Making the most of your visit - Self-led visits information for schools

What is a self-led visit?
Teachers and other supporting adults visiting the museum with their pupils will lead the class visit. The Guidebook, which we can provide in advance and a free planning visit should help you to plan your visit according to the interests and needs of your class.

What help can the teacher expect with planning this type of visit?
We would advise that teachers, especially those who have not visited with a class before, take the opportunity for a free planning visit.
Please contact the Museum to book a planning visit or to order a copy of the Guidebook and DVD, which introduce the site and buildings.

What help can the teacher expect on site?
Our costumed staff on site will be happy to answer questions you or your pupils might have and are able to assist discussion about any of the objects and buildings as your group passes through that area of the site. However, it is the teacher and other adults accompanying the class who are responsible for the group at all times during the visit.
Please remember that costumed staff have to be available to all visitors to the Museum and in most instances are not able to give classes special tours.

How long will a visit take?
The Highland Folk Museum site covers 80 acres and is a mile long. Expect to spend at least 3 hours on site. Please remember to also factor in things like getting pupils to the toilet on arrival if necessary, hand washing before lunch and time to eat snacks and/ or packed lunches.

What facilities are available?
The site has a car park, toilets (at main entrance and at the Farm area), picnic areas, children's play area, shop, a catering outlet and an audio-visual.

What should pupils wear?
During much of the visit, pupils will be outdoors. It is recommended that pupils dress appropriately and have waterproof, warm clothing and sensible footwear.

Where can pupils eat packed lunches at the museum?
There are a number of picnic areas on site where pupils can eat their lunch. We can usually offer a place to eat indoors in the case of wet weather, but please let the museum know if you would like access to this space at time of booking. Packed lunches can be purchased on-site if ordered at the time of booking, but please feel free to bring your own onto the site.

Transport on site
Although there is a bus on site, this can only take a maximum of 10 and we would advise, in most circumstances that classes travel on foot.

Special requirements
If you have any special requirements, e.g. access to Gaelic speaking staff, access needs etc., please let the Museum know when you are booking and we will do our best to meet your needs.

IMPORTANT – safety on site
As the museum has a working croft we ask you to take care near machinery, tools and livestock.
Please also be aware that there are areas of water on site (a duck pond at the farm, a mill pond and curling pond in the pinewoods), please take extra care in these areas.
As the museum is an outdoor environment, we would also ask you to ensure that pupils wash their hands before eating snacks or lunch. Our main toilets are situated at reception, close to our main picnic area.

A risk assessment for the site is available on this website, but please be aware that teachers/ group leaders are responsible for risk assessing all other aspects of their visit and are responsible for the group at all times.

<u>Curriculum links</u>
The museum site is very varied and offers a huge variety of learning opportunities.

Curriculum for Excellence
The site provides plenty of opportunities for pupils to gain skills that are central to the new curriculum, such as:
Exploring, explaining, describing, investigating, discussing, researching, interpreting, comparing, summarising, recording, measuring*, gathering information, identification and considering others.*

* Please note, if you wish to include measuring and recording in your visit please bring your own materials and equipment.