

factory  
international

# WHAT TO EXPECT THE WELCOME





## What is the event?

The Welcome is a special event taking place over nine days around different places in Aviva Studios.

There are a lot of different things going on, from circus performers and music to workshops and tarot card reading.

It tends to be more busy during the weekends and evenings. On Saturday 18th November, there's a lot of street culture activity like skateboarding and basketball.

The things going on have been chosen by a group of people who live in Greater Manchester called Factory Assembly.



## When is the event?

*The Welcome* is on at Aviva Studios in Manchester from **Saturday 11th November 2023** until **Sunday 19th November 2023**.

## How long is it?

There are so many different things taking place around the building. Some are short and some take place throughout the day. No matter where you are if you want to walk away to take a break you can do.



## Arriving at Aviva Studios

This is what Aviva Studios looks like.

You can come into the building through the City doors, or the River doors.

Whichever entrance you use, you will arrive into the same place – the **Social**.



## Outside Aviva Studio *Inside Out:* *This Is Manchester*

Outside you will see lots of large black and white pictures on the floor in an area called 'The Undercroft'

These are photos of lots of people who live around Greater Manchester who are part of and contributed to our community.

You can walk around, explore and see if you recognise anyone. You can walk on the pictures but be careful and walk lightly on them and not stamp or kick them.



## In the Social at *The Welcome*

The Social can be a busy, noisy place – especially if a performance takes place on the small stage.

During the Welcome, there will be music performances and DJs most of the time. There will also be some talks and kids activities during the morning

In other areas in the Social, there will be creative workshops

The digital screens in the Social will have some videos playing.

There are ear defenders and earplugs available to borrow – ask a Host for these.



### Ear defender and ear plugs

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### In the Social: *Balete* Spacecraft

Around the orange box in The Social you will see a sculpture that is being made during *The Welcome*. The artist, Leeroy New, will be adding more and more over time. It's made out of lots of different materials including plastics that are normally thrown away.

You might notice it looks a bit like a tree as the artist had the idea from the Balete tree, a sacred tree in the Philippines.

You can gently touch and feel part of the sculptures. There are touch tours on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm** and **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm**.



### **In the Social and around: *Under Construction***

Around different places you will see large photos of people, sometimes in places you would not expect to see a large photo (like one of the lifts and toilets).

These are photos of people who help to build Aviva Studios, with the photo shown in the place close to (or near) where it was taken,

If you have trouble seeing the photo you can scan the QR code on the information next to the photo to hear someone describe it.



### **In the Hall Foyer : *100 Waving Kites***

On the first floor, there will be a lot of kite hanging from the ceiling. These were made by 10 primary schools in Greater Manchester. Artist collective Get it Done came up with the idea and the kids explored what identity means to them



## People who can help

If you need some help when you arrive, you can go to the bright orange information point that is close to the City entrance.

Here, you will find people from our Ticketing team who can help if you need a ticket for an event. They can also answer any other questions you might have about



Our Hosts can also help you if you need anything during your visit.

They wear black t-shirts with white writing on them, like this.

There will be Hosts all around the Social when you come in, and in the performance spaces when you go into the show.



## People's behaviour

The people walking around you will behave in different ways as they will think and feel different things they see. Parts might make them happy or laugh. Parts might surprise them. Parts might make them sad.

The energy and volume of the different things you see around will rise and fall. Some parts will get louder and faster, then other parts might be slow and quiet.

People may clap and cheer at certain points. Some people might start dancing. You can join in with this, but you don't have to.

## Space to chill out

As part of The Welcome, we're trying out some spaces to chill out. **If you have trouble finding them a Host can guide you there.**

We call them **Recalibrate and Recharge spaces** that provide low sensory and low sensory social environments.

These spaces are open throughout most of The Welcome and you can visit during performances. It would be great if you let us know what you think if you use them.

- One Recalibrate Space (a low sensory environment) on the third floor (This space won't be quiet before or after Afrique en Cirque)
- Two Recharge Spaces (a lower sensory social environment) both on the ground floor, one in the Social itself and the other in the tunnel to the Science and Industry Museum.
- Sensory tools will be available in these spaces. You can also borrow sensory bags and tools (fidget toys, ear defenders and plugs, eye masks and visors) from our information desk.



## Toilets



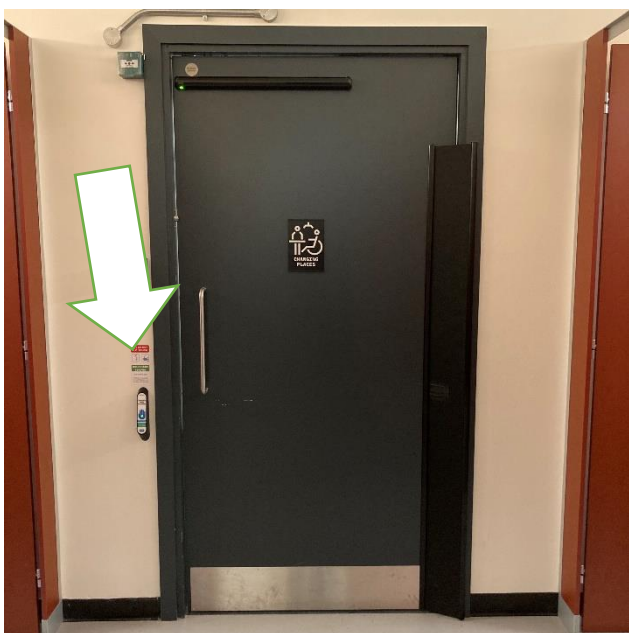
There are toilets, including accessible toilets, in the brick arches of the Social through the big silver doors.

The toilets are in three arches. **The left arch is for men. The middle arch is for everyone. The right arch is for women.**



The accessible cubicles are in the same room as the standard cubicles. They have washbasins inside. The other handwashing facilities are shared by everyone.

There are single-sex toilets in the Hall Foyers upstairs, with separate single-room accessible toilets.



## Changing places

There are changing places through the middle arch at the back. There is a touch free sensor to the left of the door to open it.





## How do I lock and unlock the changing places door?

There is a touch free sensor next to the door when you are inside.



To lock or unlock the door you hold your hand in front of the touch free sensor

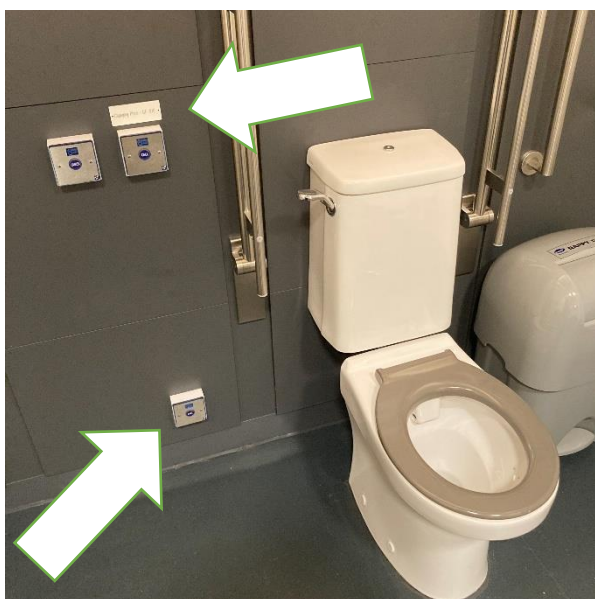
If the light is ON it is UNLOCKED

If the light is FLASHING it is LOCKED



## Changing Places Call Button

There are call buttons next to the toilet.





## Food and drink

If you would like some food or drink there is a bar in the Social that also serves food, and bars in each of the Hall Foyers for drinks.

There are menus you can take from the Bar to look at if you'd like to decide before you queue up.

All our bars have lowered accessible service points.

## Need some more information?

If you would like to know more about what will be happening before the show or in the show, we can always give you more details.

Email our Access team on:

[access@factoryinternational.org](mailto:access@factoryinternational.org)

Or give us a call on:

0161 817 4531 (Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm)