

Southwell Minster and The Archbishop's Palace

# School Visits

for Key Stages 1, 2 & Early Years Foundation Stage



Southwell  
Minster

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



SouthwellMinster



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SouthwellMinster



*'It was lovely to sit in the garden in the sunshine enjoying our lunch!'* (KS2 Teacher 2023)

## 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. 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 needs. Our aim is to deliver relevant, interactive sessions, giving staff the chance to have a cuppa and enjoy the visit.

You are also welcome to book a self-led visit.

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)

LOtC Quality Badge



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



# Time Travelling: Pilgrimage Days Key Stages 1&2

*"Visiting Southwell Minster was an eye-opening experience for all of the children... the carefully choreographed activities fitted perfectly into the RE curriculum allowing first hand experiences." (Key Stage 1 teacher, TT 2023)*

This well-established educational event reached its 30th year in 2024!

Become modern-day pilgrims, journeying and learning together as we explore Christianity and the Minster. Sing special songs, meet a priest and hear the organ. Each group is allocated a pilgrim guide and activities are led by our volunteers.

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

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

10am-2.15pm—participate in 6 workshops collecting stickers at each.



*Photo: candle presentation*



*Photo: Exploring the 'Creation' window*



Bring a packed lunch.

## Key Stage 1: June

10am-12.30pm—participate in 4 workshops, collecting stickers at each.

Schools may stay for a picnic and enjoy optional self-led activities in the afternoon.

*There is a set of online resources including videos and classroom activities for follow up and visit preparation.*

More information and to book:

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

or call us 01636 817816

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





## Tailor-Made Learning

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:** find out how the building speaks—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 (subject to availability of music department colleagues).

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

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



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

## Tailor-Made Learning: Cont/d

*"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." (Key Stage teacher 2, 2024)*

**Art and Architecture:** 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:** become a Medieval / Saxon pilgrim. Quills, ancient text & illumination, why is the Minster a place of pilgrimage today?

**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 & 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.



*Photo: making signs and symbols bracelets*

*Can't find what you need?*

*Give us a call to discuss bespoke learning sessions*

## Romans In Southwell: Activity Day



Southwell stands on the site of a large Roman country villa. Together with Southwell Community Archaeology Group, this day is all about gathering evidence and comprises:

**Archaeology:** Handle real and replica objects; learn how to wash and identify genuine 2000 year old Southwell finds.

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

**Site exploration:** Investigate and walk around the site of the villa using a map and photos. See our Roman wall plaster and tesserae.

*"We absolutely loved the day. I had very little knowledge of the Roman villa...I also loved the activity you sent home with us. Thank you!" (Teacher, 2023)*



## 'A Special Place': For EYFS

*"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)*

Explore the Minster using language and observation skills, developing awe and wonder. A half day session comprises:

- ◇ Interactive Minster trail in small groups
- ◇ Story and refreshments break
- ◇ A make and take craft activity
- ◇ Songs and games
- ◇ Pause for reflection

Choose from our menu below or ask us to create a theme for you. Based on **Reception Year RE** in the Notts Agreed Syllabus and **Early Learning Goals**.

Nursery Rhymes	Colours
Shapes	Opposites
Christmas	Easter
Animal Safari	Our Wonderful World

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

**The Ark / Palace Gardens:** visit 'the Ark', an area set aside for rest and play indoors, or run around outdoors in the safe and extensive gardens. 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 really enjoyed our visit. Thank you so much. All of the children were excited to tell their friends, teachers and families about what they had been doing." (Y6 teacher 2023)*

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.



## Festivals: Explore Easter & 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 age group. We use drama, crafts, story telling and close observation of artefacts in the Minster to help us explore.

*Christmas / Easter themed video tours can be found on the learning hub using the QR code below.*

Easter—EYFS, KS1, KS2: spring term Christmas—EYFS, KS1 Nov/ Dec.  
Email or call to book.

## Online Learning Hub

You will find a suite of videos, activities and resources on the website on a variety of RE topics eg: festivals, faith practices, Bible stories, and the organ to complement your visit to the Minster or to bring your classroom teaching to life at Key Stages 1 or 2.



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

Preparatory materials introduce the Minster as a place of worship, giving context before your visit.

Other resources include a downloadable photo pack and links to useful films.



## Special Events / Family Fun

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

**Special 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 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*).

**Family Fun Days:** At least twice a year, we run drop-in and/or bookable events during school holidays—either free or at minimal charge. Check the website or contact us for details.

## Practical Information



Pre-booking is essential for all school visits, including self-led. During inclement weather we provide a room to eat packed lunches. Risk assessment notes are provided, pre-visits welcome. The Minster is a very safe place to visit and a quiet space is usually available. Further details can be found at [www.southwellminster.org/learning](http://www.southwellminster.org/learning)



For access information and SEN preparation materials select the 'plan your school visit' tab—please call us to discuss access needs.

Visits are organised and delivered by **Diana Ives (Head of Education)** and **Kirby Stebbing (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, but we rely on your donations.

*For more information, to book or join the volunteer team contact:*

**Cathedral Education, Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD**

[education@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:education@southwellminster.org.uk)

**01636 817816**

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

