



PRIMARY SCHOOL TOUR GUIDELINES

IMMA gallery tours are led by Mediators, IMMA gallery staff.

All tours start in the reception of IMMA's main building, unless your group is notified otherwise. Pedestrian entry to IMMA is via the Kilmainham tower gate and via Military Road (Heuston Station/ James's Street). Vehicular access is solely from Military Road. There is a paid car park to the rear of the main building.

On arrival, the Mediators will spend a few minutes talking to the children before going to visit the galleries.

For children:

Usually we don't touch any artworks because on our hands and fingers there are invisible oils that get left behind on things we touch. Over time these invisible oils slowly damage the surface of artworks. Also a lot of people visit IMMA every week, so if everyone touched the artworks, the artworks would first get dirty and worn, and eventually destroyed. Then we can't share the artworks with anyone anymore. Most of all, we want everyone to be able to visit these artworks again and again, and for a long time into the future.

We want to hear about everyone's thoughts today. Please put your hands up when you want to speak, and listen when others are speaking. Sometimes the Mediators will ask you to really look at or listen to things; if they do, try to be really, really quiet.

When we want to look at a particular artwork, **we will all sit down on the gallery floor**. Take your time sitting down and standing up.

Artworks can be anywhere - behind us, above us, below us, as well as right in front of us. So, when you are moving through the galleries, take your time and look around.

Stay together and stay with the Mediators in the galleries. IMMA is an exciting place but don't run ahead because IMMA is also a very big place with lots of rooms where you can get lost. Also other people might be visiting the galleries while your class is here, and they want to see the artworks too.

Some artworks are on a special table or shelf. You might want to look at some things close-up but you must be careful not to even lightly lean or to touch against the shelves or tables. We want all of you to get a chance to see the artworks close-up. Take your time and everyone will get a turn ...

Finally, when you're walking **outside the IMMA buildings**, particularly around the gardens and the main building, **really be careful and look both left and right for cars, trucks or bicycles.**

We want everyone to have an enjoyable and safe visit to IMMA.

For teachers:

IMMA promotes partnership with visiting teachers. Teachers' professional skills and experience ensure that the children get the best possible learning experience when they visit IMMA.

It really helps the Mediators if the children have name labels when they arrive at IMMA. This allows the Mediators to address each child by name during the tour.

We appreciate that for some children visiting a museum will be a new, unusual or excitable experience. Through a teacher's knowledge of the children, he or she can help us create a bridge between IMMA's possibly strange environment and the day-to-day routine of school life.

During the visit if a teacher notices any connections between the children's experience in the galleries and on-going learning back in the classroom, we welcome feedback with regard to developing our resources and services for children.

We rely completely on teachers' professional input when it comes to dealing with any challenging behaviour from children or sorting out practical issues such as toilet breaks etc.

IMMA has to limit the number in groups of visiting children to 32 and asks for two adults from the school to accompany groups with over 16 children. Some of IMMA's rooms become uncomfortable with any more than 16 children in them at one time. Also smaller groups obviously give a better ratio of children to supervisors.