

**Laing Art Gallery:  
Pre-visit Information  
for Teachers and  
Group Leaders**

# Thank you for your interest in visiting the Laing Art Gallery!

We hope you find this resource useful in planning your visit. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact a member of our Learning Team.

## About the Laing

The Laing Art Gallery, founded in 1901, is the principal art gallery in the North East of England. The Gallery houses an outstanding collection of fine and decorative art including examples of British oil painting and watercolours, ceramics, silver and glassware. Our extensive collection comprises around 7,000 decorative art objects, 4,000 watercolours and works on paper and 1,000 oil paintings!

## Planning your visit

- General admission to the Laing Art Gallery is free. Our temporary exhibitions may have an admission charge - please check our website for details.
- Advanced booking is essential for workshops and self-led visits. To avoid disappointment, please book your visit at least two weeks in advance.
- A room for lunch is available for schools to use and must also be booked in advance.
- We offer facilitated workshops for schools Tuesdays - Fridays, subject to availability.
- We can accommodate 32 students per workshop and our adult to child ratio is: 1:6 (Years 1 - 3) / 1:10 (Years 4 and above).
- A hazard identification form is available to download from our website to help you prepare a risk assessment.

## **Getting here**

### **Metro**

The nearest Metro Station to the Gallery is Monument, approximately 5 minutes' walk away.

### **Public Bus**

Buses stopping at Haymarket are approximately 10 minutes' walk away; buses stopping at Pilgrim Street are approximately 3 minutes' walk away.

### **Parking**

Parking facilities outside the Gallery are very limited. There are parking meters to the side of the Gallery, including 2 disabled parking bays. There is also an NCP car park to the right of the building and one on Durant Road.

## **Upon arrival**

Please enter with your group through the automatic glass doors on the lower ground floor, into the lower shop and reception area. All visiting groups need to sign-in at the welcome desk just inside the front doors. If you've booked a workshop or tour, a member of our Learning Team will meet you and your students here.

## **During your visit**

Please remember that you are responsible for your group at all times. We ask that you do not leave children unsupervised or allow them to run or shout in the galleries. Touching the artworks is not allowed (unless otherwise stated). You may find it useful to remind students of this before your visit! If your students wish to use the shop, please make sure you factor in time for this outside of the time designated for the workshop. If you would like to take photos, please ask an attendant for details. Flash photography and tripods are not allowed in the gallery and no photography is allowed in any of the temporary exhibitions.

# Getting around the building:

## Exhibitions and facilities

### Ground Floor

#### Entrance

Please enter the gallery through the automatic glass doors at the lower ground floor. This will lead you into our welcome desk. A lift to the right of this area is available to go to all floors.

#### Shop

The shop is split across two levels - the shop on the lower ground floor sells posters, postcards, art materials, and greetings cards. It also sells a range of small 'pocket-money' stationary items for under £3, perfect for trip souvenirs!

#### Toilets

Male and female accessible toilets are located on the ground floor to the rear of the Café Laing. There are two additional accessible toilets near the main staircase in the Marble Hall.

#### Northern Spirit Gallery

Located behind the upper ground floor craft shop, Northern Spirit is a major permanent exhibition celebrating the achievements of artists, manufacturers and makers from the North East of England. Internationally acclaimed art from the gallery's collection feature in this impressive display, including work by 19th century painter John Martin, and engraver and naturalist Thomas Bewick.

#### Marble Hall and Rotunda

The Marble Hall is located just outside the craft shop, where you can find the main staircase up to the galleries. The Marble Hall and the Rotunda are distinctive examples of the original, Baroque-style architecture of the gallery. The Hall takes its name from the beautiful marble floor which features tiles of local Frosterly marble, embedded with fossils.

#### The Studio

This versatile space, located at the bottom of the spiral staircase, is used for school workshops and lunches. If you would like to use The Studio during your visit, please remember to pre-book with a member of our Learning Team.

## **First Floor**

### **Temporary Exhibition Galleries A, B and C**

The Laing offers a range of temporary exhibitions throughout the year. These three galleries host a rolling programme of fascinating exhibitions, combining imaginative displays from the permanent collection with wide ranging innovative exhibitions. Including both contemporary and historical displays, many of the featured exhibitions are on tour from national or international collections of art!

### **Admission to temporary exhibitions**

Children 12 and under and accompanying adults go in free, with concession charges for older students. You can gain entry to these exhibitions on the day of your visit, subject to other bookings, but it's always best to let us know you're coming beforehand, to avoid disappointment!

### **Exhibition Gallery (next to the lift)**

This space hosts a changing programme of contemporary and modern art. Please ask at the Welcome Desk for details of current or forthcoming exhibitions.

### **Gallery D**

Here you will find important paintings from our collection which are permanently on display. This Gallery features works from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, including\* two world-famous masterpieces of Pre Raphaelite art: William Holman Hunt's *Isabella and the Pot of Basil* and Edward Burne-Jones' *Laus Veneris*, displayed alongside paintings by Arthur Hughes, Alma Tadema, and Thomas Gainsborough. The Laing has one of the most comprehensive collections of the work of locally born, British Romantic artist John Martin and you can see some of his works on display in this exhibition.

\*These artworks intermittently come off display for conservation or as loans to other galleries. Please contact the gallery in advance of your visit if you wish to see a specific artwork.

### **Barbour Watercolour Gallery**

This small gallery, accessible from the spiral staircase, is not to be missed and features changing displays of paintings from the Laing's collection of approximately 4000 watercolour paintings.

# School workshop programme :

We offer a range of onsite workshops suitable for EYFS through to KS5, as well as our Laing In-Schools programme.

Workshop	Length	Description	Cost
<b>Let's Visit the Art Gallery</b> EYFS, KS1	1 hour 30 mins	A workshop designed for younger children visiting the gallery for the first time. Children will investigate the building, art and objects on display by playing games.	£100
<b>Explore Portraiture</b> KS1/2	1 hour 30 mins	Students will focus on symbolism and composition in paintings, deciphering clues to discover information and stories about people in the past. In the Studio pupils will use the ideas learnt in the gallery to create their own portrait or self-portrait.	£100
<b>Explore Watercolours</b> KS1/2	1 hour 30 mins	Students will sketch from works in the collection and learn about the traditional composition of a painting. In the studio they will use their own ideas to experiment and play with traditional and modern ways of using the medium.	£100
<b>Explore Drawing</b> KS1/2	1 hour 30 mins	Students will experiment with mark making and a variety of drawing materials such as charcoal, pastels and pencil, before creating a final drawing inspired by the exhibitions.	£100
<b>Local Landscapes</b> KS1/2	1 hour 30 mins	Pupils will investigate local heritage and industry through the people and landscapes depicted in our Northern Spirit gallery. Paintings will be brought to life through gallery games and interactive activities.	£100
<b>Explore Sculpture</b> KS1/2/3/4	1 hour 30 mins	In this interactive workshop pupils will investigate Henry Moore's abstract sculpture and learn about shape, form and texture through games and drama activities.	£100
<b>Explore Printmaking</b> KS1/2/3/4	1 hour 30 mins	Students will learn about traditional printmaking methods through the work of Thomas Bewick. Then create prints in the art studio using different printmaking techniques.	£100
<b>Great Northern Artists Tour</b> KS1/2/3/4/5	1 hour	Explore some of the Laing's top Northern artists using interactive activities and lively discussion.	£80
<b>GCSE &amp; A-Level Study sessions</b> KS3/4/5	1 hour	Study Sessions at the Laing Art Gallery are designed to help students explore the collection and highlight themes and topics through lively discussion and debate.	£80

# Laing In-School:

Our Learning Team can visit your school to inspire your pupils to explore an artist or theme from our extensive collections before creating their own work of art!

Choose an artist or theme for the workshop focus, or get in touch to discuss any ideas for bespoke sessions, which we can deliver for an additional fee. See the website or get in touch for suggested themes or artists for in-school sessions

	Half Day	Full Day
1 Class	1 x 1.5 hour workshop £150	
2 Classes	2 x 1.5 hour workshops £250 (incl. free whole school assembly)	2 x 1.5 hour workshops £250 (incl. free whole school assembly)
4 Classes		4 x 1.5 hour workshops £450 (incl. free whole school assembly)

## Schools Membership scheme:

This scheme allows your school and your teachers to benefit from a variety of our cross-curricular, interactive and creative learning programmes across the academic year.

### Membership entitles schools to:

- Five interactive workshops at Laing for KS1-4 incl. SEND (usually £100 each)
- A teacher training session for all staff on using a painting across the curriculum.
- A whole school assembly on the theme of the Laing's collections
- Booking priority for our exclusive teacher exhibition previews and CPD events
- Free entry into our charging shows for planning (2 tickets per school per exhibition)
- A 10% discount on booking all additional workshops or in-school workshops.

**School annual membership fee £395**

# Get in touch:

**Address:**

**New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8AG**

**Telephone: (Learning Team direct dial)**

**0191 278 1939**

**Email:**

**[learning@laingartgallery.org.uk/learning](mailto:learning@laingartgallery.org.uk/learning)**

**Website:**

**[www.laingartgallery.org.uk](http://www.laingartgallery.org.uk)**