



DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

Learning visits for schools and youth groups

What we offer for groups of under-18s visiting Durham Cathedral



Timings and structure

Our typical visiting times for groups of young people are 10am – 2:15pm.

Cathedral visiting hours are generally Monday to Saturday 9:30 – 4:30pm. On Sundays the church is open for worship and prayer, general visiting hours are 12 noon - 3pm.

You are welcome to explore the Cathedral at your own pace with your group during visiting hours when not timetabled with our guide.
Please ensure all under-18s are supervised at all times

Typical timings for learning visits

Amount of guided sessions		10:00am	10:15am - 11:15am	11:15am - 11:30am	11:30am - 12:30pm	12:30pm - 1:00pm	1:00pm - 2:00pm	2:15pm
3 guided sessions		Check in	Explore	Break	Discover	Lunch*	Challenge	Depart
2 guided sessions	starting at 10am	Check in	Explore	Break	Discover	Lunch*		
	starting at 11:15am			Check in	Explore	Lunch*	Discover	
1 guided session	Start times at 10:15am, 11:30am, 1:00pm, or 2:15pm.							

**Guided groups receive priority on our limited indoor lunch spaces.*

Each of our topics has 3 possible sessions:

Explore	An interactive tour of Durham Cathedral, tailored to your chosen topic. This session is included when you book one or more guided sessions.
Discover	A hands-on workshop to study your chosen topic. This session is included when you book 2 or more guided sessions.
Challenge	A hands-on workshop that involves either creativity, or collaboration, or both! This session is included when you book 3 guided sessions.

If you are bringing a group of over 60 young people, please contact us about our split day rates. This is particularly beneficial for those combining a visit to the Cathedral with another site in Durham.

Best suited to Key Stage 1 and under (under 7 years old)

Meet St Cuthbert

Session	Included in	Curriculum Areas
Explore St Cuthbert's final resting place with a guided tour, spotting his influence on Durham Cathedral.	1 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, History</i>
Discover the story of St Cuthbert by acting it out with costumes and props in our Learning Centre.	2 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, History</i>
Challenge your group to create "stained glass" windows to take home to remember your visit.	3 guided sessions	<i>RE, History, Art & Design</i>



Durham Cathedral as a Place of Worship



Session	Included in	Curriculum Areas
Explore Durham Cathedral as a place of worship on a guided tour, spotting the key features of a church.	1 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, History</i>
Discover expressions of Christian belief by handling artefacts, texts and vestments.	2 or more guided sessions	<i>RE</i>
Challenge yourself to create a clay shell and remember Durham Cathedral's importance as a site of pilgrimage.	3 guided sessions	<i>RE, History, Art & Design</i>

Best suited to Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 years old)

St Cuthbert's Life and Legacy

Session	Included in	Curriculum Areas
Explore St Cuthbert's final resting place and investigate his lasting legacy at Durham Cathedral on a guided tour.	1 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, History</i>
Discover stories about Cuthbert through teambuilding activities (outdoor option) OR group drama.	2 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, English, RSE</i>
Challenge yourself to create a keyring, inspired by a visiting Cuthbert's treasures in the Great Kitchen.	option for 3 guided sessions	<i>RE, Art & Design, History, English</i>



Why do people come to Durham Cathedral?



Session	Included in	Curriculum Areas
Explore our local heritage through stories of the Northern Saints on a guided tour of the Church.	1 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, History</i>
Discover Durham Cathedral as a site of pilgrimage, by joining characters across time in a role-playing game.	2 or more guided sessions	<i>RE, History, RSE</i>
Challenge your group to create an artwork to symbolise the wide range of visitors to Durham Cathedral today.	3 guided sessions	<i>RE, Art & Design</i>

How to build a Cathedral

Session	Included in	Curriculum Areas
Explore key features and purposes of Durham Cathedral using 4 figure grid references on this guided tour.	1 or more guided sessions	RE, History, Geography
Discover more about the fabric of the cathedral with a carousel of hands-on activities.	2 or more guided sessions	History, Geography, Art & Design
Challenge your inner stonemason to carve a mini cathedral out of soap to take home with you.	3 guided sessions	Art & Design



Music at Durham Cathedral



Session	Included in	Curriculum Areas
Explore Durham Cathedral on a guided tour looking at music and the role of the organ as part of the worship.	1 or more guided sessions	Music, RE, History, Design & Technology
Discover the importance of singing as part of the worship, wear a cassock and process into the Church.	2 or more guided sessions	Music, RE, History,
Challenge your group to create a musical performance, inspired by the patterns and sounds of our bells.	3 guided sessions	Music, RE, History, Design & Technology

Best suited to Key Stage 3 (11 - 14 years old)

Why is Durham Cathedral Significant?

Designed to support the locally agreed RE syllabus

Session	Included in
Explore Durham Cathedral's significance as a place of faith, pilgrimage, architecture and history.	1 or more guided sessions
Discover key Christian artworks in the Church and how they express Christian stories.	2 or more guided sessions
Challenge your group to uncover Durham Cathedral's significance over time and space through a carousel of hands-on activities.	3 guided sessions



Monk Life: Normans to the Reformation

Designed to support the History National Curriculum



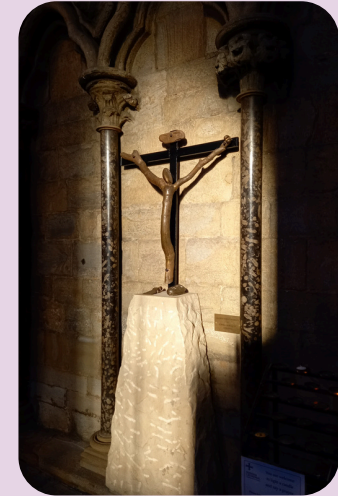
Session	Included in
Explore why the Normans built Durham Cathedral on a guided tour, spot medieval decoration and investigate the impact of the Reformation.	1 or more guided sessions
Discover how medieval monks lived at Durham Cathedral in original monastic spaces, including the Great Kitchen.	2 or more guided sessions
Challenge yourself with quill and ink to create a bookmark inspired by the collections of the monastic library at Durham.	3 guided sessions

Best suited to Key Stage 4 and over (15–18 years old)

Christianity at Durham Cathedral

Designed to support GCSE RE

Session	Included in
Explore how the sacred spaces of Durham Cathedral express diverse Christian beliefs and practices, and serve its communities first-hand.	1 or more guided sessions
Discover more about Holy Communion and baptism in Durham Cathedral with locations and objects used in worship.	2 or more guided sessions
Challenge yourself to see how faith is lived out with a Q&A session with a member of clergy (<i>subject to availability</i>).	3 guided sessions



Norman England and Durham Cathedral



Designed to support GCSE History

Session	Included in
Explore Durham Cathedral's Romanesque architecture and how the Normans wrestled with political and spiritual power in the North.	1 or more guided sessions
Discover more about how Benedictine monks brought changes with them to Durham as part of Lanfranc's wider reforms.	2 or more guided sessions
Challenge yourself to a guided walk on the riverbanks surrounding the cathedral to examine the impact of Durham's geography on its story.	3 guided sessions

Topics for over-16s

Topics include History, Religious Studies, Travel & Tourism and teacher training opportunities.

Over-16s groups may also be interested in free events by the Durham Cathedral Institute, which hosts discussions of vital political, social, ethical and spiritual issues, with and for the people of the North East.

You can find upcoming events here: <https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/explore/durham-cathedral-institute>



Other learning opportunities

Attend a service

Joining a service at the Cathedral is a fantastic way to get your young people to experience authentic Christian worship in a wonderful setting. You can actively participate, or observe and learn. Let us know if this is something you would like to explore via our enquiry form.



Climbing the tower offers breath-taking views of the city below. There are 325 steps on a narrow winding spiral staircase that take you to the top. We welcome learning groups, but there are additional restrictions on how we manage larger groups of young people. Contact us via our enquiry form for more information.

Climb the central tower