



Greenbank Garden

Information for schools



Greenbank Garden comprises a two-and-half acre walled garden which has been divided into many small plots demonstrating various horticultural styles, and is surrounded by fine woodland and shrubberies. This attractive garden is full of interest and has been described as 'Glasgow's hidden gem'.

Beside the walled garden stands an elegant Georgian house built in 1764 by the merchant Robert Allason, from the proceeds of the tobacco and slave trades. (Two of the rooms are occasionally open for viewing.) Greenbank Garden, which has over 3,000 species of trees and plants, is open to schools all year round. The whole space is effectively an outdoor classroom.

The school programme offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:

- Walled Garden walk } Guided walks, led by NTS staff, can be adapted for all Levels and to suit the requirements of your class.
- Woodland Area walk }
- Teacher-led walks } Teachers are welcome to organise their own activities - NTS staff can provide advice.
- Seasonal walks } Schools can visit in different seasons to compare plant growth and environmental factors
- Garden Day } Either entirely teacher-led, or including walks led by NTS staff, a Greenbank Garden Day consists of curriculum-based activities in the morning, a picnic lunch, and teacher-led games and/or simple craftwork (in the garden/coach-house), in the afternoon. Worksheets, games and craft materials provided*

PLEASE NOTE: Schools and nurseries visit Greenbank Garden regularly. It is a safe, enclosed environment but our new visitors should note that there are two ponds within the walled garden (both are within their own special areas of the garden).

Resources for schools:

- Coach-house (can be booked to use as a classroom or workshop base)
- Illustrated guide book
- Curriculum-based worksheets for the garden (on booking your visit, you will be sent one set for photocopying – you may alter them to suit your requirements, if you wish)
- Materials for simple craftwork complementing the garden walks (£1 per pupil) – pupils take home their creations*
- Games e.g. skipping ropes, stilts, soft balls (may be borrowed free of charge)
- Photo Trails (may be used by pupils; must be returned to tearoom)

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk/Learn

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Planning your visit:

- To book: please contact Greenbank Garden for a booking form
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment
- NOTE: For safety reasons, please book a teacher-led class visit too (NTS staff should know that your pupils are within the garden)
- Maximum class size: 33 pupils, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 8 or 9 pupils
- Access: the gardens and coach-house are fully accessible for wheelchair users
- Toilets: fully accessible toilets are situated in the courtyard
- Refreshments: There are refreshments for sale in the tearoom, in the courtyard. Pupils are welcome to bring picnics and snacks to eat in the garden. In wet weather, you may use the coach-house (please book this when arranging your school visit).
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors but there is shelter nearby
- If using the Greenbank Garden curriculum-based worksheets, please photocopy the template(s) and remember to bring enough worksheets for all your pupils
- 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:
www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php
- For more information about Greenbank Garden, please go to our web pages:
www.nts.org.uk/Property/Greenbank-Garden/

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
- There is no charge for guided walks or for the games. For craftwork, there is a charge of £1 per pupil to cover costs
- Membership: please apply to Greenbank Garden – or go to the NTS Learn website:
www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php

During your class visit:

- Garden walks can be led by NTS staff or by the teacher (see first page)
- Greenbank Garden is open for schools all year round
- The duration of a guided walk, and/or other activities, can be agreed when booking your school visit
- A class will be split into 3 or 4 groups, depending on class size and the activity; each group should be accompanied by a teacher/school helper
- Teachers are responsible for pupils and their behaviour.
- Pupils are welcome to take photos or films of the garden
- Coats and bags can usually be left in the coach-house
- Pupils are welcome to visit the shop, in small groups and with teacher supervision.
- On arrival, please report to the admission desk in the tearoom (through the open double gates at the first archway)



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Getting to Greenbank Garden:

- Greenbank is 6 miles south of Glasgow city centre. Coach: Leave M77 at Junction 4, follow A727 signs for East Kilbride to Clarkston Toll; look out for Greenbank Garden sign on other side of roundabout. Bus: No. 44/44a, Glasgow to Newton Mearns. Local train: Clarkston station is 1.25 miles away (half-hourly service from Glasgow Central Station)
- Parking for small coaches and minibuses in car park. For large coaches, there is a safe dropping off area – check when booking your visit.

For more information and a booking form, please contact Greenbank Garden:

Property Manager/Head Gardener

Greenbank Garden, Flenders Road, Glasgow, East Renfrewshire G76 8RB

Telephone : 0844 493 2201 Email : greenbank@nts.org.uk