

**Manchester
Cathedral
Education
Department**

**Active
learning in
an inspiring
setting.**

Manchester
Cathedral

School Visits Programme

Information for Primary and Secondary Teachers

Trails and Workshops



Manchester Cathedral is a rich educational resource in the heart of a vibrant city.

Learning is brought to life in this vivid, historic and spiritual context where Christian worship has taken place for over 1000

years. Come and discover the potential of this amazing living building!

The Education Department welcomes over 4000 school children each year for a variety of educational trails and craft workshops.

Trails and workshops are

led by the Education Officer who is an experienced teacher, alongside a team of volunteers; many of whom have a background in teaching.

Our most popular trails and workshops are featured in this publication.

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Contact us

Manchester Cathedral Education Department

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Trails

All trails feature a guided tour of the Cathedral which is designed to engage and interest pupils. Students learn through a variety of interactive approaches.

Exploring a Christian place of worship

Our most popular trail helps pupils to consider the significance of Manchester Cathedral as a place of worship; past and present.

Give your pupils the opportunity to:

- Explore the Cathedral and see its treasures: colourful stained glass windows; atmospheric Regiment Chapel; and richly carved choir stalls
- Discover key aspects of Manchester Cathedral's heritage – from a medieval Church to a Victorian Cathedral and the transformation of the Church since WW2
- Find out how the main features reflect Christian belief and aid worship
- Handle some of the artefacts used for worship
- Experience* the unique atmosphere of the Cathedral, where worship has taken place for over 1000 years



***Experiential RE:** Many teachers find that experiential learning activities are a memorable part of a visit to a place of worship. Lighting a prayer candle, having time for quiet reflection, or tasting the bread used for Holy Communion are three such activities that the Education Department can offer to visiting schools. We ask that teachers discuss their requirements with the Education Officer so that activities are tailored appropriately for their group.

Rites of Passage: shorter sessions focusing on Baptism and Marriage are also available and can be added into your trail. Pupils learn by re-enacting the ceremonies in situ and can also learn about the multiple baptisms and weddings of Victorian times! Funerals and the afterlife can be covered by an epitaph trail.

KEY STAGE: 1-4

CURRICULUM LINKS: RE, History

VENUE: Cathedral

DURATION: 60-75 minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 40

COST PER PUPIL: £2



Dressing up as a Bishop on a place of worship trail

“Many teachers find that experiential learning activities are a memorable part of a visit to a place of worship.”

Festivals

Visit the Cathedral at **Christmas** or **Easter** time for a fresh approach to teaching these familiar stories. Festivals, such as Christmas, Epiphany and Easter are taught through an activity trail of the building, which is beautifully decorated for the celebrations.

Themes such as gifts and giving (Christmas) and new beginnings (Easter) are considered and craft activities are provided to make this a special experience for younger children.

KEY STAGE: EYFS / KS1

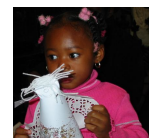
CURRICULUM LINKS: RE

VENUE: Cathedral

DURATION: 75 minutes

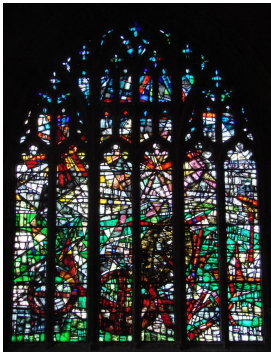
MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30

COST PER PUPIL: £2



Christmas at the Cathedral





Christian signs and symbols

This trail focuses on the rich decoration and design of the Cathedral building and helps pupils to look more closely and appreciate the detail. (It is recommended that for KS2/3 this trail is followed by the Church Year workshop.)

Give your pupils the opportunity to:

- Hunt for the “Cathedral code” throughout the building
- Record their observation of symbols (please bring sketching materials)
- Discover the meaning of the chief symbols found in the Cathedral
- Devise a stained glass window design demonstrating their understanding of the symbols they have discovered

Sacred Art: A number of trails have been devised for KS3-5 that explore **art and religious symbolism**; please ask for information about “Finding Mary”, “Kandinsky and the West Windows”, or the “Fraser Chapel Reredos”. You might like to complement your Cathedral trail with a visit to Manchester City Art Gallery, where you can view works by Holman Hunt which are richly symbolic.

KEY STAGE: 2-5

CURRICULUM LINKS: RE, Art

VENUE: Cathedral

DURATION: 60 minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 40

COST PER PUPIL: £2

The medieval Church and Tudor reformation

Pupils really love this aspect of the session which brings their learning to life!

This lively trail covers the history of the Church during the medieval period. Through a range of hands on activities pupils learn about the Tudor Reformation and how the different Tudor monarchs shaped the religion of the time according to their beliefs.

Give your pupils the opportunity to:

- **Dress up as Tudor monarchs or priests.** Pupils really love this aspect of the session which brings their learning to life!
- Recall prior learning about the Tudors and learn about the religious beliefs of the different Tudor monarchs
- Learn to chant some of the Latin Mass in the medieval Quire stalls, and compare the English version
- Compare and contrast the Catholic and Protestant worldviews of the time
- Consider the impact that religion had on the people of medieval Manchester and how this has shaped the building that we see today

KEY STAGE: 2
 CURRICULUM LINKS: History, RE
 VENUE: Cathedral
 DURATION: 90 mins
 MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30
 COST PER PUPIL: £3

Religious, ethical and philosophical issues

Trails are planned with the teacher and are based around one or two topics from the GCSE or A-level syllabus.

Past topics have included Origins of the World, Life after Death, Christian Family life, St John’s Gospel, Religious Art, Wealth and Poverty, War and Peace, Sanctity of Life and Racism.

“Ask the Clergy!”: It may also be possible for groups to discuss issues with the clergy at the Cathedral, depending upon their availability.

KEY STAGE: 4-5

CURRICULUM LINKS: RE

VENUE: Cathedral

DURATION: 60 minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 20

COST PER PUPIL: £2



The Fraser Chapel Reredos prompts much discussion.

Trails continued

Sacred Neighbours



The evocative
Fire Window

*“Our popular
joint trails offer
schools the
opportunity to
compare and
contrast
different
religious
buildings in
Manchester.”*



This joint trail of Manchester Cathedral (Anglican) and Manchester Buddhist Centre (Triratna Buddhist Order) is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to visit two contrasting places of worship and consider what is meant by a place of peace or sacred place.

We now offer two options:

Sacred Neighbours is our standard joint tour of these two buildings, exploring their history, architecture and activities and the beliefs underlying these.

The Place of Peace considers the buildings as places of peace, as well as the place of peace in our lives. We can also explore Christian and Buddhist perspectives on issues of war, peace and justice.

The cathedral features a regimental chapel, war-time bomb damage and some of the finest medieval carving in England; the Buddhist Centre is a beautifully converted Victorian cotton warehouse and home to many Buddhist 'Right Livelihood' projects.

KEY STAGE: 2-4

CURRICULUM LINKS: RE, Citizenship, History, Geography

VENUE & DURATION:

10.00 - 11.30 Manchester Cathedral Session

11.30 - 12.15 Use of Cathedral Lunch Area

12.30 - 14.00 Manchester Buddhist Centre Session

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 45

MINIMUM NUMBER: 14

COST PER PUPIL: £6



A Shared Story

A joint educational programme between Manchester Cathedral and Manchester Jewish Museum. Although Jews and Christians have different expressions of worship, they have many shared values and traditions. Come and discover more about these amazing places of faith in the city centre.

Give your pupils the opportunity to:

- Examine the objects used in Jewish and Christian forms of prayer
- Discover the significance of the Torah and New Testament
- Explore the buildings, noting similarities and differences

KEY STAGE: 1-4

CURRICULUM LINKS: RE, Citizenship

VENUE & DURATION:

10.00 - 11.30 Manchester Cathedral Session

11.45 - 12.45 Use of Cathedral Lunch Area

12.45 - 14.15 Manchester Jewish Museum Session

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 50

COST PER PUPIL: £5

TO BOOK: Please ring Manchester Jewish Museum 0161 834 9879

Manchester's Medieval Zoo!

This workshop allows pupils to get up close to the medieval wood carvings in order to consider the symbolism that lies behind them.

The medieval misericords were carved by sixteenth century craftsmen and are thought to be some of the finest in Europe. The name comes from the Latin word for pity, 'misericordia', since out of pity for weary monks during long services, the seats have a ledge to give support to those leaning up against them. Hidden on the underside of these seats are carvings of medieval tales and legends.

Give your pupils the opportunity to:

- Explore the Misericords looking for our medieval zoo; griffins, lions, elephants, monkeys, foxes, dragons, bears and much more!
- Learn about the symbolism of the real animals and "fantastic creatures" to be found on the Misericords using drama and discussion - discover how the rabbit got his revenge and why you shouldn't look at a cockatrice!
- Consider the hidden meanings of the Misericords and their purpose in the Church (your group may like to sing or meditate in the Choir stalls too - please ask if you are interested!)
- Design their own mythical beast or misericord

KEY STAGE: 1-3 - adapted appropriately for each age group

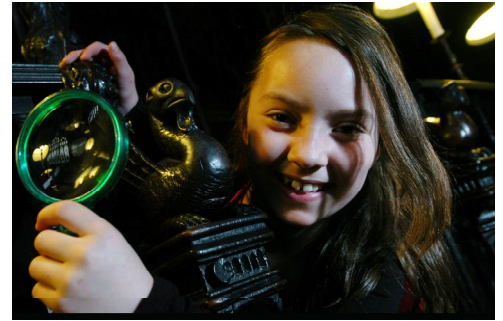
CURRICULUM LINKS: English, History, RE, Art

VENUE: Cathedral

DURATION: 60 minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30

COST PER PUPIL: £2



Tailor made trails

Not just RE!

Manchester Cathedral is an excellent venue for high quality Learning Outside the Classroom experiences and has much to offer – Maths, Art and Design, Literacy, English, Music, Drama, History, Geography, Business and Tourism are some of the subjects that can be studied through a visit to the Cathedral.

Our Humanities trail, focusing on Geography, History and RE, is popular with secondary school groups.

Primary school groups have studied local history, shapes, storytelling, music and dance.

If you have a project in mind, please contact the Education Officer.

Super Learning Days / Cathedral Experience Days

By popular demand, the Education Department now offers a unique programme of special events for schools. A typical day will involve a special trail, workshop and craft activities. Please see the website for details of upcoming events.



Workshops

Clothes, colours and symbols – investigating the Church Year



Dressing up during the Church Year workshop

This interactive workshop is great fun and enables pupils to understand many important Christian symbols and link them to the Church's Year. Pupils have the opportunity to dress up as priests using robes from the Children's Vestment Collection (handmade by the Cathedral's Embroidery Group), creating an unforgettable learning experience!

By participating in this workshop your pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the seasons of the Church's Year and the colours associated with each season
- Understand the more commonly used Christian Symbols and their meanings
- Be able to identify which vestments would be worn during the major festivals and seasons of the Church's Year
- Return to school with examples of their own vestment designs, which can be used to form the basis of a large wall display

KEY STAGE: 2 & 3

CURRICULUM LINKS: RE

VENUE: Cathedral or Education Centre

DURATION: 60 minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30

COST PER PUPIL: £2

Why not combine this with our "Exploring a Christian Place of Worship" or "Christian Signs and Symbols" trails for a fascinating day trip?

*"an
unforgettable
learning
experience!"*

Investigating the Green Man

Who and what was the Green Man? Images of him are to be found in over 1,000 mediaeval English churches, and throughout the churches of Western Europe. In some churches images of the Green Man outnumber images of Christ by about 100 to 1. In Manchester Cathedral the earliest Green Men date from about 1340, with many more being added in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Discovering the Green Man combines both a trail and a workshop, and is a great opportunity to get creative in the Cathedral!

Give your pupils the opportunity to:

- Find out about the origins of the Green Man.
- Learn about the different types of Green Men found in churches.
- Discover the Green Men hiding inside and outside the Cathedral.
- Design a Green Man based on the images that they have seen.
- Using air-drying clay they will then create their own Green Man plaque, based on their design, to take back to school.

KEY STAGE: 2

CURRICULUM LINKS: Art, RE, History

VENUE: Cathedral

DURATION: 60 minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30

COST PER PUPIL: £2



A similar workshop, focusing on gargoyles, is also available in clement weather!

Prayer and Spirituality

This workshop is planned in conjunction with the teacher in order to it is appropriate for the group. A typical prayer workshop would include a number of practical activities whereby pupils are given the opportunity to:

- Consider people's continual search for meaning in terms of the acknowledgment of a power greater than themselves - a search that cuts across time, culture and religion;
- Think about the purpose of prayer and why people pray;
- Understand the five different sorts of prayer within the Christian tradition - adoration, confession, intercession, petition and thanksgiving - and when each might be used;
- Find out about the different objects that people have traditionally used to help them to focus on prayer - e.g. rosary beads, icons, candles;
- Create a prayer bracelet or key ring decoration
- Write a prayer of Intercession for someone else, and leave it on the Children's Intercession Board.

The Education Officer plans **Spirituality Days** for schools that include meditation, candle lighting, poetry and art. Please telephone 0161 817 4814 to discuss the possibilities for your group.

KEY STAGE: 2
 CURRICULUM LINKS: RE
 VENUE: Cathedral
 DURATION: 75 minutes
 MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30
 COST PER PUPIL: £2

Art, stained glass and brass rubbing

Give your pupils the opportunity to create their own piece of art in the Cathedral – choosing one of the following options:

- Brass Rubbing
- Stained Glass
- Art and craft on a particular theme – e.g. symbols, festivals, angels, saints

KEY STAGE: 1-5
 CURRICULUM LINKS: Art
 VENUE: Cathedral
 DURATION: 40 minutes
 MAXIMUM NUMBER: 30
 COST PER PUPIL: £2



More on brass rubbing:

Our most popular workshop compliments our trails by allowing pupils to engage with the history of the Cathedral in a "hands on" way. Pupils are invited to observe the original brasses in the Cathedral and consider their historical importance. They are then shown rubbing techniques and, in gold, silver or pewter on quality black paper, pupils make their own rubbings to take back to school for mounting.

A brass rubbing trail which examines the original brasses at the Cathedral is also available - please ask!

Please note that rubbing of brasses inside the Cathedral is discouraged in order to preserve our heritage for future generations. Facsimile copies are provided in our workshops.

Family groups or adults who wish to book a brass rubbing session should telephone the Education Officer to arrange this on 0161 817 4814



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To book an Educational Visit, please contact the Education Officer, Pam Elliott. Please note that all school visits must be booked into the Cathedral diary via Pam. Please refer to our Guidance Notes for Teachers for further information relating to planning and booking a visit.

Active learning in an inspiring setting.

What they said ...

Comments from teachers:

"The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, and the activities and delivered information were tailored to meet their interest levels, understanding and needs. Excellent!"

"Staff were friendly, approachable and made excellent references to students own experiences of Islam, the Qur'an etc"

"A great day. Thank you"

"The children really enjoyed this visit; many of them have never been in a Church".

"I felt the children really engaged with the facilitator and enjoyed the discussion"

"We were very surprised by the level of interest the children showed and their desire to understand. The Education Officer's manner made them all feel very comfortable to ask their own questions."

A super day: two contrasting places of worship - our children loved the whole experience"

"Inspirational!"



Comments from pupils:

I liked Manchester Cathedral because of the lovely windows and because I got to light a candle with Megan"

"It was fun, creative and made me feel like a part of history"

"It was amazing and interesting"

"I really liked the architecture of the building ... it was absolutely stunning".

It's really fun - I want to live here!"

"Thank you - It was the best visit ever!"