

Education at Blackburn Cathedral





WELCOME TO THE MOST INSPIRING CLASSROOM IN LANCASHIIRE!

Blackburn Cathedral is an exciting educational resource in the urban heart of a thriving multi-faith town. Learning is brought to life in this vivid, historic and spiritual context on a site where Christian worship has taken place for more than 1000 years.

Educational visits for schools and colleges are an important part of the work of the Cathedral. Students of all ages are able to experience learning within the very special setting of a cathedral building where daily prayer is still offered today, as it has been over the centuries, and where the architectural framework of our religious and cultural heritage is ever present.

WHY BRING YOUR PUPILS TO BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL?

Providing children and young people with the opportunity to explore and experience 'sacred space' at first hand is the most effective way to introduce the concept of spirituality. A visit to the Cathedral can evoke in children a sense of mystery, awe and wonder and ultimately the awareness of something greater than themselves.

But Blackburn Cathedral is much more than an amazing space and bringing your pupils to this inspiring classroom can be a springboard to support study in many curriculum areas. It can also provide opportunities for *all* pupils to connect with, explore and begin to understand their own spiritual dimension in a way that is not possible within a classroom setting.









Using the Cathedral as the focus and the starting point for our exciting learning programme our aim for each visit is to inspire a sense of awe and wonder, as well as developing learning through a range of first-hand experiences and practical sessions. We can offer a range of creative, innovative and age-appropriate activities, trails and workshops, all designed to give your pupils opportunities to

- Explore the space
- Understand and Interpret the space
- Experience the space
- Respond to the space

The activities were very appropriate to the needs of the students, very well thought out and totally engaging

Each visit is an active learning experience designed to encourage pupils to ask questions and we hope to provide experiences and memories that will last beyond the length of their visit. We are always happy to adapt and develop our workshops to meet your pupils' particular needs.

CUIRRICUILUM OPPORTUNITIES

Blackburn Cathedral is an inspirational educational resource and the Education Department aims to bring learning to life through making every visit a voyage of discovery. We believe that memorable experiences lead to memorable learning and many of the activities we offer are thematic and cross-curricular.

TRAILS

All Cathedral Trails focus on **Exploring a Christian Place of Worship** but each one has a different structure and emphasis depending on the age and needs of your pupils and your curriculum requirements. Bespoke activity-based trails can also be designed and tailored to meet the particular learning / curriculum requirements of pupils with Special Educational Needs. The following options are currently available.

FINDING OUT ABOUT 'SPECIAL THINGS' IN BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL (KS1) (1hr 15minutes)

This interactive trail has been developed to support visits to the Cathedral by pupils in KS1 and lower KS2.On a guided journey of discovery children visit eight different stations to find out about the church building, the Bible, the Eucharist, Vestments, Baptism, the 'Sign of Peace', St Mary and learn about different types of prayer.

DISCOVERING SIGNS AND SYMBOLS IN BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL (KS2 / 3) (1hr 30minutes)

This Guided Trail focuses on the central role of symbolism in Christianity as pupils are helped to 'read' and discover Blackburn Cathedral – a building alive with symbolism! Windows, paintings, statues, ceiling bosses, candles, pieces of furniture, the shape and size of the building itself, all come under the pupils' scrutiny. The trail is an exercise in detection twice over – first tracking the symbols down and then, most importantly, unravelling their meanings and what they might say about Christian belief and worship, particularly in this great Cathedral.

FINDING OUT WHAT'S 'SPECIAL' ABOUT BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ISLAM (KS 2 / 3)

(1hr 30minutes)

This interactive trail has been developed to support visits to the Cathedral by pupils in KS2 and KS3. It is particularly suitable for groups of mainly or wholly Muslim pupils, or for any pupils that are also studying Islam and wish to compare and contrast both Christian and Muslim religious practices and places of worship.

INTER-FAITH VISITS

Through its unique and innovative ExChange programme Blackburn Cathedral already leads the way in promoting community cohesion, inter-faith education, outreach and development. Work with us to tap into this amazing resource to bring Inter-Faith Studies for your students to life. Blackburn is a thriving multi-faith city and whatever the age of your pupils we can help you to maximise your time in Blackburn by planning a joint study visit to the Cathedral and to a local mosque.

Mosque visits are led by Anjum Anwar of ExChange on behalf of the Lancashire Council of Mosques. The Mosque is the Jaame Mosque (and Islamic Cultural Centre), also known as Jamia Masjid (Lambeth Street, Blackburn, BB1 1JP). This is a newly built mosque and is amazingly beautiful inside.

MAKING A DAY OF IT

We know that bringing your pupils out of school for an educational visit is expensive, particularly with the cost of coach travel. Here at Blackburn Cathedral we can provide a full day of activities for your pupils by combining one of our Trails with either one or two workshops. We can provide facilities for eating packed lunches for up to 35 children or one class.

Please note that workshop numbers are limited to 35 pupils or one class for each workshop.

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITY-BASED SESSIONS

All workshops and activity-based sessions take place within the Cathedral. All activities are interactive and in order to maximise learning they generally involve pupils working together collaboratively in small groups. Workshop numbers are therefore limited to a maximum of 35 pupils or one class.

At the end of most of the workshops you will be provided with a Teacher's Resource Pack of the activity to support followup work / reinforcement back at school. Below are the workshops that are currently available. More are being planned and bespoke workshops can be designed to fit your particular curriculum requirements.

PRAYER STATIONS (KS2 / 3)

(1hr 20minutes)

This very practical session has been designed to take your pupils on a very personal journey of their own around the Cathedral to enable them to experience for themselves the deeper meaning of prayer and why people pray. In small groups pupils rotate around eight different Prayer Stations that have been set up around the Cathedral, each with a meaningful 'hands-on' activity for them to engage in that aims to give them a much more profound understanding of the purpose of Christian prayer.

PRAYER WORKSHOP (KS2 / 3)

(45 minutes)

In this workshop, through a number of different practical activities pupils will be encouraged 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;
- Write a prayer of Intercession for someone else, and leave it on the Children's Intercession Board. (All Children's Intercessions are taken to the monthly Intercession Service, along with the adult Intercessions that have been left in the Church).

THE CHURCH'S YEAR (KS2 / 3)

(1hour)

This interactive and very practical workshop is based around the Children's Vestment Collection. Pupils learn about the meaning of the different liturgical colours and the cycle of seasons and feasts that make up the Church's Year. There is an opportunity for pupils to dress up in the children's vestments (so bring your camera), find out when certain garments would be worn, learn about the meaning of Christian symbols, and then design a chasuble for their very own vicar!

THE CHORISTER EXPERIENCE (KS2)

(30 minutes)

Did you know that the tradition of singing at Blackburn Cathedral stretches back at least 500 years?

Being a Chorister provides a unique education and opens up a world of new opportunities and experiences. The Cathedral's Director of Music is always looking for enthusiastic new recruits (from 8 years upwards) for the Cathedral Choirs and can be available to speak to your group during your visit.

The following option can therefore be offered to school groups that are interested in finding out more about music at Blackburn Cathedral as part of their planned educational visit.

- □ A short presentation (PowerPoint) about the different choirs at Blackburn Cathedral
- ☐ A brief talk about how the organ works and a demonstration of how it sounds
- □ A tour of the Song School (including the chance to dress up as a chorister!)

In addition, the Director of Music is always happy to speak to potential choristers about the possibility of joining the choir, and can offer informal voice tests during the visit (with the relevant consent from teachers/parents) which will just take a few minutes per child.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT - INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

HOW DO I BOOK?

All school visits must be booked into the Cathedral diary via the Education Department. Contact **Joanna Booth** the Education Officer, to negotiate a date for your visit and discuss your requirements. Please note that the Education Officer is only available on Tuesdays and Thursdays to book and lead educational visits.

The best way to contact the Department is via email joanna.booth@blackburncathedral.co.uk. The Education Officer responds to all emails as soon as possible. If you wish to discuss the possibility of making a visit and all the options that are available, prior to making a booking, please telephone Joanna directly on 01254 503090 (ext 249).

Visit requests are taken to the Cathedral diary meeting on Tuesday mornings for approval. The Cathedral hosts a large number of events annually and we regret that it is not always possible to accommodate group visits. Please do not book coaches or make any other arrangements until you have received written confirmation of your booking from the Education Officer.

Once the date and time of your visit request has been approved an **Education Visit Booking Form** will be sent electronically for the school to complete and return (either in the post or by email).

On receipt of your completed Booking Form, you will be sent a Confirmation Letter and a copy of the document **Risk Assessment**, **Safety Advice and Code of Conduct for Schools**. This is to support the school's Education Visits Coordinator (EVC) to complete any paperwork required by the school. The full **Education Department Risk Assessment** is available on request to support schools with their paperwork.

Self guided visits are possible on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays but these must also be booked in via the Education Department.

When planning your visit, please be aware that Holy Communion takes place each weekday between 12.30 and 1.00 (11.00 and 11.30 on Wednesdays). Group visits during this time are discouraged, unless you wish to attend the service.

The Dean and Chapter reserve the right to vary arrangements at the Cathedral and we apologise if any parts of the building are inaccessible at the time of your visit.

HOW FAR AHEAD SHOULD I BOOK?

Please book as early as possible I order to avoid disappointment. This is particularly important if you wish to have a combined Mosque and Cathedral visit, or a Trail and Workshop. For an increasing number of schools, a Cathedral visit has become essential in helping to deliver aspects of the curriculum, and dates are regularly booked up in advance. We regret that we are unable to accept bookings less than two weeks in advance.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please note that in the event of non-attendance or cancellation of a visit by a school with *less than 10 days notice* the Cathedral Education Department reserves the right to charge a cancellation fee of £30.00.

In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to cancel a school booking at short notice (for example if it coincides with a funeral service). The Dean and Chapter cannot be held liable for the cost of transport or any other costs which may have been incurred as part of the visit thus cancelled. In these circumstances, the Education Department will offer an alternative date at no cost as a goodwill gesture.

HOW MUICH WILL IT COST?

Educational Group Visit Rates 2012

- □ Trails £1.00 per pupil
- □ Workshops £2.50 per pupil
- □ Trail plus Workshop £3.00 per pupil
- □ Short, self guided visit no charge but a small donation is requested
- □ Cathedral Experience Days / Super Learning Days
- ☐ These are programmed activity days suitable for larger groups / multiple schools, comprising of a special themed trail and at least 3 workshop sessions £6 per pupil
- ☐ Guided Mosque Visit £40.00 per class
- □ Please Note -There is no charge for accompanying adults.

In order to cover our basic costs, a minimum group charge is applied to small groups. 10 students is our minimum group number; you may bring fewer pupils, but you will be invoiced for the value of 10 students. For full day visits, lunch space (when available) is provided free of charge.

We do not require payment in advance. Payment may be made by cheque on the day or, if you prefer, the Cathedral can send an invoice to the school. Please make cheques payable to 'Blackburn Cathedral'.

Please Note - We do not wish to preclude any group from experiencing everything that a visit to the Cathedral has to offer. If you anticipate any financial difficulties then please contact the Cathedral Education Officer to discuss available options.

WHAT SUPPORT MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE?

We recommend that you prepare your pupils carefully for their visit to make sure they get the most out of it. There are a number of educational resource materials which are currently in the process of being prepared and which will be uploaded to the Resources area of the website when they are available.

If you intend to bring support materials that you have prepared, it would be helpful if the Education Department could have a copy in advance.

At the end of most of the Workshops you will automatically be provided with a Teacher's Resource Pack of the workshop activity in order to support follow-up work / reinforcement back at school.

WHIERE CAN WE EAT LUNCH?

Weather permitting, packed lunches can be eaten on the grassed areas around the Cathedral. We can provide facilities for eating packed lunches for up to 35 children or one class in the Crypt but this must be booked at the same time as the visit. This facility is offered free of charge to groups who book day visits.

WHAT OTHER FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are toilet facilities available in the Cathedral Crypt

In the Cathedral Crypt is a café that is open to the public and the Cathedral Gift shop. At the end of your visit you are very welcome to take your pupils to visit the Gift Shop, but if you do we recommend that children bring no more than £2.50 to spend. If you do wish your pupils to visit the shop then you will need to allow additional time for your visit. (Please note that the Gift Shop is NOT open on Mondays).

ON ARRIVAL, WHERE DO WE PARK?

There is no parking available at the Cathedral but coach parties may be dropped off outside the west end on Darwen Street.

It is often easier to arrange for the coach to pick up your pupils at the end of their visit on The Boulevard, by the Bus Station.

WHERE DO WE COME ON ARRIVAL?

Please come into the Cathedral through the west doors where you and your group will be warmly welcomed by the Education Officer.

Please ensure that you arrive promptly. If you are running late please telephone and let us know: Call the Cathedral Office on 01254 503090 or the Education Officer (ext 249).

DO WE NEED TO BRING ANYTHING WITH US?

Generally no, although this will depend on the nature of the Trail or Workshop that you have planned beforehand. We do recommend that secondary school pupils bring a notepad and pen.

Photography is permitted inside the Cathedral and we suggest bringing a camera to capture key elements of your visit as an aide memoire for pupils back in the classroom.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF TEACHERS?

Teachers should discuss their learning aims and objectives for the visit with the Education Officer. They should also advise her of any special needs within the group that Cathedral staff should be made aware of.

Teachers and helpers should stay with their group at all times and experience the Trails and Workshops alongside their pupils. Unless it has been planned otherwise, they will not necessarily be expected to give any input to these sessions; although extra pairs of hands during practical workshops are always welcome! Please ensure that your pupils understand the need for quiet in a place of worship.

At all times during the visit, teachers (and helpers) will, of course, be responsible for the control and supervision of their group. We ask that all schools provide a ratio of at least 1 adult: 10 children or preferably work to the recommended ratios*. No pupils are to be left unsupervised in any area at any time. Please ensure accompanying adults are fully briefed prior to the visit.

*The recommended ratios are 1:6 for Year 1 to Year 3, 1:15 for Year 4 to Year 6 and 1:20 for Year 7 and above).

Small groups of children with Special Educational Needs are welcomed and such visits are not subject to the minimum group charge.

An **Education Visit Evaluation Form** will be given to the lead member of staff at the end of the visit, to be completed and returned to the Education Officer, in order for us to maintain and develop the standards that we have set for ourselves.

WHAT ABOUT RISK ASSESSMENT?

The full Education Department Risk Assessment is available on request to support schools with their paperwork.

The three Local Education Authorities in the Diocese (Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and Blackpool) do not require schools to undertake their own risk assessments prior to Type A* school visits. A pre-visit is advised but is not mandatory and we have been advised that the procedures that we have put into place will adequately meet a school's requirements.

We do however recommend that you prepare for your trip by pre-visiting the Cathedral. The Education Officer leads free preliminary visits for teachers, each month on Thursday afternoons between 3.30pm and 4.30pm; please ask for details.

*Type A - Educational visits that are low risk, off site visits of up to 1 day in duration (e.g. theatre visits, museum visits, cathedral visits or visits to a local school or event). The approval of the local education authority is NOT required.