Leicester Cathedral is a sacred place at the physical heart of our city and county. While the earliest mention of it is some 900 years ago, it is built on the site of a Roman temple and has been at the centre of public and religious life here for centuries.

Visitors from all around the world come to the Cathedral to visit the tomb of King Richard III, and many comment on the special welcoming atmosphere and sense of spirituality and history that they find. People gather here in joy and in sorrow, for worship, celebration, music, arts events and debate.

We welcome visitors and learners of all faiths and none, all ages, cultures and backgrounds, to experience what Leicester Cathedral has to offer.

We use different pedagogical approaches to encourage learners to explore and grow in understanding of this ancient and vibrant Cathedral church. Presentations and activities are adapted to suit the ages of students. Our experienced team has devised programmes both matched into and attuned to the needs of both Leicestershire County’s and Leicester City’s current Agreed Syllabus.

Autumn 2022

Leicester Cathedral is a busy place, so we advise you to book your visit with as much notice as possible.

For bookings or further information please email us at CathedralBookings@LeicesterCofE.org and please include your name and phone number.

School visits are possible between 09.30 and 15.00 and are bookable for Tuesdays and Thursdays.

While the Cathedral building is closed for renovations until autumn 2023, these will take place at St Mary de Castro, which is located nearby next to Castle Gardens.

Visits to the King Richard III Visitor Centre can be booked via the Visitor Centre at kriii.com.

The mediaeval Guildhall and other museums are also within easy walking distance.

For solely Cathedral visits and activities, and any enquiries, please email us at CathedralBookings@LeicesterCofE.org and please include your name and phone number.
Programmes

Faith, worship and belief
KS1, 2 & 3
An opportunity through experiencing the building, with all its rich imagery and tradition of prayer, to explore what Christians believe and how they express their faith. Topics covered include:

- Christian symbols, prayer, the importance of the Bible, stories and Christian images in Art.
- 2 ½ hour (max) interactive session
- Cost £3.50 per pupil

The heart of the Christian faith
KS1, 2 & 3
Using the service of Holy Communion as a starting point, this short video with accompanying classroom materials and a follow up online session with a member of the clergy unpicks some of the fundamentals of Jesus’ teaching and the symbolism and practice of Christian worship.
- 2 ½ hour (max) interactive session
- Cost £40 per lesson

Advent to Christmas
KS1, 2 & 3
A thorough exploration of the meaning to Christians of the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, through story, symbols and music, and the building itself. This is perfect for the autumn term and could easily be combined with elements of the Faith, worship and belief modules.
- 2 ½ hour (max) interactive session
- Cost £3.50 per pupil

Experiencing Easter
KS1, 2 & 3
An interactive exploration of Holy week, in the church building, walking the journey from Palm Sunday to the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday. Perfect for the Spring Term.
- 2 ½ hour (max) interactive session
- Cost £3.50 per pupil

King Richard III
KS2 & 3
Because King Richard’s tomb is inside our Cathedral building, visiting in person is not possible this year. However our online or in person offer includes delving into both Richard’s place in history and the reburial project, using video footage of that event and expertise from those who were involved plus some classroom materials.
- Bookable by lesson – available either online or in person if we visit you
- Cost £40 online, £60 in person

Godly Play
KS1 & 2
Godly play is an imaginative and interactive approach to spiritual nurture through story, wondering and play. A trained member of the Cathedral team would join your class for a session by Zoom or Teams. Please contact the Cathedral if you would like more detailed information.
- Bookable by lesson at a cost of £60

Big Questions
KS3, 4 & 5
This is an opportunity for a class to engage with a trained minister or priest on some of the most difficult or thorny faith related issues. The Cathedral team are willing to put themselves in the ‘hot seat’ either to discuss a particular topic or topics. Some suggestions might be what happens when we die, why does God allow suffering, is the Bible true and what is Jesus’ role in Christianity. If you are interested please get in touch.
- We can mail you further ideas, and we provide classroom materials to accompany this module.
- Bookable by lesson – available either online or in person if we visit you
- Cost £40 online, £60 in person

The Future

The Cathedral is temporarily closed for renovation works, and we are currently operating out of St Nicholas Church, next to the Jewry Wall Museum, for much of our worship, and out of St Mary de Castro for educational visits and other activities.

Both are gems – St Mary de Castro is an ancient medieval church dating from 1107 and St Nicholas dates from Anglo-Saxon times and is one of the first stone churches in the country.

Our exciting building project Leicester Cathedral Revealed, when finished in autumn 2023, will among other things ensure full accessibility and provide a proper classroom space for us to welcome you.

We have exciting plans for a bigger and more diverse schools’ offer around both the History and RE curricula, which we shall gradually develop. Please mail us if you would like to keep in touch over these, and do keep an eye on our website and social media.

“’The students and I found the experience very worthwhile, with reference to their learning throughout.’
Ashby Secondary School

‘The staff were so helpful and enthusiastic.’
Glenfield Primary School

“The children loved the experience and are keen to carry out follow-up work in school.”
Cranford Kerrial Primary School

“Our visit has provided a wonderful springboard for our learning this term around Christianity.”
Rowlatts Hill Primary School

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