Welcome

Southwell Minster, the Archbishop’s Palace and gardens make an awe-inspiring, rich learning resource. Steeped in history from its Roman and Anglo-Saxon beginnings, with soaring medieval Romanesque and Gothic stonework, Victorian furniture and modern sculpture, the Cathedral tells the cultural history of our country.

Outlined here are suggestions for workshops, tours and study days, but we will adapt to your requirements and can create bespoke sessions for many topics and for almost any size of group. Sessions can be adapted for SEND. Our aim is to deliver relevant, interactive sessions, giving staff the chance to relax and enjoy the visit too. We look forward to welcoming you.

With best wishes

Diana, Kirby and the education team

“students were asked to evaluate and think….. I was astounded by their observations and reflections…” (Education Volunteer)

“We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, everything was carefully planned to our students’ needs and they were engaged.”

(year 7 RE Teacher)
What’s on Offer:

All visits are adaptable for full day, half day or as a one hour guided tour.

Guided Tours: may be themed—RE, a period of history, stained glass, art etc.

RE: we support delivery of the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus at Key Stages 3&4 and can tailor our offer to fit with your programme of study.

GCSE or A Level RE study day: Tailored to your exam specification, we put together sessions to fit your requirements.

The Arts: The site provides a wonderful creative stimulus for and study of art & design, music, photography, textiles and creative writing and is full of incredible art.

History: The Minster is a microcosm of English history. We can explore local history, or help you investigate a specific period.

Suggestions for themed RE Days / Half Days:

Sacred Space / Christian Life and Worship (Y7/8): Explore how and why the Minster is a place of public and private remembrance, explore rites of passage and how symbolic objects, actions, words and images are used and help Christians worship and live the Christian life.

Spirituality and Art: Observe and respond to a variety of art from the Anglo Saxons onwards, finding out how they express Christian themes & stories. May include a creative workshop.

Telling the Story: Explore the Christian journey of faith and the Bible as a source of wisdom and authority. Discover the old and New Testament depicted in art and furnishings and ask what the example of Jesus shows about justice, fairness and love.

Big Questions: Grill a Canon—explore philosophical and ethical questions around faith and belief: the problem of evil, suffering, science and religion. What relevance is faith in today’s world.

Faith Practices Unpacked: Deepen understanding of baptism, prayer or the eucharist. Attend a 'Eucharist Unpacked' service where the priest explains special clothes, words and rituals.

Can't find what you need? Give us a call to discuss bespoke learning sessions.

Special Events:

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 age groups.

Teacher Reviews:

Diana and her team of volunteers always make our staff and students feel welcome… the pre-planning is always high quality and you are always organised’ (secondary teacher)

‘The visit exceeded my expectations for engaging the students and educating them about sacred spaces’ (year 7 teacher feedback, 2023)

Practical Information

To discuss your needs and to book, contact the office (see below). In cold or wet weather you’ll be provided with a room to eat packed lunches at no charge. Risk assessment notes are provided, pre-visits welcomed.

The Minster is a very safe place to visit.

Visits are planned, delivered and organised by Diana Ives (Head of Education), with Kirby Stebbing (Administrator) and our volunteer team with input from other members of staff.

The Cathedral subsidises the learning programme and we invite donations from schools.

For more information, to book or find out about joining the volunteer team contact:
Cathedral Education, The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD
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01636 817816

www.southwellminster.org/learning