for everyone. If you are unfamiliar with the museum and our schools' programme, I hope the following information will be useful.

Activity one: The museum visit, artist in residence and gift shop

The part of the day that requires most participation from you will be the museum tour (which also includes the artist in residence and gift shop) when the children work in small groups under your supervision. Nature in Art staff do not lead this activity, but our stewards are in the galleries if you need help. Nature in Art will give you a collection of picture resources, the aim of which is to encourage children to think, observe and analyse. Please help the students to reach their own conclusions; help can be given as hints or clues, rather than just providing the answer but for many of the works there is no single correct answer, the response depends on an individual's own ideas. Class teachers may have given children a quiz sheet to complete, but they may still need extra input from you, clarifying ideas and finding exhibits etc.

When your group visits the museum this will also be the chance to meet the artists in residence and the gift shop. We have different artists in residence every week and they are usually in the studio outside, however, some may be in the small dining room which is through the coffee shop. When you visit the artist please remind the children not to touch anything unless told its ok by the artist and also please check if the artist is happy for you to take photos. This is a rare opportunity for the students to meet a professional artist and to see them at work, so please make sure you allow time for this bit rather than spending ages in the gift shop! If your group is due to visit the gift shop again this is the time to do it. If possible please check the students have the correct money on them before they get to the till, usually staff will write the students name on a bag and keep their items till the end of the day to minimise the chance of things going missing.

Activities two and three

In addition to the museum tour the children will also take part in up to two other activities, chosen by the class teacher. Like the museum tour these activities usually last for approximately one hour. The activities are led by a staff member from Nature in Art, or occasionally the class teacher, but never solely by an adult helper. We remind you that again you are here to supervise and help the students, rather than taking part e.g. create your own wire sculpture. We do this to keep our costs at a minimum for the students and also to allow us to charge nothing for helpers and teachers.

Our educational visits are very popular with the children, staff and helpers and so I look forward to meeting you and hope that you enjoy your visit to Nature in Art.

Christina Leach
Education Officer, Nature in Art