

Guidelines for schools visiting Kew on a self-guided art trip

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has a long tradition of art heritage, from our botanical illustrations and Marianne North Gallery, to modern day exhibitions by contemporary artists.

We are keen to welcome education groups into the Gardens for art studies.

These guidelines are designed to ensure that your students get the most of their visit, whilst at the same time respecting the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as a visitor attraction and a world heritage site.

Please ensure you discuss the following guidelines with your group before you visit to establish boundaries for acceptable behaviour.

Please use washable art materials (eg: pencils, charcoal, pastels, washable pens and watercolours) when drawing or painting in the glasshouses.

Please ensure that groups working in the glasshouses do not obstruct the walkways with their bags and other possessions. Walkways must be kept clear to maintain fire exits and so that other (paying) visitors can enjoy their visits.

The glasshouses are working buildings, and as such certain areas may need to be closed for horticultural or maintenance works. Please ensure that if your group are asked by any member of glasshouse staff to move, or leave the building at any time (including the end of the day) that you respond quickly.

For the safety of your pupils and our other visitors we require that all children under the age of 16 be supervised at all times. This is a condition of your free entry on educational visits. Please ensure that the appropriate numbers of supervising adults are with the pupils in your group at all times. Unsupervised children will be asked to give the name of their school and responsible teachers. If pupils are persistently unsupervised during their visit the head teacher will be contacted.

Please ensure that your party is split into smaller groups when carrying out artwork in the glasshouses so that they do not obstruct walkways, or intimidate other visitors.

There are interesting collections of plants in all our glasshouses. The Palm house and the Princess of Wales conservatory are heavily used by other education groups and the public. You may find it easier to accommodate your group in the Temperate House which is less heavily used, has wider walkways, and is close to the Marianne North Gallery which contains a beautiful collection of plant paintings, and may link in well with your work.

If you wish to discuss any of your visit needs, ideas of areas of the Gardens to use for Art Studies, or the possibility of booking an art activity led by our team of Kew Teachers, please contact the schools department on 020 8332 5627.

