

Great Hall Led Sessions and Enhanced Tours for Primary Schools

Enhanced Tours £2.00 per head (approximately 1 hour)

Our trained guides offer guided tours in the Hall and can also offer specially enhanced tours for schools that are on a limited timescale. Using props and activities discover the history of the Great Hall and former castle. (aimed from years 3-5).

Various themes are available to suit different areas of study

School Led Sessions £3.00 (approximately 2 hours)

The Lost Legends of King Arthur

This session involves a short historical introduction to the Great Hall with objects; the pupils are then introduced to some historical candidates who could have been Arthur, or for younger children a story telling about King Arthur. The main activity is a story writing session where the pupils in groups (with an accompanying teacher/helper) are given a selection of key words, a prop and a story writing guide sheet to write their own lost legend of King Arthur before reading or acting out their stories as a group.

The Chronology of Winchester Castle

Here we explore the changing usage of the Castle and the Great Hall since 1067, using a range of resources including: the architecture of the Hall, images, photographs and objects. The children become history detectives and explore for evidence of changes in the Hall. They then find our Hidden Heroes by completing the trail with a map and story book.

Myths and Legends

Firstly we will ask the children what they already know about the Great Hall and who lived and worked here over the past 1000 years? We then let the children explore the Great Hall for them to discover the hidden stories and legends connected to the various features and decoration. Each group is given a prop bag and story board to imagine and/or write their own legend. We then let each team tell their story which we then follow with the 'real' legend.

The Hero Arthur and the Invading Saxons.

This session starts with the basic history and background to the Hall, Castle and the Round Table using various props for the children. We then make a timeline and look into the historical background of Arthur. What do we actually know? Who wrote about Arthur? How can we identify these invaders and from where they originated.

We will discuss the different aspects of the sources and their reliability. Finally, we ask the children do they believe Arthur existed and what happened to the Anglo Saxons?

The Trial of King Arthur

This is a fun session using costumes and props, where the children will place the legendary King Arthur on trial. They will learn the basics and development of the court system and be introduced to methods of historic enquiry. From the evidence and witnesses they present their jury will make the decision.

“Did Arthur really exist?”

Arthur Revealed

An historical challenge for older students. Each group will be allocated one of 5 King Arthur candidates. They will study details from the information provided. From this we ask them to identify which information will strongly support their case. Each group will present their case and reveal why ‘this *Arthur*’ is the founder of this legendary figure.

The led sessions cost £3.00 per head and last approximately 2 hours. More details on the areas we cover in the led sessions and hazard awareness information is available on request.

Additional Activities

Hidden Heroes Trail - £2.00 or £1.00 alongside a Led Session

This trail can be completed in small groups with a teacher or helper and includes a map of the Great Hall with key spots, an information booklet and a question sheet. The questions are based on the information in the booklet and finding the key spots on the map, the trail explores the other heroes associated with the Great Hall. This trail costs £2.00 per trail on its own or £1.00 if alongside a led session. The pupils could be given a tour of the hall and then a Hidden Heroes trail to further explore the hall.

The Anarchy Trail - £2.00 or £1.00 alongside a Led Session

Around the Great Hall you will find information sheets about the exciting battles in Winchester between King Stephen and Empress Matilda. Unravel the clues and identify the characters from the Anarchy. Journey into the past and discover the mysteries behind their battles. Can you answer our Anarchy multi choice questionnaire?

Animal and Number Picture Trails 50p

These are easier trails for younger children. The pupils look for animals and/or number groups within the stained glass windows.

These trails cost 50p per sheet with an approximate duration of 20 minutes.

If you require any further information please send an email to: the.great.hall@hants.gov.uk

Alternatively please telephone Alex Redhead or Diane Grudgings on **01962 846476/847782**.

Coming soon: New Sessions on King Alfred, William the Conqueror and the Tudors.