

ROSSLYN CHAPEL 1446

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Junior Tour Guide Programme 2016/ 17

What is Rosslyn Chapel?

Rosslyn Chapel is a Category A listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument, located in the village of Roslin, approximately 7 miles south of Edinburgh. Built between 1446 and 1484, it has been described as an “Architectural Wonder” and a “Library in Stone”.

Practically every surface of Rosslyn Chapel is covered with carvings of individual figures and scenes. People travel from all over the world to see the carvings, and there are many different interpretations of their meanings. Myths, legends and Hollywood fiction writing have given this little chapel a unique sense of mystery and wonder.

Because you can view this unique little building on so many levels, it is very suitable for cross-curricular or community study. Whether exploring life in the Middle Ages, the effects of the Reformation on religious life, the use of technology in conservation or the challenges of maintaining a visitor attraction, you are sure to find something of interest to explore.

What is the Junior Tour Guiding Programme?

Set up in 2010 the Junior Tour Guide (JTG) Programme is interactive guiding by children, for children. The Learning team at Rosslyn Chapel Trust (RCT) work with Karen McKenzie from Illuminate UK and the Primary 7 class from Rosslyn Primary School to create an exciting performance and quiz. Schools from around Midlothian are invited to join these guided tours free of charge, as we are keen to help local children to explore and understand the chapel and its many stories.

How many children can be brought for each tour?

Due to the size of the chapel class numbers are limited to 40 children per tour. This will allow the class to enjoy and be able to move around the chapel while doing the quiz and also allow any other visitors within the chapel space to explore.

What does the school need to do before the visit?

You will need to divide the class into 4 equal (or as near to) groups, preferably with stickers to help identify them on the day. As a suggestion the groups can be named Green Man, Angel, Knight and Dragon, or simply 1-4! This will determine where each group begins the tour. If possible please have one adult per group.

How does this work on the day?

The visiting group should arrive at 10.45 where they will be greeted by a member of Rosslyn Chapel staff. As long as the weather is ok the group will wait outside the visitor centre and split into their 4 groups. The pupils will receive their quiz sheet and a short introduction before the JTG's take over.

The 4 groups will then split and begin the tour in 4 different places around the chapel, visitor centre and the grounds.

The tour is run by the JTG's and is interactive, hands on for the visiting school. There will be elements of performance, activity, handling objects and quiz questions at each section.

The groups will move around the 4 areas spending about 15 minutes at each until the tour and the quiz are completed.

At the end of the tour the visiting class will have learned the history of the chapel in a fun and interactive way. Including information about how and why it was built. They will have investigated some of the architecture and carvings and some of the mysterious stories that surround the chapel and what makes this little place so important.

The tour led by the JTG's will finish after about 1 hour. You are welcome to stay on the site and enjoy the visitor centre and the grounds or go on to explore Roslin Glen, but this would be led by your own staff.

How does this fit into the Curriculum for Excellence?

We can design pre-and post-visit activities to fit the curriculum, in discussion with you. But just coming for a tour will allow you to explore some of the experiences and outcomes for Social subjects and RME. The visit will contribute to the following:

SOC 1-03a: I can use evidence to recreate the story of a place of local historical interest

1-04a: I can compare aspects of people's daily lives through the experience of recreating a historical setting

2-04a: I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences

2-06a: I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence

RME 1-01b

By exploring some places and investigating artefacts, I am developing my knowledge of Christian beliefs and my awareness of the role of Christianity in Scottish society and the world.

RME-2-09b

I am developing my understanding that people have beliefs and values based upon religion or other positions.

How do we get to Rosslyn Chapel?

We pay for the transport from the school to the chapel! The school will organise the transport from the school to the chapel (and back) and ask the bus company to invoice us directly. Or, if the school prefers, they can pay for the bus then send us a request for repayment with a copy of the paid bus company invoice attached

What do I do if I would like to book a tour for a class?

Please contact Beccy Angus, Learning and Outreach Officer, for information, date availability and booking.

Email community@rosslynchapel.com or call 0131 440 2159.

Current dates are:

27th October

10th November

24th November

8th December

12th January

26th January

9th February

2nd March

16th March

30th March

This year we will also having the option of booking the Thursdays in between these dates – Once they are full, if there is additional interest. This could open an additional 8 dates, please check www.rosslynchapel.com for undated information.

What additional resources are there for a group coming to the chapel?

Within the visitor centre you will find a number of different activities. There are story hoods relaying some of the stories from the chapel. A build your own arch, so you can learn how the chapel roof was constructed. Building blocks to create your own chapel. A Rosslyn Chapel ropes and ladders game and some colouring in sheets showing the different carvings/characters within the chapel and interactive touch screens where you can zoom in on the most ornate carvings to see them in virtual reality.

Please get in touch if you would like -

- Self-guided tour, leaders notes - a guided tour of the chapel you can use pre or post visit for additional information
- A mini internal and external tour – this is a script you can use internally and externally to give the class information.
- Study packs for level 2/3 – these were written with the RME curriculum in mind. They are broken down into short sections so that you can choose your particular area of interest. These can be used pre and post visit.

On confirmation of your booking you will be emailed with –

A historically accurate play about the chapel and some of its stories that your class would be able to simply read through or perform. They would then be able to use the information for related activities.

Ideas and resources for related activities.