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# Royal Burgh of Culross

## Teacher's information



Your pupils can relive domestic life in the Stuart period at the Royal Burgh of Culross, situated on the banks of the River Forth. This ancient town, with its cobbled streets and beautiful buildings, creates a fascinating time warp. You can explore the town and visit several historic buildings, including the Palace which dates from 1597 (ten years after the death of Mary Queen of Scots). This fine building has original painted ceilings and other woodwork, and contains furniture dating from the 1600s -1700s.

The reconstructed Palace garden allows pupils to compare flowers, fruit and vegetables grown in the early 1600s with those that are popular today. Look out for the Scots Dumpy hens (traditional Scottish fowl that are now a rare breed) who live near the garden and supply eggs for the tearoom.

### **The school visit offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence**

- Guided tours of historic Royal Burgh of Culross.
- Guided tour of an historic Garden (additional activity).
- The Royal Burgh Tour includes visits to the Palace, Town House, Study and Jail.
- Possible themes: Town Life in the late 1500s; Merchants in the late 1500s; Industry in the late 1500s.
- Tours can also be adapted to suit the requirements of your class – please discuss when booking.

### **Resources for schools**

- Illustrated guidebook (for sale on site, and from the Trust's online shop).
- The Village presents the life of people in the 1500s: the Laird, merchants and poor.
- Costumes for children.
- Panels and leaflets in the Garden.

### **Planning your visit**

- To book: please contact the Culross property manager for a booking form.
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- Culross Village buildings are open for schools from Easter to October each year.
- Maximum number of pupils: we can accommodate large numbers. Please check when booking. Classes will be split into groups of up to 20 pupils.
- Access: we regret that this historic site is not suitable for visitors using wheelchairs since the roads are cobbled and there are steps or spiral stairs within the buildings. There is a video of Culross available for viewing. Please book this with the property manager.
- For other additional needs, please do phone to discuss your requirements – we will do our utmost to accommodate your pupils.
- Toilets: accessible toilets, by the café.
- Refreshments: The café is open from Easter to October. Pupils are welcome to picnic on the Village green, or in the Garden. There is a large room available for children to use, for packed lunches, during bad weather.
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors.

**For more information, visit [www.nts.org.uk/Learn](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn)**

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### Planning your visit (continued)

- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers should prepare their own RA for the visit.
- There is more information about planning a visit to a Trust site on the NTS Learn website: [http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools\\_plan.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php)
- For more information about Culross, please go to: <http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Royal-Burgh-of-Culross/>

### Charges

- There is no admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership.
- Non-members are welcome but there is an admission charge of £2 per pupil.
- Accompanying adults are admitted free.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- Membership: please apply to Culross – or go to the NTS Learn website: [http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools\\_membership.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php)

### During your class visit

- Tours of the Village and Garden are led by NTS staff.
- Please allow at least 2 hours for your visit. The Village Tour takes around 45 minutes – plus the tour of the Palace takes another 45 minutes.
- Classes will be split into groups. The number of groups depends on the classes and activities (could be 3 – 4). There may be up to 20 pupils per group. This will be agreed when booking your visit. Each group must be accompanied by a teacher/adult helper.
- Teachers are responsible for pupils and their behaviour.
- Pupils may take photos/ films of Culross – but NOT within the Palace.
- Pupils are welcome to visit the shop, in small groups and with teacher supervision.
- On arrival, please report to Reception, in the shop (signposted). Trust staff will meet you there.

### Getting to Culross

- The Royal Burgh of Culross is situated on the Firth of Forth, off the A985. It is 4 miles east of the Kincardine Bridge, 12 miles west of the Forth Road Bridge, 15 miles west of Edinburgh city centre and 6 miles west of Dunfermline. Ordnance Survey Reference: NS985859
- There is a coach park at the east end of Culross. Your driver can drop pupils at the front of the Burgh, before parking, if you wish.

### For more information and a booking form, please contact:

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Telephone: 0844 493 2189  
Email: [culross@nts.org.uk](mailto:culross@nts.org.uk)