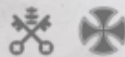


# Learning and Education at Norwich's Roman Catholic Cathedral



## The Cathedral of St John the Baptist






# Contents

1. ....Learning Vision at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist
2. ....Syllabus Links
3. ....Key Stage 1 Sessions
4. ....Key Stage 2&3 Sessions
5. ....Booking Information

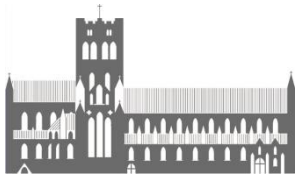
*"There was a definite  
sense of awe and  
wonder!"*

*Year 2 Teacher*



 @TheNarthex  
 @stjohnscathedral\_narthex  
 @thenarthex





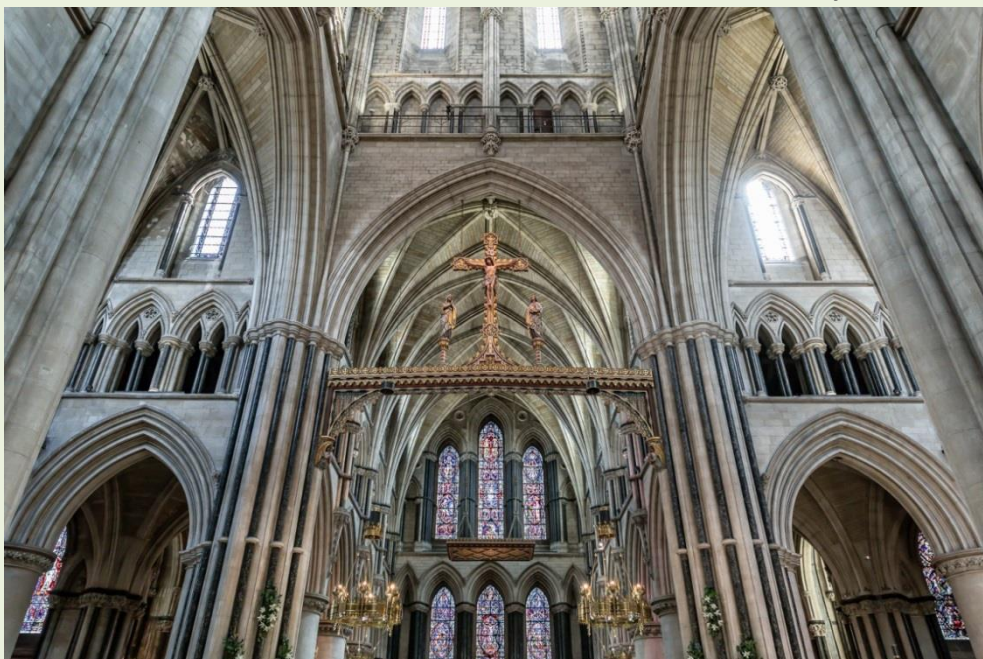
## Our Learning Vision at Norwich's Roman Catholic Cathedral; the Cathedral of St John the Baptist

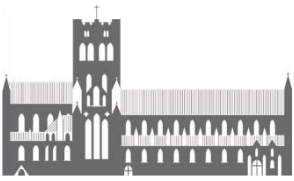
The Cathedral of St John the Baptist (St John's) in Norwich is an inspirational resource for learning right across the curriculum. Not only does a visit to the Cathedral support teachers and pupils in their cross-curricular programme of study, it also enables their wider cultural, artistic, and spiritual growth. A visit to the Cathedral cannot be replicated in the classroom; it has to be experienced within the building itself, to enable pupils, teachers and accompanying adults to learn from and about St John's and to connect with it as a place of prayer, reflection and hospitality.

The sessions and events available at St John's Cathedral focus on R.E., but also contain elements of Art History, Science and Citizenship. This trail can be pitched at a variety of levels, appropriate to age and Key Stage. In developing this programme we have attempted to tie it in with QCA standards and the best practice recommended in The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Norfolk (2012). But further than this, the Cathedral also offers a

unique ambience: it is a place in which learners can begin to experience and consider the value of contemplation and reflection and in which they may actively engage with a living and worshipping community. By experiencing this living community at St John's, a visit can reinforce a key attitude emphasised by the Agreed Syllabus: respect for all. For instance, pupils are encouraged to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and to be sensitive and respectful to worshipers and to the building itself.

The idea of listening is central to our learning approach here at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist. In order to contemplate, reflect and experience a sense of wonder within such a special place as St John's we must 'listen' – slow down, be quiet, reflect – for what lies therein, and beyond. In particular, the educational work of the Cathedral with schools aims to foster an understanding of the role that the Cathedral (and the people connected to it) plays both within the community of Norwich and beyond.





## Our Learning Vision and Syllabus Links



Implicit in the learning programme is the understanding that Christianity is an active faith and that Christians are called to care for one another, for the international community and for the world around them. In this sense, the beliefs that Catholics hold significantly affect their outward relationships. This can be witnessed through a visit to and experience of St John's Cathedral. The symbolic art and architecture of the building conveys a sense of love, tolerance and inclusiveness, as do the ways in which people worship. This lies at the very heart of the Christian faith.

Such an approach requires a whole raft of skills, many of which fall within the remit of Citizenship. The key skills of empathy, listening and co-operation are fostered with in our learning programme. Additionally, further skills of investigation, interpretation, reflection, evaluation, expression, communication, negotiation and participation can be reinforced by engaging with the Cathedral of St John the Baptist.

*The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Norfolk* recognises that places of worship represent important facets of pupils' religious, historical, social, architectural, artistic and musical heritage and have great potential as cross-curricular educational resources. We can use the diagram below to summarise these benefits. In order to activate such an appreciation and to enable learning, we offer opportunities that are:

- Participatory and enquiry-based
  - Multi-sensory
  - Student centred
1. Participatory and enquiry-based: To engage pupils fully in learning, we want to encourage them to find answers about the Cathedral, through our carefully directed questions and invitations for dialogue so that pupils are not just recipients, but part of an exchange in learning.
  2. Multi-sensory: Within any group there will be a range of learning styles. In order to encourage effective learning across the whole group we seek to work holistically wherever possible, engaging a range of senses.
  3. Student centred: Central to our approach is the importance of relating what we do to the pupils' own experiences, and of acknowledging the value of their contributions at every opportunity. An inclusive approach – entirely consistent with the aspirations of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist as a whole – means we never assume knowledge, and always attempt to offer clear, concise definitions and explanations.

Above all we aim to nurture a sense of belonging and enjoyment for all who visit St John's.





## Learning at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist

St John's Catholic Cathedral welcomes schools of all kinds to enjoy engaging educational sessions and experience a memorable day which fulfils your learning objectives. We provide visits which enable the pupils to have fun and discover the awe-inspiring Cathedral space.



*"We would like to express our sincere thanks for making the children feel special - everyone had a really enjoyable day."*

KEY STAGE 1 TEACHER

*"Thank you once again for an absolutely wonderful day. The feedback from both our pupils and the accompanying staff was resoundingly positive, with everyone saying how much they'd enjoyed themselves."*

KEY STAGE 2 TEACHER



### ✂ ✂ Key Stage 1 Sessions

#### 'My Cathedral Journey'

Explore the Cathedral space on a guided journey discovering the shapes and decorations of the building that make it special. Look at objects in the Cathedral which are important to Catholics for worship. Find out what special parts of the building make it a Cathedral, and what signs to look for that show it is Catholic.

30 pupils maximum, 45 minutes. £2.50 per pupil. Lunch/snack space available.

#### 'My Cathedral Journey with Stained Glass Window Stories'

The above session is complemented by a teacher-led trail which we provide, through which pupils can look more closely at the beautiful stained glass windows and hear the stories and images of these vibrant works of art.

60 pupils maximum. The two sessions (45 mins each) are completed as a carousel timetable of two groups, swapping in the middle for a 45 minute lunch break. 2.5 hours. £4.50 per pupil. Lunch/ snack space available. A third 45 minute craft session '**Making Suncatchers**' can be added for £1 per pupil which is an add-on to the Stained Glass Window Stories trail.



## Key Stage 2 and 3 Sessions

### 'Symbols and Sacraments'

Discover the hidden meanings of features of the Cathedral's architecture, and the areas of the Cathedral that signify the special events in a Catholic's life. Explore the mysteries of the sacraments which form the religious journey. The session is led by an educational staff member and invites pupils to ask questions and reflect on the Catholic faith.

*30 pupils maximum, 45 minutes. £2.50 per pupil. Lunch/snack space available.*

**Add a self-guided Stained Glass Window Stories trail** (details above) – 45 minutes, 30 pupils maximum, additional £2 per pupil.

### Add a guided 'Tower Top Tour'

A look behind the scenes up a spiral staircase and to the top of the tower, seeing an incredible view of the city of Norwich, stopping at several areas of the building along the way. Not for the fainthearted; 230 steps and heights. This session is also ideal for local history or geography.

*25 pupils maximum, 45 minutes. Additional £2.50 per pupil. Not wheelchair accessible, weather permitting.*

*The two/ three sessions (45 mins each) are completed as a carousel timetable of two/three groups, with a 45 minute lunch break. 2.5/3.25 hours. If all three sessions are booked on one day the cost is £5.50 per pupil.*

## Useful Information

Most school events usually begin from 11am. If you would like to bring your school group to 10am mass before the event, this can be organised.

Bespoke sessions with different learning aims, timings and themes of focus can be arranged. Stained glass trails, dragon trails and garden trails for key stage 1 and 2 are available at £2 per pupil when a self-led visit is booked.

Self-led visits with no extras are free of charge, but **booking is essential**.

We can also organise a linked visit with the synagogue across the road from us which is perfect for comparing religions and considering the roots of Christianity in Judaism.

Please call Julia on 01603 724381 or email [heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

Teachers are welcome to do a pre-visit.





## Booking Information for schools or groups

### General

Bookings will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. Should availability be restricted then schools or groups will be put on a waiting list and advised as appropriate.

The Cathedral Dean has the right to cancel any arrangements without prior notice. In this circumstance every effort will be made to reschedule your visit.

### School contact

When making a booking please do so through the school office so contact is made easy.

Teachers are busy and are of course difficult to be contacted throughout the day.

### Cost

School sessions cost between £2 per pupil for a self-guided visit with trail, to £5.50 per pupil for a three-session visit with lunch break. A full price list is available by emailing [heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk) Self-guided visits with no extra trail/resources are free of charge but must be booked in advance.

Please make cheques payable to: Cathedral of St John the Baptist Trust and send to the above address or by BACS to: Nat West Sort Code: 60-15-31 Acc No: 69563721 Please enter the invoice number as the payment reference Payment terms: on receipt.

VAT Registered No: 107 3442 42

### What to do on arrival

Report to the office in The Narthex which is situated off the corridor, to the right, when you enter through The Narthex entrance. The Narthex itself is accessed from the Earlham Road entrance. A member of staff will show you where to take the group. Please note there is no coach parking at the Cathedral.

### Photographs

Photography is permitted in the Cathedral but please bear in mind the privacy of others worshipping. Please do share photographs of your visit with us by email to [heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

### Safeguarding

The clergy, staff and volunteers who work at St John's Cathedral adhere to safeguarding

policies of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales as administered by the Safeguarding Team for the Diocese of East Anglia. Appropriate recruitment checks are carried out and processes are in place for the reporting and management of any concerns.

### Special Requirements & Considerations

It is important that you advise the Cathedral staff in advance of any special requirements you may need to support your visit. This could include visitors with a disability, phobia, parent-child support, etc.

Please be cautious, particularly if you have a distance to travel, that the pupils are aware there is no break in the tour and that it can be quite a long time before they have anything to eat and drink so ensure you have had a snack on the coach before arriving.

### Cathedral Shop

There is a shop in The Narthex which is available for groups and pupils to visit either during lunchtime or at the end of the visit. The shop sells a wide range of religious items, books, cards, fair trade products and locally crafted goods. Open Tues - Sat.

### Site cleanliness

It is important that your group leaves the site as clean and tidy as found. It would be appreciated if the group leader checks the toilet facilities before leaving and that the bins provided are used.

### Fire safety

A member of Cathedral staff will advise the group leader of Fire Evacuation procedures and staff will be available to assist with any problems. If the alarm sounds when there has not been an announcement that it is a test, all visitors and staff are asked to leave through the nearest fire exit and assemble either across Earlham Rd in the synagogue car park, or in the Cathedral car park by Unthank Rd.

### Inclement weather

Please add [heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:heritage@sjbcathedral.org.uk) to your school closure alerts in the event of inclement weather.

