

Nothe Fort Evacuee Experience

Guidance Notes

Preparation

These notes give general details relating to the Evacuee Experience and are designed to assist you with your preparation for your visit to Nothe Fort.

Please split the children into **four groups (five if over 40)** prior to arrival which will save time on the day. These groups will remain together for the day and engage in the activities together.

Note. If you are bringing 50 plus children the maximum number of adults should not exceed 7 (due to space),

also you should be aware that Two activities are underground, (steep steps) this is for your guidance, if you have a child needing wheel chair access (we do have a lift. Please advise us before your visit)

Also it would be an advantage for the school to bring their own first aider for the visit

Included with these notes are:

Map (walking to the fort)

ID Cards

Song sheets

Phone number if delayed on your journey is **01305 766626 x 2 (office)**
(or x 3 May to September)

The identity card should be photocopied in order for you to provide each pupil (**evacuee**) with his or her own card. Sentries will check each evacuee to ensure they have an identity card before they allow the evacuee to enter the Fort. Two children will be chosen to act as sentries at the entrance of the Fort.

From our experience the evacuees often like to **sing** whilst approaching the Fort and sitting in the air raid shelter. **Appropriate World War 2 songs are included (you may wish to choose your own.** (nice and upbeat is recommended)

Programme

The Experience start time is 10.00 am, and the finishing time is 2.15 pm. If these times are not convenient please let us know and we will try to accommodate any reasonable request.

Please note that if the children wish to purchase souvenirs in the Fort shop in reception, they do so at the end of the tour to minimise disruption to the programme.

The Nothe Fort is operated by the Weymouth Civic Society, a Registered Charity No. SW271135AIL2
Scheduled National Monument No.33199 Museum (Resource) Registration No.1648

The attached programme gives the timings of the 5 activity periods; each activity will last for about thirty minutes provided the length of your visit spans the full 4 hours and 15 minutes programme. The activities include:

- Weymouth at War.
- Shopping
- Washing/ Kitchen
- Air raid precautions
- School

In order to undertake these activities your pupils will need to be divided into groups of not more than 12 evacuees. An adult must accompany each group from the school. If possible please leave the class teacher without a group so that they can have a roving commission

Arrival

Nothe Fort and Brewers Quay are well signposted on the Brown Tourist Signs from the outskirts of Weymouth.

Coaches cannot drive up the last section of road (Horsford Road), which leads to Nothe Fort due to the width of the road and the two right-angled bends. We recommend that you alight in Newton's Road opposite the Car Park behind Brewers Quay. **No Coaches** are permitted to park in this car park. We recommend you use the coach parking at **Lodmoor**.

After alighting from the coach at Newton's Road head towards the footbridge that spans the opposite end of this road. We recommend that you walk under the footbridge and climb the steps immediately on your left beside the bridge.

Follow the path into the Nothe Gardens; in the far distance you will see the grey concrete top of the Nothe Fort Signal Station. Follow the footpath until you reach the toilet block; the toilet block is about 100 m from the Fort. At all times the sea will be on your right hand side. From the road in front of the toilet block you will see the tunnel that leads to the main entrance of the Fort.

The walk takes about 10 minutes and it gives time for the pupils to enter into the spirit of 1941. You will be met in the gardens or at the entrance to the Fort (if wet) This route will avoid the need to walk along the narrow roads leading up to the Fort

Dress:

It would add to the experience if the evacuees, and the adults, wore period dress. A home made gas mask case, a teddy bear, cuddly toy and/or a small case carried by each pupil would add to the reality of the period.

Please ensure that evacuees wear a label showing both their name and the name of your school. Boys should have their surname in large letters and girls their first name. It would be helpful if each group were assigned a colour with members of each group wearing a label the same colour of that assigned to their group.

With some of the activities taking place outdoors we recommend warm clothing, or sun protection as appropriate. Two of the activities involve the use of water and therefore there is a small risk of the evacuees becoming slightly wet.

It would help if the person in charge of the visit wore an armband with 'teacher' written on it; this helps us to identify the person with whom we should liaise.

Lunch arrangements:

Please ensure the pupils bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks will be available for the adults.

Nothe Fort Evacuee Experience Programme

10.00 am Arrival

Evacuation party met in the Nothe Gardens. This is to form up ready to sing their way down to the Fort (or at entrance to the Forts tunnel) If wet by the education team. Two pupils will be chosen to act as sentries to check identity cards.

10.10 am Assemble in the Village Hall

Introduction, safety precautions, short role play with a DVD and division into groups

10.30 am First Session

Each group will undertake one of the following activities
Weymouth at War
Shopping and ration books
Washing / Kitchen
Air raid precautions
School

11.05 am Second Session

Groups undertake second activity

11.35 am Third Session

Groups undertake third activity

12.05 pm Lunch

(This may be shortened if desired, particularly if pupils arrive late)

12.40 pm Fourth Session

Groups undertake fourth activity

1.10 pm Fifth Session

Groups undertake fifth activity

2.00 pm Gather together to round up the day

2.15 pm Depart for the coach