

Mail Rail for schools Teachers' notes

Ride Mail Rail

Please make sure all teachers and adult helpers read this information to prepare for the ride.

Get ready for the ride

Schools will be allocated a time to ride the train on your itinerary. Each train seats 20-25 people. Split each class into four groups. Two groups will ride the train at a time. Smaller classes may ride on one train.

Teachers and adult helpers must ride the train to provide adequate supervision.

The train

The train carriages are small and may be uncomfortable or unsuitable for visitors who are claustrophobic.

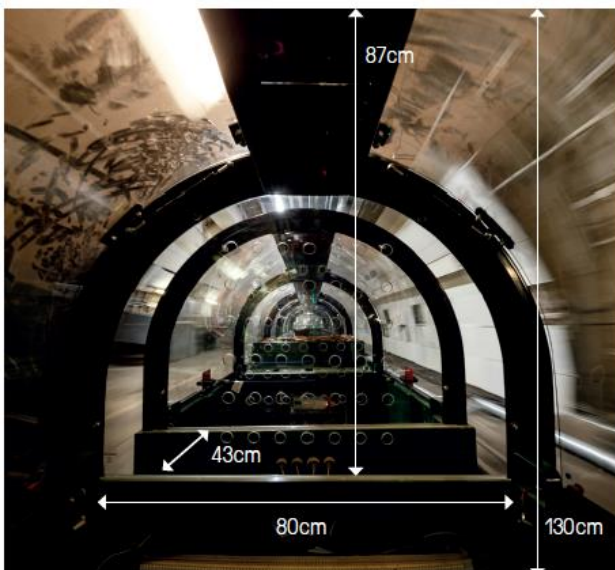
Train dimensions:

- Carriages are 130cm high
- Bench seating is 80cm wide
- Seat to overhead canopy is 87cm
- Distance between seats is 43cm

Younger children can sit side-by-side or next to an adult. Older children or adults will be asked to sit in their own seat.

Accompanying adults should be positioned throughout the class.

Seats can be positioned in rows or two benches can face each other.



Mail Rail access

Mail Rail was built to carry mail not people. Unfortunately this means there are access restrictions.

Mail Rail ride contains conditions which may be unsuitable for students with physical or mobility issues, claustrophobia or a pre-existing condition that could be made worse by loud noises, flashing lights or confined spaces. Schools should consider this before the visit.

Visitors must be able to transfer themselves in and out of the train unaided. Wheelchairs and walking aids cannot be accommodated on the ride.

Read more about the access restrictions on our website: postalmuseum.org/mail-rail/

About the ride

Mail Rail ride lasts 20 minutes and is an immersive underground experience. The ride contains moments of pitch darkness and some loud noises and flashing lights.

The ride takes a loop under Mount Pleasant Mail Centre through tunnels that are only 7ft (213cm) wide at their narrowest point. The ride is narrated by a Mail Rail engineer and the train stops at two platforms where films about the history of Mail Rail are projected onto the walls. One film is about the bombing of Mail Rail during the Second World War.

At one point the ride simulates a power cut. This is brief but it may be worth warning the adults in your group.

Accessible Mail Rail film

Students unwilling/unable to ride the train can watch the Accessible Mail Rail film. This is located at the start of the Mail Rail exhibition.

The film shows the journey through the tunnels and the projections on the platforms.