

WORKSHOPS / ACTIVITY-BASED SESSIONS

Please note that unless otherwise stated workshop numbers are limited to 35 pupils or one class for each workshop. All workshops and activity-based sessions take place within the Cathedral. All activities are interactive and in order to maximise learning they generally involve pupils working together collaboratively in small groups.

SIGNS, SYMBOLS AND THE CHURCH'S YEAR (KS2 / 3)

(1 ½ hours - £3.00 per pupil)

This interactive and very practical workshop is based around the Children's Vestment Collection. Pupils learn about the meaning of the different liturgical colours and the cycle of seasons and feasts that make up the Church's Year. There is an opportunity for pupils to dress up in the children's vestments (so bring your camera), find out when certain garments would be worn, learn about the meaning of Christian symbols, and then design a chasuble for their very own vicar!

YEAR 7 SPIRITUALITY DAYS

(10.00am – @1.30pm - £5.00 per pupil)

It is acknowledged that starting secondary school is a 'rite of passage' and one of the most important yet scary times of a young person's life. The activities offered are designed to contribute to the idea of making a 'fresh start'. The activities are also intended to boost confidence and reinforce the knowledge that, in God, all are accepted and loved.

Starting with a Guided Meditation, in small groups pupils rotate around nine different Prayer Stations that have been set up around the Cathedral, each with a meaningful 'hands-on' activity for them to engage in that aims to give them a much more profound understanding of the purpose of Christian prayer. The activities are all designed so that the pupils will be physically and actively engaged in a range of spiritual experiences that together serve to create a sense of belonging and acceptance, of both self and others and prepare them for life as part of a much bigger team.

Following packed lunches in the Crypt the day concludes with a Guided Eucharist by one of the Cathedral Canons. This day is for the entire Year 7 age group and is facilitated by a large number of volunteers. Spirituality Days are suitable for pupils from different faith backgrounds, or none.

PRAYER STATIONS (KS2 / 3)

(1 ½ hours - £3.00 per pupil)

This very practical session is based on the Year 7 Spirituality Days and has been designed to take your pupils on a very personal journey of their own around the Cathedral to enable them to experience for themselves the deeper meaning of prayer and why people pray. Starting with a Guided Meditation, in small groups pupils rotate around nine different Prayer Stations that have been set up around the Cathedral, each with a meaningful 'hands-on' activity for them to engage in that aims to give them a much more profound understanding of the purpose of Christian prayer. This workshop is suitable for pupils from different faith backgrounds, or none.

PRAYER WORKSHOP (KS2 / 3)

(45 minutes - 1 hour - £3.00 per pupil)

In this workshop, through a number of different practical activities pupils will be encouraged to:

- *Consider people's continual search for meaning in terms of the acknowledgment of the concept of God – a search that cuts across time, culture and religion;*
- *Think about the purpose of prayer and why people pray;*
- *Understand the five different sorts of prayer within the Christian tradition – adoration, confession, intercession, petition and thanksgiving – and when each might be used;*
- *Find out about the different objects that people have traditionally used to help them to focus on prayer – e.g. rosary beads, icons, candles;*
- *Write a prayer of Intercession for someone else – these prayers can form the basis of a prayer wall to be taken back to school for follow up discussion and work.*

THE CHORISTER EXPERIENCE (KS2)

(Approximately 1 hour. Most appropriately combined with another workshop. Cost on request)

Did you know that the tradition of singing at Blackburn Cathedral stretches back at least 500 years?

Being a Chorister provides a unique education and opens up a world of new opportunities and experiences. The Cathedral's Director of Music is always looking for enthusiastic new recruits (from aged 8 upwards) for the Cathedral Choirs and can be available to speak to your group during your visit.

The following option can therefore be offered to school groups that are interested in finding out more about music at Blackburn Cathedral as part of their planned educational visit.

- *A short presentation about the different choirs at Blackburn Cathedral*
- *A brief talk about how the organ works and a demonstration of how it sounds*
- *A tour of the Song School (including the chance to dress up as a chorister!)*

In addition, the Director of Music is always happy to speak to potential choristers about the possibility of joining the choir, and can offer informal voice tests during the visit (with the relevant consent from teachers/parents) which will just take a few minutes per child.

SEASONAL WORKSHOPS

A number of seasonal workshops are available to correspond with your programmes of study. Please contact us with specific regard to your group's needs and we can tailor most of the trails to suit.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN (KS 1 / 2)

(1hr 15minutes – depending on the age of the pupils - £2.50 per pupil)

These Stations of the Cross have been specially drawn and written for children. By 'walking the walk' and taking part in the narratives, your pupils will come to understand the events of Good Friday and why Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross is still of great relevance for us today. These Children's Stations will follow The Journey, the Cathedral's own unique set of Stations of the Cross, to enable pupils to start to make sense of these profoundly beautiful abstract paintings.

(N.B. This activity-based session is only available in the Spring Term)