

Guidelines for Self-Guided Groups Visiting Birmingham Cathedral

St. Philip's Cathedral is a place of vibrant Christian worship every Sunday and each weekday throughout the year. Since its opening in 1715 the building has been a Sacred Place in the life of Birmingham and houses significant works of art inspired by the Christian Faith and Life.

The Cathedral also warmly welcomes visitors from the UK, the rest of Europe and the wider world of diverse faiths and backgrounds as well as school and adult groups as part of its mission and service.

We have a programme of twice weekly free taster tours and a dedicated provision for school visits. Groups can pre-book guided tours and we can supply expert and trained guides, for which there is a charge.

- When services and special events are in progress guided tours are not possible. 15 minutes prior to a Service tours cannot commence. In this instance it is important that the tour guide respects the decision of the warden or verger on duty. At midday every day, there is a time of led public prayer.
- Groups can be self-led but we do ask group leaders to approach us with proposed visiting times in advance so that clashes of activity can be avoided. A comprehensive list of forthcoming worship services and events can be found on the cathedral website. Occasionally however, changes have to be made to this programme at short notice.
- There is no charge for self-led groups. We welcome donations to assist in the work of the cathedral and can be placed in the financial gift box at the back of the cathedral.
- We ask that tours be conducted in an appropriate manner showing respect especially for a Sacred Place and for those that may be in the cathedral for prayer and reflection. Please help to preserve the atmosphere of a Christian Place of Worship.
- Pre-booked schools' sessions and cathedral-led tours take precedence over self-led tours.
- We welcome tours to enter the chancel to look more closely at the Burne-Jones stained-glass windows except during services and rehearsals. We also ask that visitors do not enter the area beyond the metal rail before the high altar.
- At times during the day an organist will be practicing. You can still however, enter the chancel to see the windows.
- Touching the organ is strictly forbidden, and no equipment or objects should be placed on the altar table.

- Photography is welcome but not when a service is taking place or when the choir is rehearsing.
- We encourage self-led groups to share their experience on TripAdvisor, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining the ethos of the cathedral as a place of worship, welcome, reflection, education and significance for everyone who enters it.