

**PRE VISIT  
INFORMATION PACK**



**SUNNY BANK MILLS**

**10**  
YEARS OF  
ARTS AND  
CULTURE

# About Sunny Bank Mills

Sunny Bank Mills is an inspirational cultural destination in the heart of Farsley, West Leeds. Founded in 1829, these glorious Mills are being regenerated by the sixth generation of the family owners, creating a wonderful blend of work, leisure, and culture.

Sunny Bank Mills Gallery is the epicentre of our arts programme, spanning exhibitions, workshops, studio spaces and events. The Sunny Bank Mills Archive protects and promotes the history of the Mills and the community.

Since 2010, Sunny Bank Mills has been developed as a business and artistic community. 2023 is our tenth year of art and culture, and in that time, we have supported over 900 artists in 75 exhibitions.

In the Archive, we discover stories of the past and how these have changed the future, through historical artifacts and samples of the worsted wool made in the Mills.







## The Archive

Sunny Bank Mills Archive safeguards the history of the Mills for its local community and future generations through textiles, objects and stories.

Containing over 60,000 lengths of cloth, 8000 fabric designs, 5000 dye cards, guard books and artefacts associated with nearly 200 years of cloth production - it is a source of inspiration to history lovers, artists and anyone fascinated by heritage and textiles. It also provides community engagement through its volunteer and education programmes, and strives to be accessible to all.

The Archive can offer specific curriculum - based workshops for primary schools focused on the Industrial Revolution and World War 1 with additional workbooks to aid visits. The workshops are led by our Heritage Director and additional experienced educators, giving the students the space to explore and experience the collection and stories relating to the subject areas.

## The Gallery

In the Gallery, we showcase, support and sell the work of artists and makers from Yorkshire and beyond; investing in and developing the next generation of artists, makers and curators through a rolling programme of exhibitions, events, workshops, and residencies in our artists' studios.

Our workshops encourage self-led exploration of materials and processes. They make links to our exhibition programme and provide opportunities to develop art skills and confident use of materials and ideas. We pride ourselves on promoting communication through art with the development of visual literacy and inspiring critical thinking.







## Schedule

Please check your booking confirmation email to verify the start time and duration of your facilitated tour/session/workshop.

Sunny Bank Mills is a 10-acre site with many exciting historical and creative spaces in which your bespoke workshop will take place within. On arrival your workshop leader will welcome you and your class on arrival at Sunny Bank Mills. We advise you to arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of your session to allow time for your group to use the toilets and to ensure you are in the correct area of the Mills. Lunch boxes and bags will be stored securely before the start of the session.

### **Half-day Workshops/ Interactive Tours:**

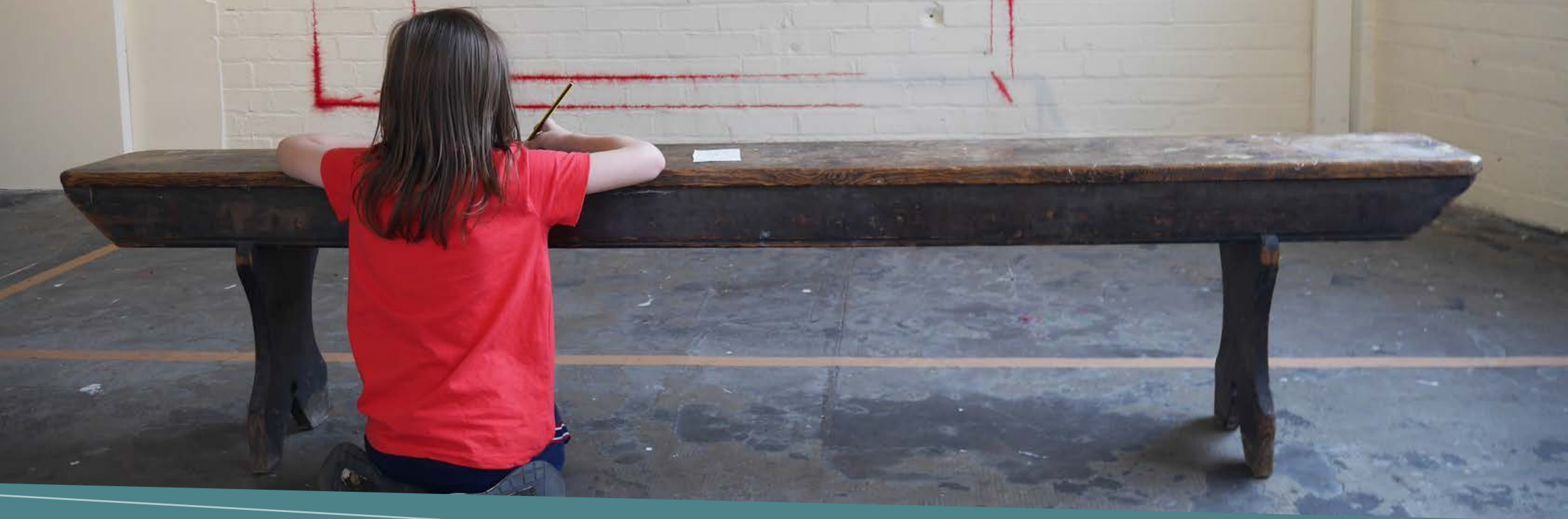
Choose between either an Arts workshop or a Heritage workshop.

### **Full-day Workshops/Tours:**

Split the group into two. Group 1 participates in the arts workshop in the morning whilst Group 2 participates in the heritage workshop. After a break for lunch, the groups swap tasks for the afternoon.

We recommend every 5-6 pupils have an adult support.

We aim to deliver exploratory, creative, skills-based learning across many different curriculum areas.



## Making A Booking

To make a booking, please download and complete a Booking Enquiry Form from our website, or contact:  
Rachel in the Archive [archive@sunnybankmills.co.uk](mailto:archive@sunnybankmills.co.uk)  
And/ or Sonia in the Gallery [sonia@sunnybankmills.co.uk](mailto:sonia@sunnybankmills.co.uk)



# Facilities And Access

We've done everything we can to make our old and much-loved buildings as accessible as we possibly can.

The Gallery building on Town Street is accessible with mostly level entrance to the rear (there is an approx 1 inch step), disabled toilets and parking. Please be aware that the main Gallery entrance on Town Street has a flight of stairs. The front door is propped open automatically during gallery opening times. There is a ramp into the corridor to the Gallery.

The Archive is based in Red Lane Mill (off Water Lane) and is accessible with a level entrance, disabled toilets, and parking. The Archive is not dog friendly (except for guide dogs) for the safety of the valuable and unique collection. You can view a 360-degree tour of the Archive on our website. The Bobbin Room is Located next to the Archive.



# Wheelchair Access And Seating

The Sandsgate building where the gallery is situated is wheelchair accessible from the rear entrance with a slight 1 inch step. There are lots of chairs and sofas available in the Gallery. The Gallery is open and airy with a flat concrete floor and lots of windows giving natural light.

The Archive is based in Red Lane Mill off Water Lane and is accessible with a level entrance, disabled toilets and parking.

## Toilets

There are accessible toilets across the Sunny Bank Mills site. They are situated next to the Gallery, on the ground floor of the Spinning Mill, next to the Archive in Red Lane Mill.

Sunny Bank Mills Gallery can arrange access to exhibitions for visitors, including groups with mental health issues, children with autism and their families or carers, and those with dementia or Alzheimer's who would prefer a private view of the Gallery spaces. Please contact us in good time, as we will have to make operational arrangements to facilitate this out of hours.





# Health And Safety

## Risk Assessments

A risk assessment for your facilitated session will be issued when booking is confirmed. We will also send Sunny Bank Mills' site wide risk assessment for your visit, including a fire risk assessment.

Our risk assessment is applicable for all visiting groups and parties; the risk assessment is intended as a guide only. Sunny Bank Mills advises visiting parties to conduct a visit prior to their booking to inform their own risk assessments.



