

Knights Day at Newark Castle

Bring your KS1 class to the castle for a fun and engaging day out.

Learning Objectives:

To explore how to build and defend a castle
To learn about knights and soldiers in medieval times

Key messages:

Castles were places for lords and their families to live in.
Castles were built to keep out enemies.

Part One

Find out about the people who built and defended Newark Castle. Explore the hidden places which are normally closed to the public: climb to the top of the tower, and go underground into the debtors dungeon and the undercroft.

Activities include:

- Hot-seating Bishop Alexander the Magnificent
- Build a castle out of foam blocks and try to knock it down
- Serve Lords and Ladies at the dinner table
- Play a medieval game of Ninepins



Part Two

A knight's training started at the age of seven. First, you must become a page and serve in a Lord's household. Your class will put on their page's uniform and learn to be a knight in this lively session with three activities:

Jousting and horsemanship – Learn to ride a hobby horse like a knight, and try your hand at jousting with a foam lance.

Sword drill – Our knights must be fit and flexible and able to manage a sword. There's no fighting in this session, but lots of action!

Dancing – A knight needs social skills if he wants to impress! Learn a medieval dance to practice back at school.



Organising your day:

Knights Day is for groups of up to 35 children, from 10am to 2pm.

£7 per child. Accompanying adults go free.

Please bring a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children, to allow for small group work.

Divide your class into three groups before you visit.

All activities are facilitated by one of our Learning Team. All team members hold an enhanced DBS certificate.

Knights Day has been designed with your children's safety in mind. Our risk assessment is Covid-19 secure and allows for children to be well spaced out. Any equipment used is quarantined for at least 72 hours between groups.

We have a secure bag store for children's belongings, and you are free to eat your packed lunches in the castle grounds or under cover of the bandstand. There is a small number of toilets on site. Lunch is timetabled for 45 minutes, to allow children to use the toilets in small groups. If you would like longer, please let us know.

You will be outdoors for most of the day. Please ensure that adults and children dress appropriately for the weather.

Coaches can pull in to drop your group off either on Castlegate or Great North Road, but there is no parking available. The nearest coach park is further along Great North Road.



Booking Essential

Please book early to secure your place. Contact us on civilwarlearning@nsdc.info