



John Wesley
The Museum of Methodism
& John Wesley's House

Life in 18th century London

Learning Programme



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“As part of their school activities week Year 7 pupils at Kent College, Canterbury got in touch with their Methodist heritage by visiting Wesley's Chapel, London. The pupils have been learning about Methodism in their RS lessons this term and were fascinated to be shown 17th century artefacts including letters written by John Wesley himself. A guided tour of the house with a 18th century sour dough bake off were other elements of a wonderful day.

It is the first time that a day of this type had been run by the staff and volunteers at the Chapel and a huge amount of thought and hard work had been put into thinking through how to engage with Year 7 pupils.

A fantastic experience for all involved.”

-Kent College School Canterbury

About the Programme

This programme will bring the 18th century alive for your students.

Be guided around Wesley's House- a rare example of an 18th century London townhouse with original furniture and objects which have been here since it was built in 1778 and learn about life here at that time.

Beside his house Wesley's Chapel- is still a current place of worship and the very roots of Methodist heritage. The site will help your students understand how and why the faith was founded and how it helped to shape the political climate at the time.

Explore our museum- get up close to unique objects in our museum which will give your pupils a window into the past.

Curriculum Links

Religious Studies, Local History and Citizenship



Activities

Object handling

Your pupils will get the chance to get an exclusive look at real objects from our collection with our curator, as well as replica objects which relate to 18th century London life, travel, slavery and Methodism.

Detective time

Your class will be split into 3 groups and asked to pick an object from the museum cases which best describes a given aspect of 18th century life. They will then talk about their chosen object to the other groups and explain why they chose it.

Dressing up and tour

Your class will dress up as 18th century servants with each pupil taking on a specific job. Your guide will give pupils a task on each floor that they must complete or they will face permanent employment!

Kitchen workshop

Salt dough will be used in the kitchen to have a mini “18th century bake off”. John Wesley was very picky about what food he ate, can your pupils make something which he would be happy to have on his table?

(The salt dough use in this workshop is usually reused for other groups, if you want to take your creations home pupils will need to bring a means of transporting them. Please let us know in advance so we can ensure we have enough materials)

The Chapel and a Riot

Your pupils will be asked to look closely at the chapel and think about symbols and objects used in Christian worship. Your guide will then explain what the pupils can see and have a question and answer time.

John Wesley and other important Methodists of the time campaigned to end the transatlantic slave trade which was controversial at the time. Pupils will be instructed into re-enact the riot which happened during one of Wesley’s sermons.

Wesley’s grave

Your pupils will be taken to look at John Wesley’s grave and learn about Christian burial.

Please note...

General Points

Please be aware that the Chapel is a place of worship and should be respected.

Please also be aware that the site will be open to other visitors and the general public.

As the graveyard is outside pupils are advised to dress appropriately in outdoor weather when visiting Wesley's grave.

Access

Wesley's Chapel and Museum of Methodism are suitable for wheelchairs and disabled access; however, Wesley's House is not as the rooms are only accessible via numerous stairs. Please see the virtual tour of the house here: <http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/vhouse.htm>

Currently we have no resources for children who are visually or audibly impaired.

Fee

Free, suggested donation of £1 per child for materials cost.

Lunch Space

The Philadelphia Room has been booked for your visit.

Toilets are available to the right of the Chapel and outside the Museum near the Philadelphia Room.

Behaviour

The discipline of the group is the responsibility of the teachers and helpers from the visiting school. Staff and volunteers retain the right to terminate a visit if they do not feel supported. Please see the Teachers Pack for guidance on visiting a heritage site.

No alcohol or drugs may be brought or consumed on the site. Smoking is not permitted indoors.

Please emphasise to pupils before they visit that they must not touch or lean on the objects and furniture in Wesley's House for conservation reasons.

Timetables

Classes are split into 3 groups.

The timetables below are written for a full school day (10am-2pm), but can be adapted for half days.

Group 1	Duration (minutes)	Leader	Location
Welcome and Toilet	10	All	Museum
Intro Video	20	All	Museum
Object Handling	20	Curator	Museum
Detective time	20	Curator	Museum
The Chapel & A Riot	30	Heritage Steward	The Chapel
John Wesley's Grave	10	Heritage Steward	Graveyard
	Lunch (20)		
	Group split into 2 (for house only)		
Dressing up and Tour	20	Heritage Steward	Wesley's House
Kitchen Workshop	20	Learning Officer	Wesley's Kitchen
Shop & Exit	10	All	Museum

Group 2	Duration (minutes)	Leader	Location
Welcome and Toilet	10	All	Museum
Intro Video	20	All	Museum
	Group split into 2 (for house only)		
Dressing up and Tour	20	Heritage Steward	Wesley's House
Kitchen Workshop	20	Learning Officer	Wesley's Kitchen
Object Handling	20	Curator	Museum
Detective time	20	Curator	Museum
	Lunch (20)		
The Chapel & A Riot	30	Heritage Steward	The Chapel
John Wesley's Grave	10	Heritage Steward	Graveyard
Shop & Exit	10	All	Museum

Group 3	Duration (minutes)	Leader	Location
Welcome and Toilet	10	All	Museum
Intro Video	20	All	Museum
The Chapel & A Riot	30	Curator	Museum
John Wesley's Grave	10	Curator	Museum
	Group split into 2 (for house only)		
Dressing up and Tour	20	Heritage Steward	Wesley's House
Kitchen Workshop	20	Learning Officer	Wesley's Kitchen
	Lunch (20)		
Object Handling	20	Curator	Museum
Detective time	20	Curator	Museum
Shop & Exit	10	All	Museum

The Site

- ① Street
- ② Main Gate
- ③ Courtyard
- ④ Chapel Doorway
- ⑤ Vestibule
- ⑥ Chapel
- ⑦ Museum
- ⑧ Tomb
- ⑨ Foundry Chapel
- ⑩ Toilets
- ⑪ Wesley's House

