

Accessibility Video

KEY:

N: Narrator

N: So, you are coming to Parliament Buildings!? Well, this is what you can expect if you are visiting with your school.

Most school buses park here and you'll then head over to the security hut, which looks like this. If you have difficulty walking, your teacher can arrange for your bus to park right up beside the building.

When you arrive at security, you'll meet ushers who'll ask you to put your belongings through an x-ray machine. Then you'll go through an archway like the one you'd find at the airport. The machine sometimes beeps. If this happens, don't worry, it just means that an usher will use one of these scanners to do a quick security check. They will then give you a small card to show that you've been through security and you'll take that to the reception desk.

Reception is behind the front doors of Parliament Buildings. There are a few steps here or you can choose to use the ramps. Whichever route you choose, both paths lead to the front doors. We can open this larger door if you would prefer not to go through the revolving door. Once at reception, you'll hand your security card to a member of staff and move up into the Great Hall where you'll meet one of the members of the Education Team. The Great Hall is right in the centre of Parliament Buildings and it can be a busy meeting place, sometimes hosting press conferences like this.

You'll go into the Assembly Chamber during your visit. This is where the MLAs meet to make laws. You might recognise it from TV?! Sometimes we take school groups to watch the Assembly meetings from the public gallery. We can use stairs or a lift to get to the gallery and there are spaces reserved for people who use wheelchairs in the gallery itself. When we're watching we have to be really quiet so that we don't disturb proceedings. That means mobile phones need to be placed into one of these lockers before going in.

Depending on when you visit, you might also get to see inside the Senate Chamber where you'll find out all about the history of this old room. You'll probably go to one of our Education rooms as well, where you'll find out more about the Assembly and how it works. You might meet an MLA, so you might want to think of questions to ask them!

If you visit on a Monday or Tuesday you will sometimes hear this noise. That's called the division bell and it calls MLAs to the Assembly Chamber to vote. You can borrow ear defenders if you feel this noise could be stressful for you.

There is a quiet room behind the reception desk which you can use at any time during your visit. Just ask and we'll have it opened up for you. If you feel worried or just need somewhere quiet this place is there for you. We also have disabled access toilets and a first aid room.

The main thing to remember is that we want you to have a great experience at Parliament Buildings so if there is anything that you think you might need to make you feel at ease during

your visit just ask your teacher to get in contact with us at the Education Service. All the contact details are on our website.

Looking forward to meeting you!