**Welcome to Kensington Palace**

Visual Story Support Notes

**Who are the slides for?**

The slides on the Visual Story are for teachers to use with their students and assisting adults to help them prepare for their visit to Kensington Palace. They highlight some of the key aspects of the Palace.

**How will the slides support my students’ understanding of the palace?**

Each slide has a different focus or learning point, to help your students understand a particular aspect of the historical site. These points include:

- introducing them to some of the staff they will meet during their visit to the palace;

-learning about the key people who lived at the palace and their stories;

-familiarising them with some of the spaces or rooms they will visit;

- highlighting how they may feel or what it may be like moving around the palace, e.g. it is busy;

-flagging up themes which you may like to investigate in more detail either before or after the visit, e.g. Victorian Life;

-highlighting a ‘special object’ which they can look out for during their visit;

-encouraging students to view the palace in a particular way, e.g. to ‘look up!’ or to look out for particular features.

The Visual Story Support Notes correspond with the Visual Stories slides and give you contextual information which you may wish to use with your students.

**1. Welcome to Kensington Palace.**

One of the learning aims of the session is for the students to feel comfortable in the palace environment. The Visual Story will help to familiarise students with the spaces around the palace.

**2. This is Kensington Palace. Come and look inside.**

This slide shows the main entrance of the palace. Ask your students what the palace looks like, e.g. it is big, old. What sort of person do they think might have lived there? (Clue: look at the white statue outside) What might it look like inside?

**3. Queen Victoria lived at Kensington Palace 200 years ago.**

Queen Victoria lived at Kensington Palace as a child and teenager until she became queen aged 18, after the death of her uncle. This slide shows her in her coronation robes.

**4. When you arrive you will first come to this entrance.**

You will enter the palace through the group entrance. Members of the Learning team will meet you inside. They will give your students a wristband to put on while they are in the palace. It shows you are part of a school group.

**5. You can leave your coats and bags here. There is an accessible toilet nearby.**

You will be given a key for the locker where you can leave your things. There is an accessible toilet nearby.

**6. Many things at Kensington Palace are a red colour.**

The image on the left shows The King’s Gallery. This Gallery was built for William III in around 1700. This slide reminds us that it was not just Queen Victoria who lived at Kensington Palace. Other kings and queens lived here too! The image on the right shows Queen Victoria’s military jacket. On your visit ask your students to look out for other examples of things which are red in colour, reminding us of the power of the people who lived at Kensington Palace.

**7. You will walk up these stairs.**

This is a very grand staircase. When Princess Victoria walked up and down here she was not allowed to walk down on her own!

**8. There is also a lift.**

If you need to go into the lift, a member of staff will help with this. They meet the rest of the group upstairs.

**9. You can look** up **to see this.**

When you are exploring Kensington Palace try and remember to look **up** as you go around. You will be able to see a lot more this way! This is the ceiling above the King’s Staircase.

**10. You will walk through this room.**

This room is called The King’s Drawing room. It was designed for King George I. There are games on the tables which you can play.

**11. You will walk through to this room.**

This room is in the *Victoria Revealed* Exhibition. There are lots of beautiful objects about Victoria and Prince Albert and their children in this room. Ask your students to choose their favourite object from the room.

**12. You will see this sign before you go into the next room.**

The next room is very important as it was the room where Princess Victoria was born! There is a doll’s house in the room which Victoria used to play with.

**13. You might see this special object at Kensington Palace.**

There are lots of objects inside and outside the palace. Some of them are particularly fascinating or special as they have interesting stories. This is a wind up music box in the shape of a toy birdcage. It was played with by Queen Victoria’s children. Only princes and princesses would have had toys like this!

**14. You can smell the flowers in the gardens and listen to the birds.**

During the session we will smell some scents of flowers from the gardens. You might like to visit the gardens with your students during your visit.

**15. We hope you enjoy your visit.**

We hope the Visual Story and Support Notes are useful in preparing your students for their visit to the palace. Please let us know if you require any more information before your visit.