

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1	I sometimes take walking tours thorough St Cuthbert's as a short cut from Lothian Road to The Mound. Does the scheme apply to me?
A1	Yes - any organised tour group entering the listed graveyards must have a tour guide with a permit present
Q2	I'm a history teacher and take classes to historic cemeteries in Edinburgh as part of the curriculum. Does the scheme apply to me?
A2	No. The scheme applies to tour guide operators.
Q3	I lead school field trips as a paid tour guide with 32 students and six teachers and assistants which exceeds the 36 per tour guide limit in the scheme. Is this allowed?
A3	The objective of the scheme limit is to ensure suitable control of the group and that respect for the graveyard is maintained. A ratio of six teachers/assistants and a guide to supervise 32 students is fine and far exceed the required ratio of 1 to 36.
Q4	Does the scheme apply to tours from overseas?
A4	Yes. Visit Scotland will assist in identifying such tour operators.
Q5	I represent an umbrella group of tour guides, can I register one application on behalf of the registered members of the group?
A5	No - each individual guide must be registered and hold a permit
Q6	How will the scheme be managed on day to day basis?
A6	With tours operating 12 hours per day and seven days per week through the five historic cemeteries it is not viable to maintain a consistent staff presence at all sites at all times. Management of the scheme will therefore be targeted.
Q7	Does the registration scheme apply to all 43 cemeteries?
A7	No not at this time, only the five city centre historic cemeteries are included. However, a tour of any other graveyard must be conducted in a dignified and respectful manner consistent with the scheme code of conduct and permission must have been sought from Bereavement Services.
Q8	We are a Friends of Cemetery Group does the scheme apply to us?
A8	No. However, a tour of the cemetery must be conducted in a dignified and respectful manner consistent with the scheme code of conduct.