



Learning at Ely Cathedral

Key Stage Four



Key Stage 4 Religious Studies Workshops at the Cathedral

Eucharist: Same Meal, Different Meaning (60 minutes)

How can one meal hold so many meanings? In this interactive workshop, students explore the Eucharist through symbolism, sensory activities, and theological lenses. Using hands-on objects and discussion, they discover how different Christian traditions understand the same words and why those differences still matter today.

Q&A with a Canon (45-60 minutes)

Meet a member of the Cathedral clergy to discuss any questions you might have about Christian belief and practice. You'll be able to prepare questions beforehand using our guide which will be sent to you when you book.

Sacred Spaces, Sacred Things: Exploring Seven Sacraments (60 minutes)

Discover how Christian beliefs are expressed through sacred objects, rituals and spaces in Ely Cathedral. In this hands-on workshop, students investigate sacramental objects, match them to Christian practices, and explore how worship shapes the Cathedral itself. Through teamwork and discovery, they decide which aspects of Christian worship might matter most, and why.

Three in One: Exploring the Trinity (60 minutes)

Explore the Trinity through the Nicene Creed in this engaging Cathedral tour for KS4. Students discover more about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through games and challenges along the way. Moving through the Cathedral, they will explore key Christian beliefs in an active, memorable way that brings doctrine to life.

Who Do You Say I Am? (60 minutes)

Explore the "I Am" statements of Jesus through mystery objects, creative challenges, and a discovery trail around Ely Cathedral. This fast-paced interactive workshop helps students uncover what Christians believe about Jesus through the Cathedral's art, symbolism and architecture.



Key Stage 4 History Workshops at the Cathedral

Blood, Balance, and Buboes (60 minutes)

Explore how medieval monks understood illness through the theory of the humours and early ideas about disease prevention. In this hands-on workshop, students diagnose “patients” using urine samples, investigate treatments for the Black Death, and trace how medical knowledge spread across Europe through monastic networks.

Did Henry VIII Do the Right Thing? (60 minutes)

Review the role and function of the monasteries before the reformation, then discover more about some of the implications of the dissolution of the monasteries and the reformation. You’ll get to make your own decisions about how successful the changes were for England using an interactive football goal evaluation game.

GCSE Site Study Day (3 x 60 minutes)

Spend the day discovering the impact of the Normans, the Reformation, and the Victorians on Ely Cathedral. Using key ideas, objects, and architectural features such as arches, chapels, and monastic buildings, you’ll see how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. These are offered as guide led tours, but can be self led using our resources on request. You can also opt for one tour as part of a differently focused day.

Rebel or Surrender? The Fall of Ely (60 minutes)

Step into the world of rebellion and resistance in Norman England. In this immersive roleplay workshop, students become the monks of Ely Abbey as they face the growing conflict between Hereward the Wake and William the Conqueror. As events unfold, they must decide whether to risk it all and support the rebellion, or surrender to the king.

What Did The Monasteries Ever Do For Us? (60 minutes)

A guided tour of Ely Cathedral’s famous monastic complex focusing on the contribution of the monastery to medieval society, economy, education, and healthcare. Hear about the uses of the different buildings across the years and work as a team to decide which area of life they contributed to the most.



FAQ's

At Ely Cathedral we are passionate about learning and we can't wait to share our wonderful building with you and your students. Expect to meet characters from history, enjoy hands on workshops and get creative when you visit.

How many students can I bring?

We usually like to limit student numbers to around 100. This means we are able to work with manageable group sizes to ensure that everyone has a great experience. However, we can sometimes accommodate slightly larger groups depending on the activities you choose.

Can you accommodate different learning needs?

Absolutely. Everyone is welcome at Ely Cathedral. When you complete your booking form, you will be able to give us some more information about the needs of the students you are bringing with you. We have a range of resources to support all learners, including sensory resources and a sensory room for children who might need a break.

Do you have risk assessments?

Yes. You will be able to find downloadable Risk Assessments for visits to the Cathedral in the Schools section of the Learning and Families pages of our website.

Do you offer pre-visits?

Yes. Please ask us about these when you send your initial enquiry and we will be able to arrange for a pre-visit. Please do note that we are not able to accommodate pre-visits during the weekends but can often arrange them during school holidays if you are not able to come during working hours.

Do you have materials that I can use with my students before we visit?

A number of our current workshops do have pre-visit materials that we can send you so please do ask.

Do you have a lunch room?

Yes, we are able to accommodate your students in our classroom for lunch. In the case of larger groups we may also be able to offer you an additional space or we may have to build a split lunch into your timetable to ensure that everyone can eat comfortably. If you are booking a full day with us the use of the lunch room is included in the cost of the visit.



FAQ's

Can visiting staff leave the site during breaks?

All of our staff and volunteers have up to date and relevant DBS checks. However, for safeguarding purposes we do ask that all staff remain on-site with students throughout the day. We are pleased to provide tea, coffee and light refreshments to all visiting teachers to reduce the need to leave the site.

What are the timings of school visits?

A school visit will usually start at 10.00am. A half day would usually finish at 12.00pm and a full day at 2.00pm. If you need a slightly different arrival or departure time we can usually accommodate this so please do ask. You will be sent a timetable for your day as part of the booking confirmation. Please check these timings carefully and let us know if you need to arrive or depart at a different time.

How much does a visit to the Cathedral cost?

Full day (3 learning sessions, use of the lunch room and refreshments for staff): **£7.50 pp**

Half Day (2 learning sessions): **£5.00 pp**

Self-Guided Visit: **£3.50 pp**

Use of the lunch room (if not visiting for a full day or self-guided): **£50.00**

A **10% discount** is applicable for all visits during **September** and **January**. We are also pleased to be able to offer some free places for pupil premium students. The number of places offered will be determined by the FSM % published for your school on SchoolDash. All accompanying staff and adults visit for free. There is a minimum charge of £100 for full day visits and £75 for half day visits.

How do I book?

Email us at learning@elycathedral.org with your **preferred dates** and **workshop choices**.

Once your date is secure, we'll ask you to complete a booking form, which we will use to put together your itinerary for the day. We sometimes work with other providers in Ely such as the Stained Glass Museum, Ely Museum and Oliver Cromwell's House so do ask us about joint visits.