Mitigation for school visits – COVID 19

* The risk factor for children and younger people (without underlying health conditions) is significantly less than for older people (including staff) and the wider community (where up to 1/3 of the population have underlying health conditions). The risk factor for clinically vulnerable people is very high and so the control measures must be implemented rigorously in order to lower the residual risk.
* Pregnant women should be discouraged from supporting school visits and those in clinically vulnerable groups should also be excluded.
* Groups for on-site activities will be restricted to no more than 12 children.
* The school should separate out pupils into groups of no more than 12 on arrival, ready to meet their appointed Cogges education freelancer, who will provide and individual introduction and Health and Safety briefing.
* For full day sessions, breaks will be staggered.
* A separate entrance and exit should be used for schools. Schools should be directed to the white gate on arrival.
* Facilitators should be instructed to observe public access to the pigsties and other crowded areas and build their route around avoiding other groups. The one way system implemented for public safety should be followed at all times with school groups.
* Areas of outdoor space that are needed specifically for school visits will be cordoned off.
* The picnic area by the sandpit will be reserved for school visit use only. Schools will be advised to take their own rubbish away with them.
* To avoid cross contamination between school parties and public one toilet is provided for the school to use exclusively while on site. Toilets will be cleaned no less than every two hours.
* School bookings will not be taken on consecutive days and where possible different freelancers are used across different school bookings.
* Freelancers should wear visors for all indoor sessions (and may do so for outdoor sessions, but this is not required). Schools will be informed if freelancers will be wearing a visor so as to prepare children before the visit.
* Volunteers supporting activities should wear visors.
* Indoor spaces will be kept well ventilated, with windows open.
* In enclosed spaces, only freelancers or volunteers who are required for the activity will be in that space and activities will be restricted to one volunteer only.
* PPE will be worn at all times during cooking.
* Any rubbish generated through cooking sessions will be disposed of in the Commercial Kitchen and this bin will be emptied at the end of each session.
* Volunteers and staff will also be required to wear gloves for cooking activities
* Gaps will be built in between sessions to clear and disinfect the working spaces and rotate equipment and resources. Any soft, or material resources will be taken away and washed after use by each group, this includes bed linen for the bed making session and aprons when cooking. If washing is not possible the item will be left outside for 72 hours.
* Where possible children will use individual resources and they will be cleaned before each session and at the end of the visit.
* No dressing up will take place though children can see the different items that make up what the Victorians or Saxon’s would wear. Freelancers can show them these items if they fit within a session.
* Hand washing will be built into each session so that children are washing their hands after and before each 20 minute session. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands for 20 seconds each time and will be provided with sanitiser gel throughout the session, this will be kept with the freelancer responsible for the group. If a child coughs or sneezes they will be asked to go and wash their hands.
* Schools will not be allowed to use the playground to reduce the risk to the public on site.
* Food will continue to be made and taken away as part of a visit. Washing hands and wearing gloves will be done as a precaution and all children will work individually with their produce labelled on greaseproof paper on a baking tray. Only 1 item will be taken away. Once baked the item will be placed in a named paper bag for teacher to distribute to the children to take home. Any other items that children usually take away will be treated in the same way .
* Guidance will be given to schools, staff and volunteers regarding the NHS recommendations to not attend a session if they fall into a vulnerable category or if they or a member of their household has a high temperature, cough, or loss of taste or smell. The person in question is also advised to get a COVID -19 test by calling 119 or visiting NHS.uk. If the test comes back negative they should still not attend the visit if they are unwell.
* Schools will be required to sign to agree with the statement that no one has been ill 7 days prior to the visit when they return their confirmation.
* Schools will be asked to bring the appropriate PPE for the possibility of a child or adult in their group becoming ill during a session. If this happens then the teacher in charge will isolate the individual in the area by the sandpit until someone can collect them and take them home. They will then be advised to follow NHS guidance, get a test and self-isolate. If the test comes back positive then Track and Trace will be in contact and we will supply information of all those onsite at the time the person became ill. This may include members of the public, staff, freelancers and volunteers. Anyone falling into this group and advised to do so by NHS track and trace will need to isolate for 14 days.
* Cogges will keep a record of all staff and volunteers supporting school sessions for no less than 21 days after a visit.