



Fishbourne Roman Palace Notes for adult helpers



These are some short notes to help you lead a group of pupils during your visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace. Please do feel free to ask questions of the museum staff on the day, who are identifiable by their badges. Pupils are very welcome to ask staff questions too.

Please make sure that all pupils are supervised at all times during the visit. Help the pupils to be aware of other visitors using the museum and to behave in ways that make sure everyone can enjoy their day. While we encourage conversation, discussion and enthusiasm, please do try to keep noise to a considerate level.

If you find that you need a First Aider during your visit and your teacher is not nearby, please ask a member of the Palace staff. If the Fire Alarm sounds, please calmly lead your group out of the nearest exit and gather at the nearest assembly point. Members of the museum staff will help with this if necessary. It is also very important to make sure pupils walk on the paths around the car park and not among parked vehicles.

The main areas you will see during your visit are:

- The North Wing: a modern building protects the remains of the North Wing of the palace. Walking on wooden pathways, you can look down on the floors of the Roman palace, built around the year 75AD, including Fishbourne's famous mosaics. These are some of the oldest mosaics in England. There are information boards throughout this area and a model of the palace in the foyer.
- The Museum: this area tells the story of the palace site in chronological order, from before the palace was built to after it was destroyed. Some of the artefacts are not in cases: these may be carefully touched but please remind pupils that they are almost two thousand years old and must be handled with care.
- The Gardens: half of the palace garden is displayed, up to what was the central pathway; ask the pupils to imagine a giant mirror against the back fences of the houses bordering the gardens to get an idea of how big the place really was. The hedges have been replanted to their original design. At the far end of the site there is also a plants garden to explore. There are some archaeological remains in the gardens, low walls for example: please make sure pupils do not climb or stand on these.
- Collections Discovery Centre: this is where all of the archaeological research about the palace takes place. Pupils can look into our Conservation Lab and Archaeological Stores to get an idea of what it's like to be an archaeologist.
- Workshops: your teacher will advise you if a workshop has been booked by your group. Workshops are hour-long practical sessions led by a member of the palace staff. Adult helpers accompany pupils throughout the workshops and we hope you will enjoy taking part! Your teacher will tell you when and where to go for the workshop and you can check this information at the reception desk if you need to.
- Audio-visual presentation: this is a short film about the palace. Your teacher will let you know if a session in here has been booked and at what time.

Please do not hesitate to ask any member of staff if you have any questions or problems during your visit. We hope that you and your pupils will really enjoy the day.

Site map of Fishbourne Roman Palace

