

## **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum pre-visit accessibility information for schools**

### 1. Accessibility for wheelchair users or those with mobility impairments

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, café and shop is all on one level, with wheelchair access and a disabled toilet.

The Cottage is a ten minute walk away from the museum. If you have booked a guided walk, this will take you around the site including the Monument gardens (accessible by wheelchair), Brig o' Doon (which is cobbled, and situated at the bottom of a steep road with a narrow pavement) and Alloway Auld Kirk (accessible only by steps).

The Cottage is all on one level. Due to its historic nature it has narrow doors, but these are still wide enough for the majority of wheelchairs.

The Byre of the Cottage has a cobbled floor which makes wheelchair use difficult, but not impossible. It may present a trip hazard to anybody using a walking frame or sticks, so care should be taken.

### 2. Noise and busy-ness of site

Our site is likely to be quite busy, as we are popular with visitors from all over the world. The museum itself has interactive games, and an hourly showing of a Burns song/poem which is played on overhead screens.

Unfortunately we cannot turn the sounds of the games down, but can turn the sound off on the hourly song/poem, please let us know in advance if you would like us to do this. Alternatively, we can advise you when the performance will occur and you are welcome to take any pupils who might be distressed by this out of the museum temporarily.

The museum is dark to protect the objects and manuscripts, and the lights dim further when the poem or song is playing.

Burns Cottage has speakers installed which play noises at random intervals to represent Burns family life e.g. farm animal noises/people singing and talking. If you feel your pupils may be uncomfortable with this, please let us know in advance and we can arrange for these to be turned off.

Please be aware that there may be other groups visiting the museum at the same time as you, and whilst we make every effort to ensure there is not a clash, sometimes traffic and unforeseen circumstances mean that groups are in the Cottage and museum at the same time. We are more than happy to take a break in the workshop if this happens and return to the Cottage when it is quieter.

3. Tailoring workshops to specific Additional Support Needs

RBBM Learning staff are experienced in creating bespoke workshops for a range of different abilities and needs, and in tailoring existing workshops to suit different audiences. Please do inform us of any Additional Needs within your group and we will endeavour to cater for them on the day to ensure that every pupil gets the most from their visit.

For full groups booking with Additional Support Needs, RBBM staff aim to be in touch at least 3 weeks prior to your booking to discuss the running of the day and any particular requirements you might have. We can tailor the length of our workshops to suit your group, and can build in break or snack times where required. If you have not been contacted, please email [abeckett@nts.org.uk](mailto:abeckett@nts.org.uk)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any more questions about your visit, or to discuss options for a school group you might be considering bringing to RBBM. Please email [abeckett@nts.org.uk](mailto:abeckett@nts.org.uk), or telephone 01292 430 315 (weekdays only).