

Parliament
of Victoria

Victoria's Parliament House

A guide to my
school visit



What is the Victorian parliament?

The Victorian parliament makes laws for Victoria. Sometimes it's just called 'parliament'.

Laws keep me safe. There are laws about people, schools, cars, shops and homes.

Laws are made by people called members of parliament. Parliament House is where members of the Victorian parliament meet.

Many important things have happened in this building. I will learn about the building's history and who makes the laws.



Coming to Parliament House

This is the front of Parliament House.

I will walk up the steps to enter. If I want to, I can use the handrail.

There might be lots of people on the steps, if I feel uncomfortable I will tell an adult.

I might need to wait patiently before we enter parliament. That's okay, I will stay with my group and talk to my friends.



Using parliament's accessible entrance

If I can't use the stairs, I can use a lift.
A teacher will go with me.

To get there I will go down a path next to the building and through a gate. I am allowed through this gate because I am going on a tour.

A parliament staff member will show me where I need to go once I am inside.



Security check

Before I start my tour I will go through the security check.

A security staff member will check that everyone is following the rules and staying safe.

Everyone who comes to parliament must do this.

I might feel nervous and that's okay. I can ask an adult to stay with me.



Security check

I will put my bag and coat in a box to get scanned. Then I will walk through a doorway that will scan me.

After that I can collect my things.

There are lots of things that are not allowed in parliament.

If I have brought one of these things, that's okay. I might be asked to leave it with the security people. I will get it back at the end of my visit.



If the scanner beeps

Scanners beep when they pick up metal.

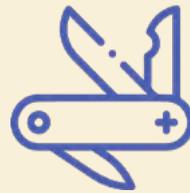
If I make the scanner beep I am not in trouble.

The security people will scan me again.

They might ask me if I am wearing any metal.

Here are some of the things I am not allowed to take inside parliament.

If I have these the security people will hold onto them and I will get them back when I leave. I can see the full list [here](#).



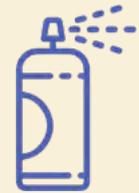
Knives



Umbrellas



Selfie-sticks



Aerosols



Perfumes



Cutlery



Scissors



Jet lighters

Parliament staff

There are lots of people who work in parliament.

Security staff and tour guides look after me.

If I need help I can ask them.

They wear black, red or grey uniforms.



The tour guides

Our tour guide will say hello and tell me their name.

They will show me the building and tell me about parliament. I will listen quietly and stay with my group.

If I have a question I will wait until they have finished and raise my hand.

Tour guides like it when people ask them questions about parliament.



Putting away my bag

I am not allowed to carry a bag while walking around parliament.

The tour guide will lock my bag in a big cupboard.

No one else can get into the cupboard.

It is a safe place to leave my bag.

I will get my bag back at the end of my visit.



Toilets

I can go to the toilet before or after my tour.

The tour guide will show me where the toilets are. They can also take me to an accessible toilet.

There will be hand-dryers inside, I can use my headphones or ear plugs if it is too loud.



Things to remember in parliament

Parliament House is an important place and people show respect when inside.

I will walk calmly.

I will talk in a quiet voice even if it is noisy.

In some rooms I can sit down. The tour guide will tell me when it is okay to sit down.



Touching things in parliament

There are some things I can touch in parliament. Other things are not okay to touch.

There are lots of fragile and important things in parliament that have to be looked after.

The tour guide will tell me when I can touch something.



Members of Parliament

Members of parliament are chosen by the people of Victoria to make laws for them. They are sometimes called MPs.

I might see my MP on my visit and get a chance to ask them a question. I can think about questions to ask my MP.

Sometimes parliament is very busy because people have lots of meetings.

I will stay with my group as I walk through the building.



Going on my tour

The tour guide will show us lots of different rooms. I may see a green room, a red room, a big white room and a library.

Some rooms at parliament are very big, some rooms are smaller. Some rooms might have lots of people talking in them.

I might go upstairs and watch people making laws. This might be loud and people might yell, but they are not angry at me.

I can use my headphones or earplugs if I do not like it.

It's okay if I like some rooms more than others, but if I feel uncomfortable I can tell an adult.



Role-play visits

I might sit in one of the rooms and pretend to make a law.

The tour guide will give some people special jobs.

If I am chosen I will listen closely to the instructions and do my best.

If I am not chosen I might be disappointed and that's okay. If I do not feel comfortable playing a role, I can tell my teacher.

I can still have a good time.



Hearing bells in parliament

Sometimes bells ring in parliament.
These are not emergency bells.

These bells are like school bells. They
tell the MPs that they need to vote.

Sometimes MPs will run when they
hear the bells so they are not late.

The bells might be loud but I can
use my ear defenders or ear plugs if
I do not like it.

I can hear the bell by clicking [here](https://vicparl.news/bells).



*Copy and paste this URL into your web
browser if the link above doesn't work:
<https://vicparl.news/bells>*

Leaving parliament

When my tour is over I will collect my bag. I will need to wait my turn to collect my bag.

I can also go to the toilet.

If I left an item with security, I will get it back now.

When my class is ready we will leave together with our teacher and/or helper adults.

Visiting parliament will be fun!



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