

Southwell Minster and The Archbishop's Palace

# School Visits

for Key Stages 1, 2 & Early Years Foundation Stage



[www.southwellminster.org/learning](http://www.southwellminster.org/learning)

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*Photo: lunch in the palace gardens*

## Welcome

Southwell Minster is the Cathedral for the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. With the Archbishop's Palace and Gardens, it is an awe-inspiring, rich learning resource across the curriculum. Steeped in history from its Roman and Saxon beginnings, with soaring medieval Romanesque and Gothic stonework, Victorian furniture and modern sculpture, the site tells the cultural history of our country.

Outlined here are events and activities for schools, adaptable for SEND, Parish and Community groups or to suit your learning objectives. Our aim is to deliver relevant, interactive sessions, giving staff the chance to have a cuppa and enjoy the visit too. We look forward to welcoming you and your pupils.

With best wishes

*Diana, Kirby and the education team*

*"It's always a pleasure to volunteer... I love the way the children inspire me through the things they say and do." (Education Volunteer)*



*Photo (L-R): Kirby and Diana*

**Proud winner of a Sandford Award for excellence in Heritage Education and holder of a Quality badge from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom**



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# Time Travelling: Pilgrimage Days Key Stages 1&2

*"Really good mix of activities giving a flavour of church life and Southwell heritage. Volunteers were great and had a lovely manner with the children."* (Key Stage 1 teacher, TT 2022)

Become modern-day pilgrims, journeying and learning together as we explore Christianity through architecture & art, music, symbols, belief & practice. Gather to sing special songs, meet a priest and hear the organ. Each group is allocated a pilgrim guide for the day and activities are led by our volunteer team.

Learning outcomes taken from the **Notts RE Agreed Syllabus**—the overarching pilgrimage theme fits with unit 4.2 and links to 'Understanding Christianity'.

## Key Stage 2 (recommended for years 3-5): March

10am-2.15pm. Children participate in 6 workshops collecting stickers as they go. Bring packed lunch.



*Photo: Exploring the 'Creation' window*



*Photo: candle presentation*

## Key Stage 1: June

10am-12.30pm. Children participate in 4 workshops, collecting stickers as they go.

Schools may stay for a picnic (room provided if wet), and enjoy optional self-led activities in the afternoon.

For more information and to book, visit [www.southwellminster.org/timetravelling](http://www.southwellminster.org/timetravelling) or call us 01636 817816

NB: Information sent via email to all City / County schools in September.

*"Time Travelling is a tour de force of heritage education."*

*(Sandford Award Judge's Report)*







## Tailor-Made Learning: RE

We can tailor a full or half day visit to suit you.

The following themes are suggestions based on units in the Notts Agreed Syllabus —adaptable for the age group, unit of study and available as full day, half day or mix and match elements from more than one theme.

**Sacred Space:** look at furniture, special clothes, signs, symbols & faith practice incl. prayer, baptism and communion.

**Faith Through Music:** become a chorister, listen to sacred music, join a costumed procession, organ demonstration, find out how music expresses faith.

**Sacred Texts:** explore stories of the Old Testament including inspiring people, wisdom to live by and the story of creation; parables

**Journey of Life / Remembrance:** a sensitive exploration of rites of passage (birth, marriage, death) how and why they are marked in a church. Discover how and why the Minster is a place of public and private remembrance.

**Religion and Daily Life:** what does it mean to be a Christian? Celebrations & festivals, charitable giving, worship & community. How does faith translate into actions in the world?



*Photo: Children visit the 'Threads Through Creation' art exhibition, 2022*

## Tailor-Made Learning: Subject Specific

*"The stained glass window activity was a fab blend of learning and artwork. Children were proud of what they created and it was the perfect activity for the day." (Teacher, Key Stage 2 2022)*

**Art and Architecture:** RE, History, Science or Art focus, find out how the Minster is both strong and beautiful and what it tells us about the Christian faith. Explore sacred art in various forms.

**Pilgrimage experience:** RE or History focus, become a Medieval / Saxon pilgrim. Quills, ancient text & illumination, herbs and artefacts.

**Who, What, Where, When...?:** A chronological, interactive romp through the timeline of the Minster's history from the Romans to the present day using costumes and props.

**Shape, space and measurement:** For Key Stage 1.

**Time out:** Sketch, reflect or think in the Palace Gardens or Minster. Reflective activities available or use one of our themed trails to explore.

*Can't find what you need?*

*Give us a call to discuss bespoke learning sessions*



*Photo: making Minster lanterns to take home*

## Romans In Southwell: Activity Day



Southwell stands on the site of a large Roman country villa. Together with Southwell Community Archaeology Group, our day comprises:

**Archaeology:** Handle and identify replica objects; wash and identify genuine Southwell finds

**Living History:** Explore settlements and consider what life was like in 'our' villa. Crafts, costumes and daily life.

**Site exploration:** Evidence and archaeologists—investigate and walk around the site of the villa using a map and photos—see our Roman wall plaster and tesserae.

# Early Years Foundation Stage

*"Thank you so much for yesterday, we had such a lovely time! All of your volunteers were wonderful... see you next year."*

*(Foundation Stage teacher 2022)*

## Southwell Minster, a special place:

These introductory visits use language and observation skills, developing awe and wonder, a half day session includes:

- \* Themed interactive tour in small groups
- \* Break for story and refreshments
- \* A takeaway craft
- \* Songs and games
- \* Pause for reflection

Choose from our menu of themes or ask us to create one for you. These are based on **Reception Year RE** in the Notts Agreed Syllabus.

Nursery Rhymes	Colours
Shapes	Opposites
Special Times	Special Stories
Animal Safari	Our Wonderful World

Sessions are suitable for schools, nurseries, child-minders and carers

**The Ark:** children enjoy a stop at the Ark, an area set aside for rest and play. Open during normal hours, check website for closures.



**Explorer Pack:** on request from the welcome desk or for smaller groups, borrow a bag with places to go, things to see and do with Forest, the dragon.





## Year 6 Days

(information / booking form emailed to church schools in January)

*"We love coming to the Year 6 leavers' day, it definitely 'makes a difference' to our year 6 children.... Super messages given to take back and follow up." (Year 6 teacher)*

Our special days in July for year 6 students making the transition to secondary school offer time to celebrate the past and look forward to the future.

To book, contact us or go to [www.southwellminster.org/learning/](http://www.southwellminster.org/learning/)

Note: final content, programme and booking forms will be on the website in January.



## Christian Festivals: Explore Easter and Christmas

Add depth to your teaching about key concepts in Christianity as we investigate how and why these great festivals are celebrated. Material is adaptable for any age group. We use drama, crafts, story telling and close observation of artefacts to help us explore.

Easter: spring term Christmas: Nov/ Dec



## Singing Partnerships Programme

Music and singing is a huge part of Minster life. By signing up to this programme, your children will

- ♦ Work with a professional team of musicians at school in a series of singing workshops
  - ♦ Learn traditional, modern and specially written music
  - ♦ Perform in the Minster as part of a collective choir
- Contact us to ask about your involvement.



*"Some children who didn't enjoy singing are now asking to join the choir! A feeling of community has been nurtured—children would like to perform more in front of others to bring them joy. More of our parents attended than at other events." (Teacher, 2022)*



## Special Events / Family Fun

**Visual Arts Programme:** Explore the latest exhibition of sculpture, textiles or paintings. We offer bespoke tours and workshops inspired by the style and theme for all ages.

**Special Events for Schools:** Occasionally we offer one-off special or themed events for schools. These are advertised on social media, the website and via a schools' termly newsletter. Email us to be added to our mailing list.

**Informal Learning:** children's themed trails are available from the Welcome Desk at the Minster all year round, along with publications and information for the adults (*check website for occasional closures and events*).

Look out for drop-in and book-on themed family fun activities during school holidays (small fee may apply). Check the website or contact the office for details.



## Practical Information

Pre-booking is essential for all school visits.

During inclement weather we provide a room to eat packed lunches at no charge. Risk assessment notes are provided, pre-visits welcome. The Minster is a very safe place to visit and a quiet room is usually available.

Further details can be found at [www.southwellminster.org/learning/](http://www.southwellminster.org/learning/). For access information select the 'plan your school visit' tab. We are committed to inclusion—please call us to discuss access needs. Visits are organised and delivered by **Diana Ives (Head of Education)** and **Kirby Stebbing (Education Administrator)**, supported by a team of wonderful volunteers. For school visits we invite a per-child donation to help cover costs. The Cathedral subsidises the schools and families programme.

*For more information, to book or find out about joining the volunteer team contact:*

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Centre, Church St, Southwell, NG25 0HD**  
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