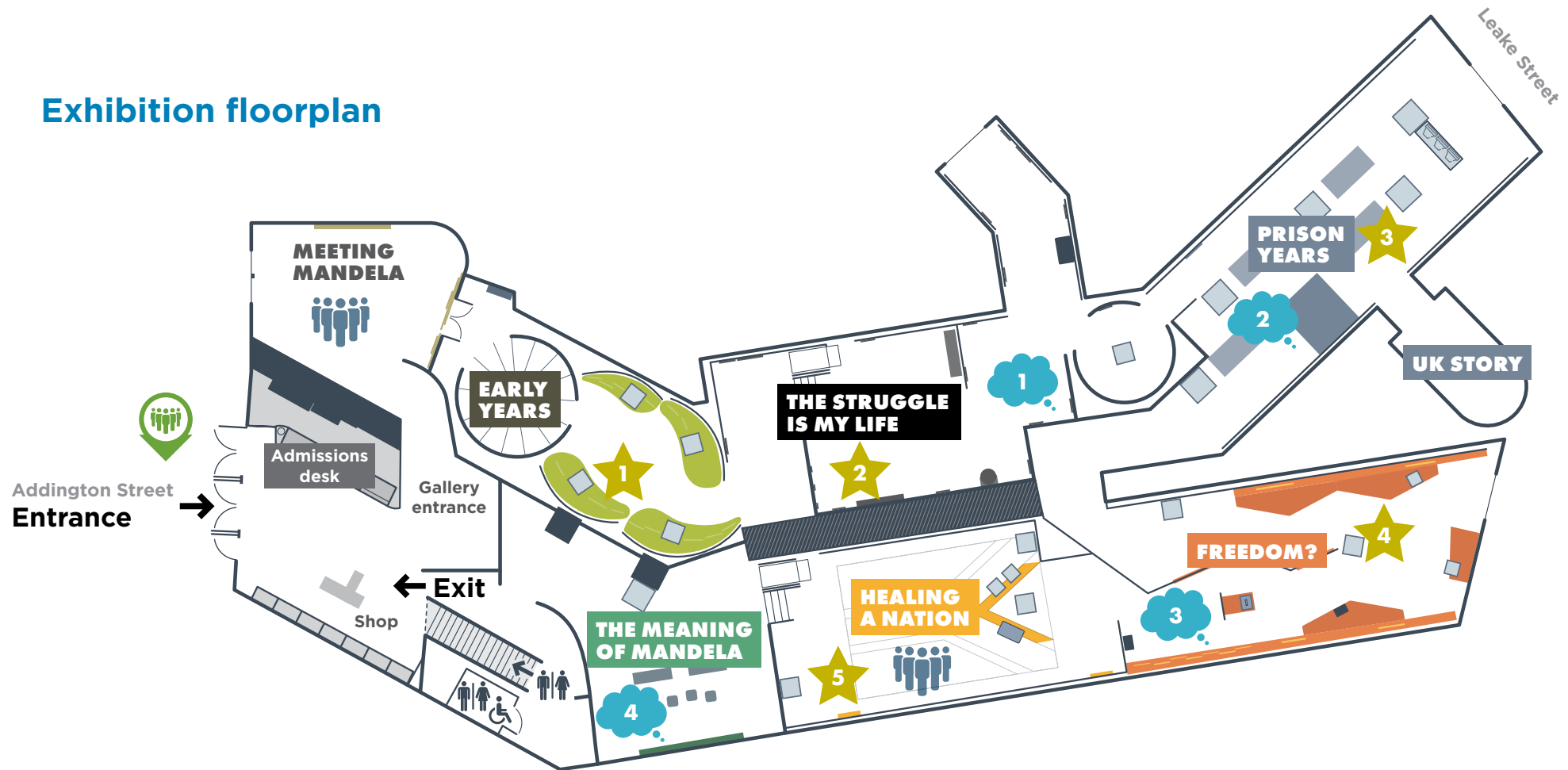


Exhibition floorplan



School group meeting point

Group gathering point

Think for a minute

- 1 The Sharpeville Massacre
- 2 Nelson Mandela is imprisoned on Robben Island
- 3 The 1994 general election
- 4 Nelson Mandela's legacy

Don't miss

- 1 Justice's portrait and jacket
- 2 Apartheid signs
- 3 Christo Brand's Robben Island key
- 4 Nelson Mandela's Nobel Peace Prize
- 5 Letter to Tony Blair

Exhibition floorplan



School group meeting point

The best place for a school group to meet on arrival at the exhibition would be at the Addington Street entrance.



Group gathering point

The exhibition is likely to be busy during your visit and it will be necessary for students to explore most of the exhibition in small groups or pairs. These are areas where you can gather the whole class together if needed, perhaps to focus them on an area of learning or to brief them on an activity.



Think for a minute

Nelson Mandela's life story and the history of apartheid involve sensitive themes, issues and events. These include oppression, racism on a nationally institutionalised scale, brutality and human suffering. Encourage students to pause in these areas of the exhibition and consider the gravity, significance, scale and/or humanity of the event or topic in this area.



Don't miss

The exhibition is full of fascinating objects, images and documents, many of them personal to Nelson Mandela and never before seen outside of South Africa. We have highlighted just a handful of these you simply should not miss!

Zone 1: Meeting Mandela

A short film introduces visitors to Nelson Mandela (also called Madiba), providing an overview of his extraordinary life, and preparing them for their journey through the exhibition. From his early beginnings in South Africa's rural Transkei (now the Eastern Cape) to his pivotal role in the anti-apartheid movement, his 27 years' imprisonment and emergence as the globally recognised face of the Freedom Struggle, this introductory film plots Mandela's incredible ascendancy as South Africa's first Black president and invites viewers to consider the remarkable qualities that made him truly unique.

Zone 2: Early Years (1918–1941)

Visitors will learn more about Mandela's beginnings in the rural Transkei (now the Eastern Cape), steeped in Thembu tradition, including his initiation ceremony. It introduces the people and places that shaped him, and the roles they played in defining his personality, philosophy and style of leadership.

Zone 3: 'The Struggle is My Life' (1941–1964)

Visitors will discover how his move to Johannesburg coincided with the rise of apartheid and the resistance movement. Here we see his transformation as lawyer, activist and rising star in the ANC. Meet comrades who influenced and supported him, and also learn of the heavy cost of his defiance: the loss of family and liberty.

Zone 4: The Prison Years (1964–1990)

Here visitors experience the stark atmosphere of imprisonment on Robben Island. Witness how small and barren 'Prisoner 46664's' cell was and the appalling conditions of daily life: its meagre rations, rough sleeping mats, toil in the prison's quarry and heavily censored communication with family.

Letters and first-hand accounts reveal the attempts to break Mandela's spirit, his resistance to humiliation and subordination and his campaigns to improve conditions. Visitors follow his road to freedom via Pollsmoor and Victor Verster prisons. As the campaign against apartheid raged on in South Africa and the wider world, Mandela continued the struggle behind bars, winning the respect of his oppressors and emerging as the face of the anti-apartheid movement.

Zone 5: Freedom? (1990–1994)

After 27 years in prison Nelson Mandela was free but it was not his destiny to lead a quiet life. While celebrating his freedom, this zone explores just how close to total civil war South Africa was before the landmark '94 election. As Mandela meets the challenges of adjusting to family life and a changed world, visitors witness his extraordinary leadership, as he negotiates a new democratic start for South Africa, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and makes a powerful appeal for calm amidst more violence. As the newly enfranchised population went to vote, did anyone really know what freedom looked like or what would happen next?

Zone 6: Healing a Nation (1994–2013)

Visitors explore Nelson Mandela's historic term as South Africa's first Black president, 'Father of South Africa', a globally loved figure who remained dedicated to his life's mission even in retirement. This section examines the enormity of Mandela's presidential task, hears from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and explores how the most famous man in the world gained support and friendship from high profile figures. Visitors see the emergence of 'brand Madiba', his relationship with the press and how Mandela used popular culture such as sport and music to promote peace and co-operation – including the iconic moment when Mandela awarded the Rugby World Cup to the South African team captain.

Zone 7: The Meaning of Mandela

The story closes with a powerful personal encounter with Nelson Mandela - Madiba. In this emotionally resonant zone, a series of remarkable personal accounts from family members, colleagues and high profile figures from Hollywood, the music industry and politics reveal the profound impact he had on them and their lives, and his qualities as leader and statesman. Film footage engages visitors with Madiba – his philosophy, values and wisdom – in his own words. Finally, visitors are invited to contribute, to share their own feelings about what Madiba means to them, and to think about how we can all adopt some 'Madiba values' into our lives and be part of his legacy.