

Information for Schools

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Introductory Note

The Black Watch Castle and Museum aims to offer a **world class learning service** to schools with the purpose of encouraging learning about the role of The Black Watch within war and conflict. The Black Watch recruiting area encapsulates Angus, Dundee, Fife and Perthshire and so has particular relevance to pupils in these counties.

A visit to Castle and Museum includes:

- **activities led by a trained Museum professional**
- **interacting with the Museum collections**
- **a 2-for-1 admission voucher for all participating pupils**

We are dedicated to providing the best quality resources in order to help pupils learn from our collection. Our learning programmes are focused on the collection that is the heart of The Black Watch Castle and Museum. The wonderful benefit of involving Museums in education is the **opportunity for students to handle and study primary source material and develop investigative skills**, and this is the core of the educational programme at The Black Watch Museum.

We are very keen to develop a programme that will benefit schools as much as possible and with that in mind we would welcome any **feedback, advice or suggestions** you might have and hope to work with teachers to make sure we maximise the potential of the Museum collections in this area.

The recent redevelopment of The Black Watch Castle and Museum included the building of an extension which now houses a **purpose-built Education Room**.

Please read over this document and then fill out a booking form (downloadable from our website in Word format) and return to Rebecca Berger, Learning and Audiences Officer at the Museum.

The Black Watch Castle and Museum

The Black Watch Castle and Museum reopened in June 2013 after a £3.5 million redevelopment. With its brand new, accessible and interactive displays, along with new educational facilities including a bespoke classroom, the Castle and Museum is a great place to bring your school group.

The Collection and Displays

The Museum tells the story of The Black Watch from its origins in 1725 up to the amalgamation of the Scottish regiments in 2006, continuing on to the new Black Watch battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

There are displays relating to the following periods and conflicts:

- Early Years (1725-1745)
 - War of Austrian Succession (1745)
- French Wars (1745-1815)
 - North America (1756-63 and 1776-83)
 - India (1799)
 - Egypt (1801)
 - Peninsular War (1807-1814)
 - Quatre Bras and Waterloo (1815)
- Empire (1815-1914)
 - Crimean War (1854-56)
 - Indian Mutiny (1857-58)
 - Ashanti (1874)
 - Egypt and Sudan (1882-)
 - Boer War (1899-1902)
- **First World War (1914-1918)**
- **Second World War (1939-1945)**
- Post War (1945-2006)
- 3SCOTS (2006-present)
 - Afghanistan (2009-)

There are further thematic displays relating to:

- A Day in the Life of a Soldier
- The Black Watch and the Royal Family
- Sons of the Black Watch
- Orders, Medals and Decorations
- Remembrance

There is also a temporary exhibition space in which there will be three new exhibitions each year.

The Black Watch Castle & Museum

Balhousie Castle
Hay Street
Perth PH1 5HR

T: 01738 638152

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Visit Structure

Led session: 10:00am-12:15pm

Time	Activity	Location
10:00	Arrival, introduction	Education Room
10:15	History Hunt	Second World War Gallery
11:00	Memorial Wall Ceremony	Castle Grounds
11:05	Uniforms and Equipment	Education Room
11:45	Prisoners of War	Education Room
12:15	Conclusion	Education Room
12:15-2:00	Free use of time for looking around rest of Museum or for post-visit activities from pack	Education Room, Museum

Second World War Activities

History Hunt

Time: 45 minutes

Curriculum Links: SOC 2-02a

Pupils will be provided with a worksheet to complete in the Second World War gallery which will encourage their inquiry and reading skills. The answers will be reviewed at the end and further stories and information about the artefacts shared.

Memorial Wall Ceremony

Time: 5 minutes

Curriculum Links:

The Memorial Wall project is a First World War centenary project. Every day at 11:00 the names of The Black Watch soldiers who lost their lives on that day 100 years ago are read out loud during a very brief ceremony and a cross hung on the wall for each man. Pupils will have the project explained to them and will see a visual representation of the loss of life up until that point in the War, and will take part in the hanging of the crosses. Though a FWW project, this offers an opportunity to touch on Remembrance which is relevant to the Second World War.

Uniforms and Weapons

Time: 30-45 minutes

Curriculum Links: HWB 1-20a, HWB 2-20a, SOC 2-02a, SOC 2-04a

Pupils will participate in a handling and dressing up session, examining the uniform and kit from the Second World War. We will discuss the purpose and practicality of each item and pupils will have the opportunity to handle the objects, feeling the weight of the Tommy Gun and Lee Enfield Mk 4 rifle and other equipment, and try some of the uniforms on.

Prisoners of War

Time: 30-45 minutes

Curriculum Links: LIT 2-04a, ENG 2-17a, LIT 2-18a, SOC 2-02a

Pupils will explore letters and postcards from or relating to Prisoners of War and respond. The task will encourage the pupils to empathise with those receiving letters at home and think about how friends and relatives of POWs would feel upon receiving them and what questions they would be left with.

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Outreach Service

We strongly recommend that you visit the Museum with your class. If, however, you are unable to bring your class to the Museum for a visit, we can deliver a limited number of outreach visits. Most of the activities above can be adapted for a classroom, excluding the History Hunt.

To arrange a visit to your school, please contact our Learning and Audiences Officer, Shonagh Lowerson-Head (learning@theblackwatch.co.uk).

There is a £50 suggested donation for outreach visits up to 3 hours long within a 10 mile radius from the Museum. A further donation of £0.40 per mile is suggested to cover travel expenses outwith a 10 mile radius.

Self-Guided Visits

If you would prefer to take your class around the Museum on your own, materials can be provided to help you on your visit. We can provide the worksheets for the First World War and Second World War galleries with accompanying notes. There are also Find & Tick sheets for very young visitors available from the Front Desk.

If you would like to come along for a self-guided visit, we ask that you still arrange a time for your visit with our Learning and Audiences Officer so that we can avoid clashes with other groups. This will also ensure that we have trails or worksheets available for your class when they arrive.

The normal admission fee for children will apply (£3.50 per person age 5-16). Accompanying adults will not be charged.



Visiting Information

We are open:

Monday to Saturday 9.30am–5pm | Sunday 10am–4pm
(Some exclusions apply – please contact the Museum for details)

Charges (Includes a 2-for-1 voucher for all pupils):

Visits to the Museum:

£3.50 per pupil

Outreach in the classroom:

Suggested donation £50 for up to 3 hours visit, within a 10 mile radius; add £0.40 per mile outside 10 miles

Group Size:

The Museum can accommodate groups of school children up to 30 at a time. Slightly larger groups might be accommodated pending Activity Leader availability; please enquire.

Parking:

There is a car park on site with space for a coach; booking is essential for use of this spot.

Upon arrival:

Please report to the front desk. Coats and bags can be left in the Education Room at the owner's risk. The Room will be locked if left unoccupied for any period of time.

Toilets:

Toilets are situated at the far end of the shop on the ground floor. Staff with a visiting group are asked to take responsibility for children leaving the group to visit the toilet.

Lunch/snacks:

We have a café on site that is open during Museum hours. Alternatively, a room can be provided in the Museum for children to eat a packed lunch or snack. Please let us know in advance.

Accessibility:

The Museum is situated on two floors. There is a lift that provides access to all floors. Please make the Museum aware of any access issues prior to your visit and we will do what we can to help.

Museum Shop:

There are items for children for sale in the Museum shop. If you would like to factor in time to allow your pupils to purchase something in the shop please let us know at the time of booking.

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THE GOOD GALLERY GUIDE

for visiting groups

It is the responsibility of The Black Watch Castle & Museum to ensure a safe environment for your visit. However, children on group visits remain the responsibility of accompanying teachers and group leaders.

We want you to enjoy your visit but ask that your group respects the Museum environment, which they will be sharing with other members of the public.

In the Museum:

Teachers must supervise pupils at all times. Museum staff are here to oversee a fun, easy and educational visit, but are not responsible for pupil behaviour.

During your visit children are advised:

- not to run
- not to leave the building without prior permission from a teacher/group leader
- not to touch exhibits
- to beware of areas of reduced lighting
- to beware of uneven flooring, steps and stairs
- to beware of doors closing on fingers
- not to enter any unauthorised areas - these are clearly marked
- not to go under or beyond any barriers