

# LEARNING IN INSPIRING SPACES

## SEARCHING FOR SAXONS

- Activity** Searching for Saxons  
**Activity type** Cathedral activity  
**Duration** 90 minutes
- The children will:**
- understand that the origins of Peterborough Cathedral go back to Saxon times
  - understand about Saxon belief, art and culture
  - understand how archaeologists investigate artefacts
- They will do this by:**
- Participating in a role-play about the origins and destruction of the Saxon abbeys
  - Exploring the Cathedral looking for primary and secondary evidence of Saxons
  - Investigating a Saxon artefact
- Key vocabulary:** artefact, archaeologist, abbey, monk, Anglo-Saxons, Mercia, Middle-Angles, Northumbria, Danes, Medehamsted
- Curriculum links:** **History Programmes of Study Key Stages 1 and 2 National Curriculum in England:**  
Subject content: Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons
- SMSC (Ofsted Inspection Handbook 2015):**  
Spiritual – sense of enjoyment and fascination at the world around the  
Cultural - willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- Before the visit why not.....**
- Introduce the children to the key vocabulary
  - Ask the children to find out what an abbey and a monk is
  - Ask the children to find out the job of an archaeologist
  - Ask the children to research the names of the kingdoms in Anglo-Saxon England (do they know that the country was divided and ruled by different kings?)
- After the visit why not.....**
- Write a diary entry of a witness to the Danish attack on the abbey
  - Find out about Saxon churches in the local area
  - Find out about the Peterborough (Anglo-Saxon) Chronicle
  - Write to us – tell us about your visit and what you did on your return to school!

## Preparing children for a visit to a place of worship

During your visit, there will be people in the building to pray. A member of the Schools and Families team will introduce the children to the Cathedral but it would be helpful if you could prepare them. Below are a few ideas:

- The Cathedral is a place of worship. **What is worship?** What does that mean to you?
- **Who worships at the Cathedral?** It is a Christian place of worship, and services (group worship) take place every day. The main service takes place on a Sunday but the Cathedral is open all year (except Boxing Day) for other services or for people to visit to pray on their own or in small groups or for general visitors
- **Will we experience worship on our visit?** If you are participating in a RE-focussed activity then you will learn about Christian worship. During your visit to the Cathedral there won't not be services taking place but there will be people visiting to pray on their own or in small groups
- **What will they be doing?** Lighting candles, talking to the priests about their worries or concerns, reading the bible, sitting quietly on one of the chairs
- **How should we show respect to those people?** By moving round the building sensibly, slowly and quietly, removing a hat if wearing one, keeping to main parts of the church and away from areas roped off (these are the most holy (important) areas of the church to Christian people), by having our phones on silent and taking telephone calls outside, being mindful of people sitting on their own or in small groups or lighting candles – they could be saying prayers.
- **"I'm not a Christian though...."** All are welcome in the Cathedral regardless of whether they are Christian or not.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Cathedral and look forward to welcoming you

Alex, Judi and all the team in the Schools and Families Department



### Primary and Secondary Programme

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