



## **Cutty Sark Clipper Ship Risk Awareness for school groups**

**Schools are responsible for completing their own risk assessments.  
The following information is designed to assist you.**

### **Planning**

The *Cutty Sark* clipper ship is a Victorian era Merchant Navy vessel and the world's only surviving tea clipper ship from the Age of Sail. Although measures have been taken to ensure public access and safety, she remains an authentic vessel. Visitors should remain aware of their surroundings as they enjoy their visit to the ship.

We strongly recommend arranging a pre-visit to the ship to plan practical details, complete your risk assessment and to assist in briefing your group leaders and pupils before they arrive.

Pre-visits can be arranged free of charge for a maximum of two teachers per group once your booking has been confirmed.

Please contact the Bookings Unit on 020 8312 6608 to arrange your pre-visit.

### **Arrival**

Depending on how you get to Greenwich, it is likely you will need to cross at least one road to get to the ship. We strongly recommend testing your route in advance of your visit.

### **Overview of the ship**

- The *Cutty Sark* has four levels. From the top down, these are the main deck, 'tween deck, lower hold and the Sammy Ofer gallery (beneath the ship).
- When arriving on board, groups will be provided with an orientation to the ship.
- All levels of the ship are fully wheelchair accessible\* by lift. Groups who do not require the lift for access reasons should use staircases. Please walk in single file on the left hand side of staircases.
- Some companionways or staircases are narrow and steep; care must be taken when going up or down steps.
- Fire exits are clearly marked and procedures are in place to assist visitors in the event of an emergency.
- Please note that CCTV is in operation and monitored for the safety and well-being of our visitors.
- All staff and freelancers delivering schools sessions are CRB checked.
- The site is self-contained and the main entrances are staffed at all times.
- For health and safety reasons, a limited number of children are allowed in the shop at any one time. Groups must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.



### **Sammy Ofer gallery**

- The stepped concrete sides of the dry dock in the Sammy Ofer gallery are high and must not be climbed on.
- Limited facilities are provided for storage of coats and small bags during your visit on this level.
- We cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage to personal belongings during your visit. Please advise students not to bring any valuable items on site.
- Toilets are located on this level and are shared with other visitors.

### **Lower hold**

- This is an immersive environment with film, sound, light effects and smells. The space is lit, but there is no natural lighting and some areas may seem quite dark.

### **'Tween deck**

- The 'tween deck's ceiling is quite low - taller visitors should be aware of the risk of bumping into support beams.

### **Main deck**

- The decks are made of planking, which can present trip hazards; visitors should be take care and be aware of where they are walking.
- Decks may become slippery when wet. Running is strictly prohibited at all times and visitors should walk with care.
- The rigging, masts and sides of the ship are within reach of the public and must not to be climbed on by any visitor at any time.
- Authentic ships' equipment is on display on the main deck, as well as other interpretative medium. Visitors are advised to take care when meeting these objects. Signage will appear to alert visitors when it is not safe to touch.
- The main deck is exposed to the elements. There is some shelter in the deckhouses, but please bring appropriate clothing in case you get caught in a storm!

All school groups must be accompanied by a minimum number of adults.	
Our required ratio is:	
FS & KS1	1 adult to every 5 children
KS2	1 adult to every 6 children
KS3 and 4	1 adult to 15 students
Pupils must be supervised by an adult who will be responsible for maintaining discipline at all times on site.	

\* due to the ship's historic nature, please note some areas of the main deck (the poop deck, monkey fo'c'sle and the Captain's saloon) are not accessible to wheelchair users. Due to restricted space, we can only allow a limited number of wheelchairs on site at any one time and access may be restricted for larger wheelchairs.