

What's on for schools



**Mackintosh
at the Willow**

nts.org.uk/learning



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Introduction

Learning at Mackintosh at the Willow is about discovering the stories of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Margaret Macdonald and Edwardian businesswoman Kate Cranston, through skills-based, hands-on activities.

The story of the Scottish tea room phenomenon also presents significant opportunities for all learning levels to investigate social studies, particularly the intersections of class, gender and race.

Captivate your pupils' imaginations in the only remaining Mackintosh-designed tea room in the world!



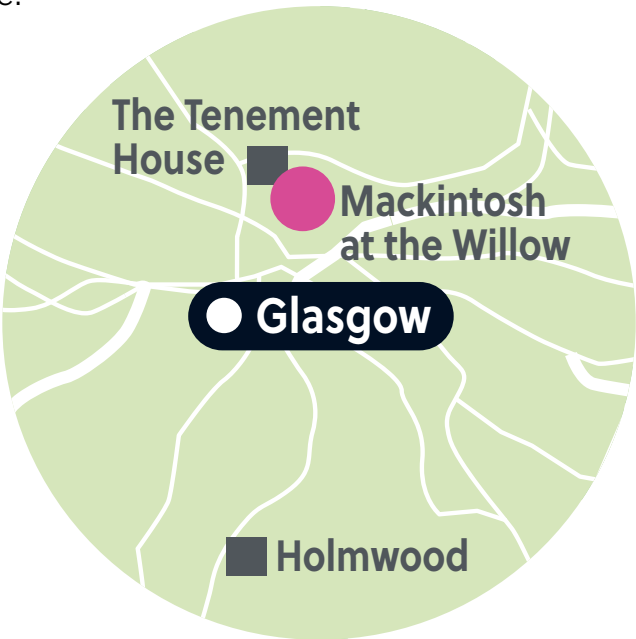
Planning your visit

By booking a school visit to Mackintosh at the Willow, your class can gain practical, first-hand experience of the architectural and interior designs of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret Macdonald, the business and hospitality acumen of Kate Cranston, and the everyday lives of Glaswegians who worked for or frequented the tea rooms.



Discover our full range of learning sessions for Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary groups. We also offer tailored sessions suitable for learners with additional support needs.

We have a range of sessions you can book for your class. Most sessions include the chance to sample complimentary tea/juice and cakes in our Back Saloon. Your group will be asked to provide dietary requirements as part of your booking. Please note we do not offer self-led visits to the site.



Where to find us

Mackintosh at the Willow
215–217 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow
G2 3EX

Charges*

Early level	Free–£6 per pupil
First level	Free–£6 per pupil
Second level	Free–£6 per pupil
Third, Fourth and Senior level	Free–£6 per pupil**
Tertiary	£5 per student**
ASN/ASL	Free–£6 per pupil
Design Your Own Afternoon Tea workshop	£10 per pupil (+ £2 per pupil supplementary charge to include short talk from one of our pastry team)

*Sliding-scale price information:

- ▶ Schools in SIMD 1–3 postcodes (including ASN/ASL schools): **Free entry**
- ▶ Schools in SIMD 4–6 postcodes (including ASN/ASL schools): **£3 per pupil**
- ▶ Schools in SIMD 7–10 postcodes (including ASN/ASL schools): **£4.50 per pupil**
- ▶ Independent/fee-paying schools (including ASN/ASL schools): **£6 per pupil**

****Excludes the Design Your Own Afternoon Tea workshop**

Costing for Miss Cranston’s Classroom

£150 per class

Special offer: Book for November 2025 or February 2026 and pay only **£88 per class!**

Please get in touch for further details.

Accompanying adults are free of charge in the following ratios:

- ▶ 1 adult:5 pupils for Primary 1–2
- ▶ 1 adult:8 pupils for Primary 3–7
- ▶ 1 adult:10 pupils for secondary schools
- ▶ Any carers/support workers visit free of charge.

Additional adults will be charged at the standard rate of admission: **£6.50**

These rates apply to schools and home education groups based in the UK. Please contact us for charges for overseas schools.





Practicalities

Booking

All visits must be booked in advance. We offer learning visits on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the year.

We strongly advise booking more than one month in advance, as availability can vary. Once you have booked, you will be sent a confirmation email with further pre-visit information. Please ensure you have read this before your visit.

How to book

Please download and complete our booking form and return it to us:
nts.org.uk/schoolform

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything further before booking, please get in touch:

Phone: **0141 204 1903**

Email: **learnMAW@nts.org.uk**

Travel subsidy and support

We may be able to provide support to enable your classes to take part in our sessions. Please get in touch with us to find out more: **learnMAW@nts.org.uk**

Cancellations & amendments

Please let us know as far in advance as possible if there are significant changes to your anticipated pupil numbers or arrival time. For any cancellations, we require at least seven days' notice. If cancelled with less than seven days' notice, we may need to charge a small admin fee.

Transport

Mackintosh at the Willow is in the heart of Glasgow with easy access from the airport, train stations, motorway and subways as well as by bus.



Coach/bus

Drop-offs can be done on Cambridge Street, which is around the corner from the entrance. Buchanan Bus Station is the closest bus station.



Train

We are a 15-minute walk from either Glasgow Queen Street or Glasgow Central.



Car

There are several car parks located nearby as well as short-stay on-street parking.



Subway

We are a 15-minute walk from either Buchanan Street or Cowcaddens stations.

Toilets

There are gendered toilets and an accessible toilet on the basement level. There are gender-neutral toilets and an accessible toilet on the second level.

Where you can eat

The learning suite is available for the eating of packed lunches if you request this space when booking. Groups planning to have lunch in the Tea Room itself must pre-book, confirm numbers, pre-order and give notification of any dietary requirements.

Visiting the shop

Pupils are welcome to visit our shop. We ask that they visit in small groups (maximum 10 pupils per group) and are supervised.

Accessibility

Mackintosh at the Willow is accessible by lift and ramp, and has a hearing loop in the shop and at the film in the exhibition. We welcome assistance dogs, and we have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants in the ratio of 1 pupil:1 personal assistant.

At Mackintosh at the Willow, we aim to be accessible for all. Find out more at nts.org.uk/accessibility, which includes images and more detailed information.

We offer two specially tailored workshops for ASN/ASL groups, but other sessions can also be adapted. Please contact us to see how we can best meet your needs.

Resources

For further opportunities to learn more, please explore our free resources available online (scan for more info).



Handling box

If your group is unable to visit the property, we offer a handling box. This can be collected from us and used by your class in your own setting. The box contains handling objects, engaging games and a selection of lesson plans aimed at Primary learners. To enquire, please email learnMAW@nts.org.uk

Sustainability

We're committed to being a responsible visitor attraction. In our workshops, we use sustainable, recyclable materials to demonstrate commitment to ecologically responsible practices.

To mitigate our environmental impact, through our social media channels and website, we encourage people to visit using public transport, bicycle or walking, highlighting our central location.

Our site is well placed to support Glasgow's Climate Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan and Net Zero by 2030 ambition by running on 98% electricity and only 2% gas.



Nursery/Early Years sessions



Silver Service

Discover the elegance of silver service in our Salon de Luxe. Pupils will learn simple, hands-on silver service techniques, hear the story of the Willow pattern, and design their own plate to take home.

Suitable for Nursery/Early Years

90 mins (45 mins activity-based tour + 20 mins tea room + 25 mins workshop)

Curriculum for Excellence:

LIT 0-04a | EXA 0-02a | HWB 0-20a

Primary school sessions

Journey of Tea

Pupils will learn about the geography of the tea trade and become part of the story by sitting in the tea room that this export ended up in. This session will also reveal the story of the Willow pattern, and pupils will design their own plate to take home.

Suitable for P2–P4

120 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room)

Curriculum for Excellence:

EXA 1-05a | HWB 1-35a | SOC 1-22a





Victorians or Edwardians?

By comparing and contrasting the Victorian and Edwardian eras, your class will learn about two of Glasgow's famous characters that cover both periods, in the very place they once worked: Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Kate Cranston. Pupils will also make their own Edwardian toy to take home.

Suitable for P2–P4

120 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room)

Curriculum for Excellence:
SOC 1-04a | TCH 1-12a | EXA 1-07a

My Mackintosh Portfolio

Pupils will examine the amazing Mackintosh architecture first-hand and build their own portfolio of Mackintosh patterns and shapes, before learning the traditional technique of stencilling and visiting our on-site exhibition.

Suitable for P5–P7

150 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room + 30 mins exhibition)

Curriculum for Excellence:
MTH 2-19a | TCH 2-11a | EXA 2-06a



**NEW
for
2025**

Miss Cranston's Classroom

Pupils will get a taste of 1903 in this extra-special living history learning experience, where they will meet Miss Kate Cranston and take part in her interactive classroom to find out if they have what it takes to work in a turn-of-the-century tea room. Pupils will practise their mental arithmetic, copperplate handwriting, Mackintosh-inspired design skills and – most importantly – the art of serving a perfect cup of tea.

Can your class pass Miss Cranston's tests, and earn a Tea Room Skills certificate to take home?

Suitable for P5–P7

90 mins (60 mins workshop + 30 mins exhibition)

Curriculum for Excellence:
MNU 2-03a | EXA 2-01a | SOC 2-03a

This new workshop was developed with Yilin Zhu and Qiyao Hu, students from University of Glasgow's MSc Museum Education, and actress Lesley Robertson. Costume, hair and make-up were generously produced by Flavia Burroni Miglio, Gilberto Miglio and Scottish Opera. Testing for the workshop was undertaken in collaboration with Golfhill Primary School, St Brides Primary School and St Aloysius Junior School.

Secondary school sessions

Mackintosh Tea Room Design

Pupils will enjoy a full building tour with access to Mackintosh-designed spaces that are not always seen by the public. They will learn about Charles Rennie Mackintosh's work in the context of Edwardian Glasgow and his patron Kate Cranston, before learning the traditional technique of stencilling.

The session also offers the chance to undertake further independent learning in our on-site exhibition about tea rooms and their design.

Suitable for S1–S6

150 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room + 30 mins exhibition)

Curriculum for Excellence:

EXA 3-03a | EXA 3-07a | SOC 3-06a

Senior Curriculum:

National Qualifications | Higher/Advanced Higher Art and Design | Creative Arts



Design Your Own Afternoon Tea

Pupils will undertake career-focused learning by comparing and contrasting hospitality businesses in 1903 and the present day. They will analyse the architecture of the premises and the social impact of the hospitality industry, while also uncovering the differences between a variety of speciality teas.

This workshop concludes with each pupil sampling a speciality tea of their choosing and our luxury cakes – before designing their very own afternoon tea. This session can also be supplemented with a talk from one of our pastry chefs.

Suitable for S1–S6

100 mins (60 mins workshop + 40 mins designing afternoon tea)

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 3-02a | SOC 3-20a | TCH 3-04c

Senior Curriculum:

National Qualifications | Higher/Advanced Higher Business Studies | Hospitality

ASN sessions

Silver Service

Pupils will learn some simple, hands-on silver service techniques, hear the story of the Willow pattern, and design their own plate to take home.

Suitable for ASN Secondary

120 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room)

Supports:

Communication | Making Connections (cognitive) | Self and Emotions | Functional Movement



My Mackintosh Portfolio

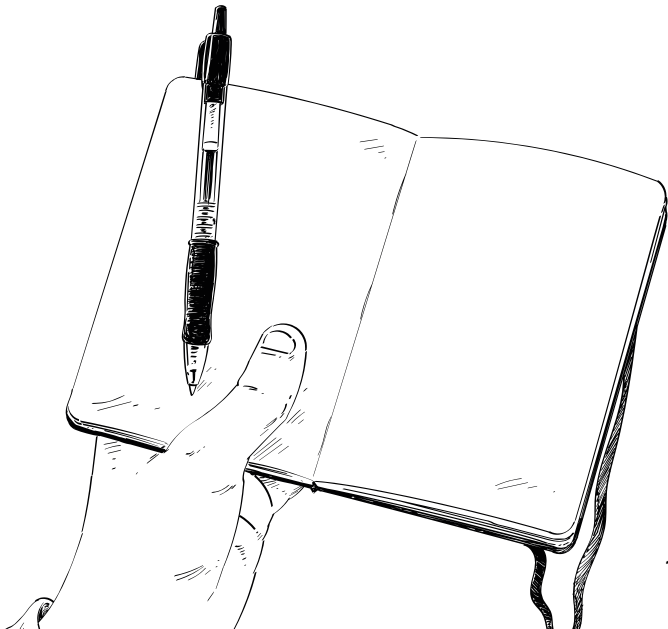
Pupils will examine Mackintosh architecture first-hand and build their own portfolio of Mackintosh patterns and shapes, before learning the traditional technique of stencilling and visiting our on-site exhibition.

Suitable for ASN Secondary

150 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room + 30 mins exhibition)

Supports:

Communication | Making Connections (cognitive) | Self and Emotions | Functional Movement



Tertiary sessions

Mackintosh Tea Room Design

Students will enjoy a full building tour with access to Mackintosh-designed spaces that are not always seen by the public. They will learn about Charles Rennie Mackintosh's work in the context of Edwardian Glasgow and his patron Kate Cranston, before learning the traditional technique of stencilling.

The session also offers the chance to undertake further independent learning in our on-site exhibition about tea rooms and their design.

Suitable for Tertiary

150 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room + 30 mins exhibition)

Supports:

Art & Design | Technology | Social studies



Design Your Own Afternoon Tea

Students will learn about differences between hospitality businesses in 1903 and the present day. They will think more deeply about the architecture of premises, the social impact of hospitality businesses, and the differences between a variety of speciality teas.

This workshop concludes with each student sampling a speciality tea of their choosing and our luxury cakes – before designing their very own afternoon tea. This session can also be supplemented with a talk from one of our pastry chefs.

Suitable for Tertiary

150 mins (90 mins workshop + 30 mins tea room + 30 mins exhibition)

Supports:

Art & Design | Technology | Social studies | Business | Hospitality



Evaluation

We'd love you to share your experience of visiting with your class.

Please complete our online survey after your visit: nts.org.uk/schoolsurvey



Our 10-year strategy

From historic castles to natural landscapes, the special places in the National Trust for Scotland's care offer exciting opportunities to enhance learning and inspire exploration and engagement. Our 10-year strategy, launched in 2022, explains our vision to provide access and enjoyment of Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. We are committed to supporting a greater diversity of people to benefit from heritage, gardens and nature across the Trust, and enabling more people to connect with our places for improved wellbeing and learning opportunities.





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SCOTLAND**

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The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410