



# Schools

# Rufford Abbey Country Park and Craft Centre Schools Education Offer

## General Information

Rufford Craft Centre sits within Rufford Abbey Country Park and is run by Nottinghamshire County Council's Arts Service. We offer a range of workshops and resources for teachers and learners. All our education workshops are led by practising artists and these can be combined with, self led activities exploring creativity outside of the classroom.

To discuss ways we can work with your school please contact

Helen Ackroyd,  
Arts Education & Outreach Officer

Tel: 01623 821312.

Email: [artsadmin@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:artsadmin@nottscc.gov.uk)

*(please state Rufford School Booking as the subject header of emails)*



## What does Rufford offer?

Rufford Abbey offers an inspirational environment away from school including the historic abbey ruins, extensive park and woodland, together with the Craft Centre with its gallery and specially designed Creative Learning Centre. The year round programme for schools and groups includes:

- A range of tailor-made one-day artist led workshops in a variety of visual arts and crafts.
- A changing programme of exhibitions.
- Self led creative activities with accompanying education pack for teachers
- *Education Mondays* offering a combination of a practical workshop linked to the current Gallery exhibition alongside exclusive access to the Gallery for your group
- Ceramics Handling Boxes that can be used either at Rufford during your visit or loaned for use back at school or booked with an accompanying artist
- Great links to the Young Peoples Arts Award.
- Rufford Craft Centre is Arts Award Welcome and can tailor your visit to the Arts Award criteria.
- Professional development days for teachers
- Tailor made activities designed specifically for your group; which can include links with extended services, Arts Mark or other initiatives and be delivered over an extended period. To discuss the possibilities please contact the Arts team at Rufford.
- Outreach arts sessions placing artists in school to deliver a vibrant programme away from Rufford.



## How do I book?

Before you ring to book your day you need to consider a few things and have the information to hand

## When can I come?

It's helpful to have more than one date in mind in case we are already booked up.

## How many students can I bring?

We can take up to 60 students for some activities but smaller groups allow students to have more time with the tutors and give greater choice for the type of activity we can offer.



## What will we get out of the day?

We will design our workshops to meet your requirements and the learning objectives that you want your group to achieve. These might include one or more of the following

- To experience a new craft and to make something with an artist
- To learn a new skill
- To meet a practising artist and understand how they work within creative industries
- To add to a current school project through a new medium
- To learn to work as an individual/group with arts practice
- To explore a team/class issue through creative practice
- To develop creative thinking through a practical activity

All of these can be explored through a variety of art forms including: Drawing, painting, paper, textiles, clay, sculpture, jewellery, photography, printmaking and more please see the 'Creative Ideas' section at the end of this pack.

## What else can we do during the day?

You can combine your practical arts workshop with self led arts activities using our free teachers' packs. The self-led packs stimulate and support work with the sculpture collection in the formal gardens, the gallery and the grounds and architecture.

The packs are available to download from

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/ruffordeducation](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/ruffordeducation)

After your booking has been arranged you will be sent a booking form. Please check all the details carefully and inform us of any changes that need to be made, sign and return to confirm. If you have booked a Ranger service self led activity you will be emailed the teachers pack and will collect the box of equipment when you arrive.

## How will the day be structured?

We will help you design your day to meet your specific needs. Many teachers like to combine different activities to give the group a varied full day programme; others prefer to concentrate on one subject.

Visiting school parties will usually be split into one, two or three groups depending on the numbers you bring and the age and ability of the group. Each of the groups can rotate around the activities you have chosen.

Below are examples of ways we could structure your day but we will work with you when arranging your booking to find the best structure for you.



**Example One – Total Group size 45, split into 3 groups of 15**

Session Times	ACTIVITY		
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
10.00 – 11.00	Artist Led Arts Activity Paper Folding	Self Led Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.; Grounds and architecture	Self Led Arts Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.: Sculpture Trail
11.00 – 12.00	Self Led Arts Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.: Sculpture Trail	Artist Led Arts Activity Paper Folding	Self Led Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.; Grounds and architecture
12.00 – 13.00	<i>LUNCH</i>		
13.00 – 14.00	Self Led Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.; Grounds and architecture	Self Led Arts Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.: Sculpture Trail	Artist Led Arts Activity Paper Folding



**Example Two – Total Group size 40, split into 2 groups of 20**

Session Times	Activity	
	Group 1	Group 2
10.30 – 12.00	Artist Led Arts Activity Clay portraits	Self Led Arts Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.: Sculpture Trail
12.00 – 13.00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
13.00 – 14.30	Self Led Arts Activity with Teacher's Pack e.g.: Sculpture Trail	Artist Led Arts Activity Clay portraits

**Example Three – Total Group size 15 working together**

Session Times	Activity
	Group 1
10.00 – 12.00	Artist Led Activity Sellotape Sculptures exploring ideas or form and casting (Arts Award part A focus)
12.00 – 13.00	<i>LUNCH</i>
13.00 - 14.00	Artist Led Activity continued

*Please note that built into each session is time allowed for the changeover of groups from one activity to the next.*



## How much will it cost?

The cost of a day at Rufford depends on the activities you choose for your day.

*For example:*

- An artist led workshop will be £250
- A self led Activity with Teacher's Pack (download) will be free of charge

## How accessible are the activities for students with learning or physical disabilities?

We use a bank of tutors who are skilled in working with learners with different needs and aim to make all our work fully inclusive. To ensure all your student's needs are catered for we will discuss details of additional needs your students may have at the time of booking.

Rufford Craft Centre, Gallery and Creative Learning Centre are situated on the first floor and can be accessed by lift (dimensions: 95cm deep, 106cm wide, door width 74cm). Loop systems are in place in the Creative Learning Centre and Seminar rooms we have an accessible toilet on the first floor. There are also accessible toilets in the main stable block within the park.

We have a number of adjustable height tables that are ideal for wheelchair users and those who need to work at a different height to a standard table.

Rufford Country Park is largely accessible by wheelchair, details can be found at:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/leisure/countryparks/disabledvisitorscp.htm](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/leisure/countryparks/disabledvisitorscp.htm)

## Can you deliver in School?

If you are interested in a practical workshop with one of our professional artists team we can plan a day within school.

This often works well for secondary schools that find it difficult to disrupt timetables. An artist in school for the day may be able to deliver several sessions to different groups within the structure of the school day.



## How do we pay?

We will invoice the school for payment after the workshop has taken place.

## What if we cancel?

If you cancel after you have returned the signed booking form you will be charged 50% of the full cost.

If you cancel within three weeks of the date of the session the full cost will be charged.

We reserve the right to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances, but would offer a full refund.



## FAQ

### How far in advance should I book?

Demand for sessions is always very high, particularly during the summer term so booking early is essential to avoid disappointment.

### Are there any lunch areas?

Limited undercover space is available for schools that have booked Artist led sessions. However in good weather a picnic in the park is always the best option. Please ask when making your booking.

### What if it rains?

Some of the self-led activities are outside. Please advise your students to dress appropriately, to bring waterproofs and wear sensible footwear.

### Can we do a pre visit?

Yes, please contact the Arts Education and Outreach officer to arrange a time 01623 821312.



### **What about risk assessments?**

Rufford Arts has risk assessments in place for the venue and the activity the general assessments are available to download at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/ruffordeducation](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/ruffordeducation) and specific assessments for any arts activity you book can be provided, but schools are advised to complete their own for the visit.

### **What about first Aid?**

All Country Parks Ranger staff are first aid qualified. However, we ask that all schools bring their own first aid kit and have at least one trained first aider with their group.

### **What is your child protection policy?**

Staff and tutors all have a CRB check and have experience in working with different groups. Teachers should ensure there is a suitable ratio of staff to students and are responsible for the group at all times.

### **Can we come on a self-led day?**

Schools are welcome on site for independent teacher led visits whether using our teacher packs or not, but it is essential to book in to ensure the site can accommodate your group on that day.

### Do we have to pay to park?

No - coaches and mini buses park for free but you must let us know how many coaches you will be bringing so the park staff can allow for this on site.



### Contact

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## Creative Ideas

These are just some of the ideas, starting points and themes our artist team can deliver. We will tailor our workshops to meet your requirements and the learning objectives that you want your group to achieve.

- ☐ Collage and mixed media
- ☐ Working from a design brief
- ☐ Paper making
- ☐ Silk Painting
- ☐ Murals
- ☐ Kites and windmills
- ☐ Sellotape sculptures
- ☐ Wire armature sculptures
- ☐ Stick sculptures
- ☐ Soap carving
- ☐ Scrap sculpture
- ☐ Plaster relief carving
- ☐ Relief stone carving
- ☐ Mud sculpture
- ☐ Chinese crafts
- ☐ Clay sculpture
- ☐ Terracotta warriors
- ☐ Paper kilns
- ☐ Stories in clay
- ☐ Animal thumb pots
- ☐ Who are you? Exploration of identity
- ☐ Natural materials
- ☐ Willow sculpture
- ☐ Teamwork
- ☐ Printmaking skills
- ☐ Pottery skills
- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Design/abstraction/innovation
- ☐ Chinese calligraphy
- ☐ Origami
- ☐ Jewellery making
- ☐ Creative clay games
- ☐ Clay surface treatments
- ☐ Recycled Plastic
- Build and use your own camera
- Bending light using lenses for drawing
- Changing faces with photography portraits
- Observation and drawing
- Raku techniques
- Quick fire tiles
- Clay heads
- Clay hand-building techniques
- Clay rocking birds
- Clay tiles
- Exploring the figure
- Your natural world through clay
- Vessels in clay
- Textures in clay
- Batik Developing a theme through drawing and print
- Developing a theme through drawing and pottery
- African batik
- ☐ Devoré
- Mosaic
- Transfer printing
- Indigo dyeing
- Decorative glass panels
- Stick weaving
- String printing
- Glass relief panels from card collages
- 2D Felt
- 3D Felt

***We look forward to welcoming you to Rufford***

## Join our arts news alert list

Keep in touch with arts across Nottinghamshire

We offer regular email updates on education activities forthcoming exhibitions, workshops, drama and music events across Nottinghamshire.

To subscribe to our newsletter send an email with a subject header ' Newsletter' to:

[artsadmin@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:artsadmin@nottscc.gov.uk)



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

### Contacting us:

- E:** [artsadmin@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:artsadmin@nottscc.gov.uk)  
**T:** 0115 977 4589  
**F:** 0115 977 2428  
**W:** [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/arts)  
**Post:** Nottinghamshire County Council  
Cultural Services (Arts)  
County Offices, Thoroton Road  
West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire NG2 5FT