



ST MARY'S
GUILDHALL

Educational Visits at St Mary's Guildhall





St Mary's Guildhall is one of the finest Guildhalls in the country, a rare survivor of the **English Civil War** and **the Blitz**. With its rich history of partying, power and propaganda, the Guildhall has acted as the centre of power in England during the **War of the Roses**, housed the crown jewels, been the prison of **Mary Queen of Scots** and hosted famous literary figures, such as **George Eliot**. See the newly unveiled medieval kitchen, one of the best preserved in the country, where feasts fit for kings have been prepared and where the poor were fed during the **Victorian era**.

In the stunning **Great Hall**, the famous **Coventry Tapestry** still hangs in its original spot after 500 years. Follow the threads of the medieval wool trade, which made Coventry an important centre of commerce and power.

St Mary's Guildhall offers a variety of **workshops** aimed at a range of ages, designed to inspire historical enquiry, ignite imaginations, and engage learners. The Guildhall is based in the heart of Coventry's **medieval quarter**, next to the Cathedral ruins and is an ideal place to learn about Coventry's fascinating history.

Workshops

Royals, Riots and Ribbons

Duration: 2 hours | Recommended for KS1/2 | Price: £5 per pupil

Join us at the Guildhall to learn about Coventry's fascinating history. This workshop shares stories of the 700 years of the Guildhall's history and how this relates to Coventry. Pupils will:

- Discover the story of Lady Godiva, how this relates to the Guildhall and use historical evidence to draw conclusions about its truth.
- Find out about important visitors to the Guildhall from royals like King James I, to authors such as George Eliot. Pupils will design their own banqueting menu for these guests using a quill.
- Learn about the textile trade in Coventry, from ribbons to wool and what happened when this trade began to decline. Pupils will have a go at ribbon weaving, wool carding and winding.

Learning objectives for this workshop:

- To engage with local history and understand its importance and connection to Britain's wider history.
- To use historical sources to draw conclusions.
- To compare the lives of Coventry's residents through history.
- To gain knowledge of the development and impact of industry in Coventry.

Curriculum links:

- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- A local history study.



Party like it's 1617

Duration: 2 hours | Recommended for KS2 | Price: £5 per pupil

Learn about food, feasting and frivolities in the Tudor and Stuart era. Led by a facilitator, your group will learn about the preparations for the feast of King James I at the Guildhall in 1617. Pupils will:

- Explore herbs in the medieval kitchen, to investigate their origins and how they demonstrated social status.
- Write their own banqueting menu with a quill.
- Learn about how social class impacted the food that was available, how international trade during these times changed Britain and how kitchen roles have developed.
- Investigate social etiquette at a banquet and learn a Tudor dance.
- Discover the importance of heraldry by making their own coat of arms and designing a crown.

- To gain an understanding of life for rich and poor people during the 1600s and compare that to our own lives.
- To use methods of historical enquiry and draw conclusions based on the evidence.
- To understand England's relationship with the wider world and how this influenced society.

Curriculum links:

- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- A local history study.

Learning objectives for this workshop:

- To engage with local history and understand its importance.
- To investigate and understand aspects of food and feasting in the Tudor and Stuart times.

The Rich, the Poor and the Hungry

Duration: 2 hours | Recommended for KS2 | Price: £5 per pupil

This workshop investigates the life of a child in Victorian Coventry. Led by a facilitator, your group will learn about why the Guildhall opened as a soup kitchen in 1861 and how destitution affected the children of Coventry. Pupils will:

- Explore food and Victorian inventions in the medieval kitchen and discover how a soup kitchen worked.
- Investigate the wool industry in Coventry and how it made Coventry the city it is today.
- Experience life as a working Victorian child by having a go at weaving, carding and wool winding.
- Discover the lifestyle differences between rich and poor children by comparing the toys children from different social backgrounds may have had and make a Victorian style toy from household items.

Learning objectives for this workshop:

- To engage with local history and understand its importance.
- To investigate and understand aspects of social life, working and living conditions in the Victorian era.
- To gain an understanding of life for rich and poor people during this era and compare these to our own lives.
- To use methods of historical enquiry and draw conclusions based on the evidence.

Curriculum links:

- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- A local history study.



A Tale of Two Queens

Duration: 2 hours | Recommended for KS4 | £5 per pupil

Investigate the life of Mary Queen of Scots, Elizabethan everyday life, and the importance of St Mary's Guildhall in the wider context of Elizabethan Coventry. Led by a facilitator, your group will debate where Mary was held, how trade changed England's relationship with the world and explore Elizabeth and Mary's dangerous relationship. Pupils will:

- Explore herbs, spices, and trade in the medieval kitchen, investigate their origins and how they demonstrated social status.
- Tour the Guildhall, exploring the building's development during Elizabethan times.
- Investigate evidence of Mary Queen of Scots stay at the Guildhall and consider sources to debate where Mary was kept at the Guildhall.
- Investigate the lives of Mary and Elizabeth.
- Be introduced to the Coventry Tapestry and Tudor symbolism.
- Explore England's relationship with the wider world via trade and commerce and the influence this had on Elizabethan society.
- Understand the impact of gender during Elizabeth's reign.
- Explore aspects of Elizabethan life.
- To use methods of historical enquiry, discuss historical sources and draw conclusions based on these.

Curriculum links:

- A study of early modern history (1450-1750).
- Understand the complexity of a society or historical situation and the interplay of various aspects within it.
- Understand the unfolding narrative of key developments and issues associated with the period.

Learning objectives for this workshop:

- To engage with local history and understand its importance.
- To investigate and understand aspects of Elizabeth and Mary's lives and their relationship.

Example Itinerary

Time	
10.00	Enter through the Mercers' Room, hang up coats and bags and introduction.
10.20	Tour of the Great Hall with an introduction to the Coventry Tapestry and the textile trades importance to Coventry. Role play what life was like as a Victorian street child.
10.40	Explore food and kitchen inventions in the medieval kitchen.
11.20	Back to the Mercers' Room to investigate Victorian toys and make a Victorian peg doll.
11.40	Investigate what job roles Victorian children had and have a go at weaving, carding and winding wool.
12.15	Questions, collect bags and leave or lunch.

Tours of the Guildhall

Duration: 1 hour | Suitable for KS1+ | £3 per pupil

Led by an experienced tour guide, you will explore the medieval kitchen, the Great Hall, its adjoining rooms, and the Coventry Tapestry. Delve into the hall's history and its role during the English Civil War and the War of the Roses. Hear stories of royal visitors, riots and the people who worked here.



How To Book

A booking form is available from our website www.stmarysguildhall.com, this can then be sent to education@noordinaryhospitality.com. If you would like to discuss a tour or workshop theme that is not currently available, please contact the education team. Information about St Mary's Guildhall's education bursary can also be found on the website.

Site Map



Frequently Asked Questions

What facilities are available?

There is a lunch space available for 20-30 pupils (depending on age), this is not guaranteed, so please book in advance. There are male, female, accessible toilets and baby change facilities.

Who are the facilitators?

The facilitators are experienced, knowledgeable members of staff who are DBS checked and have completed safeguarding training.

Do you have a Risk Assessment?

A Risk Assessment along with other pre booking information will be sent to you upon booking.

Is the Guildhall accessible?

The Education room is accessible via a ramp. The medieval kitchen is on ground level and there is a lift to the main hall. However, the spiral staircase up to the Armory is not accessible but can be taken off the tour. If your group has any additional needs or allergies, please let the education team know at the time of booking and we will endeavour to make the learning accessible for your individual needs.

Is there a gift shop on site?

There is a small gift shop available on site, since our site is cashless, goody bags can be pre ordered for education groups at a range of different prices depending on contents.

Do you offer teacher planning visits?

Yes, free teacher planning visits are available, with the option to bring an additional adult/child.

How To Find Us

Whether you are travelling by bus, coach, or train, St Mary's Guildhall is centrally located in Coventry city centre so is nearby to public transport.

By bus

St Mary's Guildhall is accessible by any bus that stops within the ring road. The following buses: 11, 55, U12, X1, and X18, all have stops nearby.

By coach

School coaches and minibuses can drop off pupils on Bayley Lane, but no parking is available on site. The nearest coach parking is at the White Street coach park, there are seven coach spaces available.

By train

If arriving by train, Coventry Station is just a short 13-minute walk to the Guildhall.

St Mary's Guildhall is located at Bayley Lane, Coventry CV1 5RN.

When you arrive on site, you will enter through the large black double doors with the courtyard in front of you. Education groups have their own entrance which is the black door immediately on the left under the archway into the Mercers' Room.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the education programme at St Mary's Guildhall, please email education@noordinaryhospitality.com and a member of the education team will get back to you.

Prices throughout correct at time of publication





ST MARY'S GUILDHALL

Bayley Lane, Coventry CV1 5RN (located next to Coventry Cathedral ruins)



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