

First World War Workshop Information for Primary Schools



1. Introduction

The Black Watch Castle and Museum is committed to creating and delivering world class learning opportunities that will contribute to the advancement of education, arts, heritage and culture.

Our learning programme focuses on encouraging pupils to engage with and learn from the fascinating artefacts and personal stories within The Black Watch Museum. Each of our workshops incorporates relevant aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence and gives your pupils the opportunity to handle and learn from primary source materials as a way of developing their investigative, creative and communication skills.

As the original recruitment area for The Black Watch was Angus, Dundee, Fife and Perthshire, the Regiment's history has a particular relevance for pupils living in these counties.

A visit to The Black Watch Museum includes:

- Themed learning experiences led by our dedicated Learning Team.
- A unique opportunity to engage with significant artefacts from Scotland's history. These include uniforms, weapons, medals, fine art, photographs, letters and diaries.
- A complementary 2-for-1 Museum Admission Voucher for each pupil.

If your class is studying a particular topic or theme we can work together to create a bespoke activity which will meet your specified learning objectives.

To book a learning visit please complete a [booking form](#) and return to:

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2. Overview of The Black Watch Museum Collection and Displays

The Black Watch Museum is housed within Balhousie Castle, the origins of which are said to date back to the 12th Century. Raised in 1725, The Black Watch was an elite Regiment which served in the British Army for almost three centuries.

A visit to the ancestral home of The Black Watch brings this iconic Regiment's past to life and offers an insight into a range of themes including:

- How we can use primary sources to understand the past.
- The personal experiences of soldiers and their families.
- Scotland's relationship with cultures from around the World.
- The wars and conflicts which helped to shape Scotland.
- The significance of technological advances through history.
- The expression of Scotland's cultural identity in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

The Museum's exhibits relate to the following time periods and conflicts, any of which can form the focus of a learning visit:

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 (1882-6)
- Boer War (1899-1902)

First World War (1914-1918)

Second World War (1939-1945)

Post War (1945-2006)

3SCOTS (2006-present)

There are also 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



The Black Watch Museum exhibits three new displays each year. Details of current and upcoming exhibitions can be found at www.theblackwatch.co.uk/castle-and-museum/the-black-watch-museum/exhibitions/

3. Museum Visit Structure: First World War Workshop

The workshop's core activities include a visit to the First World War Gallery and the Memorial Wall within the Castle grounds. In addition, teachers can ask for one or more of the optional workshops listed below, or a period of self-guided exploration, to be incorporated into the visit.

Activity	Location	Duration
Arrival and Introduction	Education Room	10 Minutes
History Hunt	First World War Gallery	45 Minutes
Memorial Wall Project and Ceremony	Castle Grounds	5 Minutes (Ceremony at 11.00am only)
Option 1: Uniforms and Equipment	Education Room	45 Minutes
Option 2: Lance Corporal Finlay VC	First World War Gallery	45 Minutes
Option 3: Life in the Trenches	Castle Grounds	45 Minutes
Conclusion	Education Room	10 Minutes

Core Activities

History Hunt

Time: 45 minutes

Curriculum Links: SOC 1-02a, SOC 2-01a, SOC 2-02a, SOC 2-06a

Supported by a member of the Learning Team, pupils will explore The Black Watch Museum's First World War Gallery in order to locate and identify a series of important artefacts. By completing the History Hunt, pupils will learn about the experiences of Black Watch soldiers during the First World War.

Memorial Wall Project and Ceremony

Time: 5 minutes

Curriculum Links: SOC 2-06a

The Memorial Wall Project is part of The Black Watch Museum's First World War Centenary Programme. Throughout the Centenary, a cross is placed on the wall for each Black Watch soldier killed on that day 100 years ago. A ceremony is held at 11.00am, during which the soldiers' names are read out and their crosses laid at the wall. If visiting the Museum in the morning, pupils will have the chance to take part in the placing of the crosses. The project encourages pupils to think about Remembrance and why we commemorate those who have fallen in battle.



Optional Activities

Option 1: Uniforms and Weapons

Time: 45 minutes

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

Through object handling and dressing up pupils will learn about the weapons, uniform and kit used by Black Watch soldiers during the First World War. They will explore key features of the uniform's design and compare it to examples worn by The Black Watch in earlier conflicts. In addition, pupils will identify important factors which caused the uniform to evolve throughout the war.



Option 2: Lance Corporal Finlay VC

Time: 45 minutes

Curriculum Links: SOC 1-03a, SOC 2-01a, SOC 2-02a, SOC 1-06a, SOC 2-06a, EXA 1-13a, EXA 2-13a

Pupils will handle a selection of medals and decorations which were awarded to Black Watch soldiers during the First World War. They will then look in detail at the story of how one man, Lance Corporal David Finlay, received a Victoria Cross for his actions during the Battle of Aubers Ridge using drama techniques.

Option 3: Life in the Trenches

Curriculum Links: SOC 1-02a, SOC 2-02a, SOC 1-04a, SOC 2-04a, HWB 1-30a

Pupils will explore the Museum's reconstructed First World War trench and discover what it was like to be on the front line. In particular, they will think about a soldier's daily routine, food, hygiene and pastimes. In addition, according to availability, they will meet the Museum's resident First World War soldier who will talk about his experiences.



Pre and Post Visit Activities

The Black Watch Museum has created a series of activities which can be used to either prepare a class for a visit to the Museum or to consolidate what they have learned during a workshop. These can be downloaded from www.theblackwatch.co.uk/visitor-information/schools/

4. Booking a Visit

Learning visits can be booked for any weekday, either in the morning or afternoon. The duration and content of each workshop can be tailored to suit the needs of individual classes.

There is a charge of £3.50 per child (ages 5-16) to cover the admission cost for the Museum, with accompanying adults being free of charge.

Travel Bursary

Through the generosity of the [Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum](#) a School Travel Bursary is now available. This bursary is targeted at schools that may be deterred from organising a visit due to the cost of transport and whose students would most benefit from a visit to the Museum. To make an application, please complete a [Travel Bursary Application Form](#) and email to the Learning and Audiences Officer.

Self-Guided Learning Visits

If you are planning a self-guided learning visit, we still ask that you 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 upon arrival.

The admission fee for pupils will apply (£3.50 per child aged 5-16). Accompanying adults will not be charged.

5. Education Outreach Service

We strongly recommend that your class visits The Black Watch Museum as this allows pupils to access the full range of its engaging exhibits and artefacts. If this is not possible, a member of our Learning Team can visit your school.

All optional workshops detailed above can be adapted for delivery in the classroom. We can also create a bespoke session which will meet your specified learning objectives.

For outreach visits of up to 3 hours, within a 10 mile radius of The Black Watch Museum, there is a £50 suggested donation. A further donation of £0.40 per mile is suggested to cover travel expenses out with a 10 mile radius.

6. Additional Information

Opening Hours

Summer (1st April to 31st October) | Monday to Sunday 9.00am-4.30pm

Winter (1st November to 31st March) | Monday to Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm

Group Size

The Black Watch Museum can accommodate pupil groups of up to 30. Larger groups could be accommodated upon request. In order to facilitate learning, classes of 16 or more pupils will be divided into smaller groups. Please ensure that visiting groups are accompanied by one responsible adult per ten pupils.

Parking

There is a car park on site with allocated space for a coach; please indicate in the booking form if a coach space will be required.

Upon arrival

Please report to the front desk. Coats and bags can be left in the designated learning space. The room will be locked if left unoccupied for any period of time however we are unable to accept responsibility for any lost or damaged belongings.

Toilets

Toilets are situated at the far end of the Castle Gift Shop on the ground floor. Group leaders are asked to take responsibility for pupils leaving the group to visit the toilet.

Lunch/snacks

Pupils can eat a packed lunch or snack in the designated learning space. We also have a Cafe on site that is open during Museum hours. Please let us know in advance if you would like the Cafe to provide lunch or a snack for your group.

Accessibility

The Black Watch Museum covers two floors. The first floor can be accessed using the stairs or lift. Please advise of any access needs when completing the booking form; the Learning Team will do all they can to assist.

Castle Gift Shop

The Castle Gift Shop stocks a range of children's products. Please detail in the booking form if you would like to factor in time to allow your pupils to browse and make purchases.

Group Behaviour

It is the responsibility of the Learning Team to provide a safe environment during a visit. Pupils will remain the responsibility of accompanying teachers and group leaders; we ask that your group is mindful they are sharing the Museum galleries with other members of the public. Please respect the following guidelines:

- Group leaders must supervise pupils at all times. The Learning Team's role is to provide an interactive, engaging and fun educational visit however we are not responsible for pupil behaviour.
- Pupils should not run within the galleries.
- Pupils should not leave the building without prior permission from their group leader.
- Do not touch gallery exhibits.
- Be aware of uneven flooring, steps and stairs, and areas where lighting is reduced.
- Beware of doors closing on fingers.
- Pupils should not to enter any unauthorised areas (these are clearly marked) or go under or beyond any barriers.

To make further enquiries or to book a learning or outreach visit contact

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We look forward to welcoming you to The Home of The Black Watch