



Christ Church Cathedral

Primary School Visits

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Welcome

In this brochure you will find information about the Cathedral, our Education programme, the School Visits we offer and details of how to book a visit.

Christ Church Cathedral, at the centre of Oxford, is well placed for children to gain local knowledge, whilst enhancing their education in an enjoyable and memorable way. Our visits are tailor made to match each school's learning objectives. At the same time, children enjoy a glimpse of University life which may serve to raise their own aspirations.

The Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral is unique in being the only Cathedral in the world to be also a college chapel. There has been a place of worship here since Saxon times. The church was built in the 12th century by Augustinian Canons and dedicated to St Frideswide, the patron saint of Oxford.

The Cathedral has some of the finest examples of architecture and stained glass in the country. It is one of Oxford's most iconic buildings. Beautiful and historic, it is also a working Cathedral in which prayers and services take place every day.

School Visits

Last year, nearly three thousand Primary school pupils enjoyed their visit to Christ Church and we look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral over the course of the next academic year: an opportunity not to be missed!

We work with children of all ages, faiths and abilities and welcome visits from cubs, scouts, brownies and other groups.

What We Offer for KS1



We welcome pupils aged 5-7 and offer a bespoke learning experience to suit whatever area of the curriculum or topic you wish to explore. You may like to focus on specific Christian festivals such as Christmas, Easter or Pentecost, a specific period of history, a particular Bible story, or a theme such as Angels or Prayer.

Our Key Stage 1 visits are mainly based around storytelling, with a hands-on exploration of the Cathedral, but we are happy to adapt to suit your class. Sessions for this age group last from 1-2 hours. We can also offer pupils some practical activities, such as crafts or brass rubbing.

KS1 School Visit Options

1: What is a Cathedral? This option includes a guided tour and an introduction to the people, life and features of the Cathedral. What happens in this building? Why does it look the way it does? What do the colours mean? Why was it built? This tour can include the story of Jesus, who is worshipped here.

2: Stories and Pictures Christ Church Cathedral reflect many exciting stories. There are Bible stories, e.g. Jonah and the Whale, David and Goliath or the life of St Peter. The Cathedral windows tell the stories of several saints, including Oxford's patron saint, St Frideswide.

3: Jesus: Who was he? Who is he? This option involves learning about key moments in the story of Jesus, and his followers. Pupils may dress up as people from biblical times, or as monks and pilgrims.

4: Be a Monk for a day! Children can dress up as monks and find out more about life inside a Monastery. Christ Church was once a medieval monastery and the monks here built the shrine to St Frideswide, patron saint of Oxford.

5: Maths in the Cathedral How big is the Cathedral? How was it built? Which shapes can we see? Which numbers are important to Christ Church?



What We Offer for KS2

The standard pattern for each visit is 1.5 – 2.5 hours, and includes a guided tour inside the Cathedral and a short, interactive introductory talk. Pupils on a longer visit may also have time to visit the Great hall (Hogwarts dining room), sketch inside the Cathedral, or enjoy a short craft activity, such as brass rubbing. A visit to Christ Church can enhance learning across the curriculum, from SMSC to Maths and Measurement.

KS2 School Visit Options

1: Cathedral Life

This workshop offers an introduction to the nature of Cathedral life, followed by a guided tour. Teachers may request a focus on specific themes within Christian life and worship.

2: St Frideswide and Anglo-Saxon Oxford

Children can discover how Saxon Oxford grew up beside the River Thames and find out about daily life in Saxon times. In costume, they can

go back in time to learn about the life and legacy of the Anglo-Saxon princess who founded the first settlement here.

3: Medieval Pilgrimage: Holy Bones

To learn about the monastery and pilgrimage, the children can dress up as medieval pilgrims and process to the shrine. They may act out the story of St Frideswide, before they tour the medieval parts of the Cathedral.

4: Medieval Monks, Monasteries and Mysteries

Children dress up as monks and learn what was involved in living a cloistered, contemplative life in a medieval monastery. They learn about how monks built churches and cathedrals, made medicines from healing herbs, and illuminated rare and precious manuscripts.

5: The Tudors and the Reformation

This visit explores life in Tudor times. Pupils may dress up in Tudor costume to tour the Cathedral and learn about the connections between Christ Church, the Tudors and the Reformation. They can learn about the reasons behind the Reformation and see evidence of it inside the Cathedral.

Option 5: Christ Church and the Victorians

This visit can also include a chance to dress in Victorian costume. It offers children a chance to learn about the eminent Victorians who are associated with the Cathedral, including Edward Burne-Jones, Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll), Alice Liddell (Alice in Wonderland), and George Gilbert Scott.

Option 6: Who is the Christ of Christ Church?

This option focuses on the life and influence of Jesus Christ. What do Christians believe? Who was Jesus? What can we learn about him from the Cathedral? How does the building tell his story and give him glory? Pupils can explore key Christian beliefs and festivals, or specific themes to suit the School's Values programme or RE curriculum.



The Primary Curriculum

Our education visits encourage pupils to **Engage, Enquire, Explore, Evaluate, Reflect and Communicate**, in line with the Diocesan RE Scheme of work.

A visit to Christ Church can also support use of the new RE teaching resource: 'Understanding Christianity' which helps teachers and pupils explore the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.

Our school visits may include the optional lighting of a candle and a short period of quiet reflection.

RE / SMSC

- Prayer, worship and spirituality
- Religion in the community
- Pilgrimage
- Places of worship
- Beliefs and values

History

- The life of St Frideswide, Oxford's Saxon patron saint (c. 680-735)
- Life in a medieval monastery
- The evolution of Oxford's City and University

Living History Days

In partnership with the Museum Of Oxford, we now offer four full-length, hands-on activities:

- A Saxon day out
- Medieval Oxford and Medieval rubbish
- A City at war: the Civil War
- Alice and Victorian Oxford

Creative Arts

- Developments in art and architecture
- Expressing belief through the arts (We support the Arts Award scheme)
- Music and worship

Maths

- The Mathematics involved in building the Cathedral
- Measuring the Cathedral
- Exploring pattern, shape and symmetry

Language

- The Vocabulary of a Cathedral
- Language shifts over time
- Narratives and descriptions



Practical Information for Schools

More details can be found on our website at: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral/education.

- Our Education visits and workshops take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- A Risk Assessment and Diocesan planning guide are made available before the visit and, where relevant, other pre-visit materials may be provided.
- Staff are welcome to make a pre-visit to the Cathedral. Please arrange this when you book.
- Children are welcome to take photographs inside the Cathedral
- School groups are welcome to eat their packed lunches on Christ Church Meadow but a room is available in case of wet weather.

Fees

£3 per child (plus VAT) for a standard visit. Accompanying adults are free. Please note that there is a minimum fee of £50 (plus VAT) per session.

- Specialist workshops and full-day education events have proved very successful but may carry an extra cost and be priced accordingly.
- Living History days with the Museum of Oxford are £6 (plus VAT) per child for the full day.
- Invoices will be issued to the schools by the Cathedral office.
- In the event of a late cancellation (less than two days in advance) we reserve the right to charge 100% of the cost. Schools will be invoiced for the number of pupils booked and changes (through pupil absences) will not be refunded.

'I liked the dressing up because it made me feel part of the story.'

*'Thank you for an amazing visit. I loved it!
I went home with so many things in my brain.'*

'I loved when we dressed up as monks.'

'This was one of the best school trips I've had!'

'We learned a lot about the history of the church and Oxford.'

'My favourite part was acting out and pretending we were real pilgrims. I was quite amazed that any of the time I was on the trip I could have been standing on St Frideswide's bones.'

'I liked the church and I enjoyed learning about Oxford.'

'The Cathedral is interesting, historical and awesome!'

'The best thing was playing a part in the role play!'



**For more information and to book,
contact the Education Officer:**

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