



HILL *of* THE O'NEILL  
& RANFURLY HOUSE  
ARTS & VISITOR CENTRE

# Heritage Education for Schools and Colleges



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council





# A School Visit to the Medieval Capital of Ulster

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre is on the site of the medieval capital of Ulster, the location where the O'Neills ruled as Gaelic chieftains from 1305.

It is the place where the last of the O'Neill chieftains, Hugh O'Neill, was born and called home, until English forces, led by Lord Mountjoy, in 1602, overran this stronghold.

The Noble 99 gathered in Dungannon prior to the Flight of the Earls in 1607, and following their journey into exile in Rome, Arthur Chichester restored the O'Neill castle and made it his own, referring to Dungannon as the "centre" of Ulster. The plantation of this region started on the Hill and spread out from it to create the landscape that we know today.

## Our Schools' Heritage Education Programme

At Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre, we are aware that we are the current custodians of the unique heritage of this site.

The aims of our Schools' Heritage Education Programme reflect this approach as we endeavour:

- To inform and to encourage learning about the historical significance of the Hill of The O'Neill and its inhabitants by offering a wide-ranging and appropriate programme of heritage education activities to schools and colleges
- To support schools and colleges in their study of local history
- To offer heritage outreach programmes and activities to schools and colleges



## History on the Hill

History on the Hill combines history, drama and puppetry. Pupils take a tour of the permanent exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster (with study booklets for KS2 pupils/a Big Book for KS1 pupils).

There follows an exploration of the Hill of The O'Neill, followed by either a drama workshop (KS2) or a specially written puppet show (KS1) which continues the themes of the exhibition. History on the Hill runs for one week in October.

There is one 2½ hour session each day beginning at 10.00am. This programme is suitable for KS1 (P3/4) and KS2 pupils.

### Aims

#### Key Stage 1 pupils will:

- Begin to understand historical facts relating to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster
- Learn about historical figures featured in the permanent exhibition
- Watch a puppet show in order to learn about life in the past on the Hill of The O'Neill

#### Key Stage 2 pupils will:

- Engage with historical facts relating to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster through a guided tour of the permanent exhibition and the Hill of The O'Neill
- Individually, and in small groups, make a study of the exhibition and complete pupil booklets
- Participate in a drama activity which furthers their knowledge of the history of this period

### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy:  
Talking and Listening;  
Reading; Writing

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC:  
Being Creative;  
Working With Others

Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



## Discovering Our Past

The Hill of The O'Neill has been the site of a number of archaeological investigations, most notably the Channel 4 television programme Time Team which visited in 2007 and investigated the buried remains of the O'Neill medieval castle and Sir Arthur Chichester's early 17th century military fort.

Our programme, "Discovering Our Past", builds on this work, and uses archaeology as a means for pupils to learn about the past while also gaining new skills. The pupils will work alongside a team of archaeologists from the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) at Queen's University Belfast who were involved in the Time Team excavation, and who will be returning to the Hill of The O'Neill to facilitate "Discovering Our Past".

The programme is designed for Key Stage 2 (P5-7) and Key Stage 3 pupils, and each session lasts for two hours. The starting times are 10.00am and 12.30pm.

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Be introduced to the work that archaeologists do, and learn how they find out about the past
- Take part in archaeological exercises
- Discover the significance of the Hill of The O'Neill as an historical site of national and international importance

### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy: Talking and Listening; Reading; Writing

Mathematics and Numeracy: Measures; Handling Data

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC: Being Creative; Working with Others

Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



# Create a Castle!

Hear the story of the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster, discover why a castle is built on a hill by examining the Hill of The O’Neill – then, with the assistance of an artist, create a castle from recycled materials!

“Create a Castle!” takes place during a two-week period in March, and there is one 2½ hour session each day beginning at 10.00am. This programme is suitable for KS1 (P3/4) pupils.

## Aims

### Pupils will:

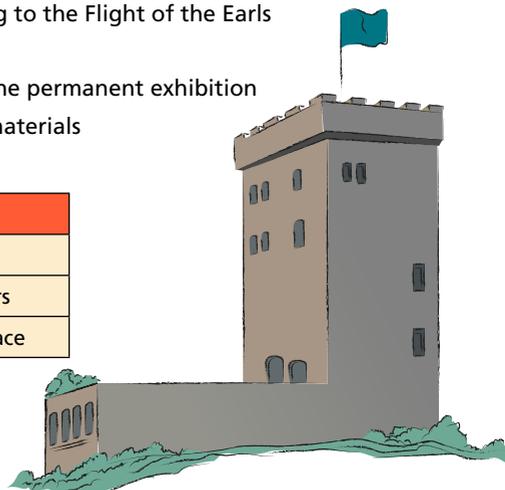
- Begin to understand historical facts relating to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster
- Learn about historical figures featured in the permanent exhibition
- In groups, construct castles from recycled materials

### Curriculum Links

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC: Being Creative; Working With Others

Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



The O’Neill Tower House in Dungannon c.1600



# Northern Ireland Forest School Awards

Northern Ireland Forest School Awards is an annual competition to encourage school pupils to visit and take on an ownership of their local council park. Mid Ulster District Council is working in partnership with NIFSA at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park.

Schoolchildren are able to undertake innovative activities to help them understand the importance of the natural environment and local heritage. Teachers and school staff involved are able to undertake a Forest School Leader OCN Level 3 qualification.

## Aims

### Pupils will:

- Take part in a series of environmental exercises at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park, led by Brian Poots from NIFSA, during six visits
- Be enabled to develop greater environmental awareness
- Be encouraged to become active and responsible citizens

### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy: Talking and Listening; Reading; Writing

Mathematics and Numeracy: Number; Measures; Shape and Space

The World Around Us: Science and Technology

TS and PC: Working With Others

Statutory Requirements: Place; Change Over Time



# A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House

Ranfurly House, built in 1854, is the ideal location to celebrate the festive season and to learn about the traditions, games and artwork of the Victorian Christmas. Classes can participate in the following activities:

## Victorian Christmas Customs

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Take part in a living history presentation, set in 1890 and led by Mrs Smith, the housekeeper of Northland House, Dungannon
- Learn about the traditions of the Victorian Christmas, finding out how these customs originated
- Participate in Victorian parlour games, ask questions and make comments

There are two one hour sessions each day. Suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils.

## Victorian Christmas Art

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Be taught how to make Victorian-themed Christmas decorations
- Be guided and assisted by an artist and centre staff
- Create Christmas cornucopias and doves which they can take home

Two sessions per day, each lasting 1½ hours.

Suitable for Key Stage 2/3 pupils.



## Old Time Toys

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Be introduced to the concept of toys at Christmas
- Learn about toys from the Victorian era
- Play with indoor and outdoor toys
- Find out what the toys are made from

There are two one hour sessions each day.  
Suitable for Foundation/Key Stage 1 pupils.



### Curriculum Links

The World Around Us: History (KS1/2)

Environment and Society - History (KS3); The Arts (KS1/2/3)

TS and PC: Being Creative; Working With Others

KS1/2 Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



## Victorian Dungannon

The year is 1870. The Dungannon branch of the Belfast Bank has been trading for 16 years; the relocated Dungannon station for the Portadown, Dungannon and Omagh Junction Railway has been serving passengers for nine years; and St Anne's Church of Ireland opened last year.

For this activity, pupils arrive at Ranfurly House (the Belfast Bank) and meet Miss Acheson, the governess to the bank manager's children. She talks to the children about the lives of Dungannon children from all social backgrounds in 1870, discusses Dungannon's distinctive buildings, and then shows the children around the bank before teaching them in a Victorian classroom.

There are two 2 hour living history sessions each day beginning at 10.00am and 12.30pm. This programme is suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils.

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Take part in a living history presentation, set in 1870
- Learn about Victorian Dungannon and the lives of children from that era
- Participate in a Victorian lesson



Good, better, best  
Never let it rest,  
Till your good is better  
And your better, best

### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy: Talking and Listening; Reading; Writing

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC: Being Creative; Working with Others

Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



## Dungannon: Where I Live

Market Square, where a weekly market has been in existence since 1612; Ranfurly House, built in 1854 as the Dungannon branch of the Belfast Bank; the Reservoir Gateway, constructed by Dungannon Urban Council in 1919. Three built heritage sites that help to tell the story of Dungannon, a town that can trace its history back at least 1500 years to the time of Geaininn, to the highland rampart which gives the town its name.

“Dungannon: Where I Live” is a learning activity which aims to assist school pupils to participate in learning outside the classroom by exploring their local built environment and heritage. It is suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils. Each session starts at 10.00am and lasts for two hours.

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Engage with historical facts relating to Dungannon’s built heritage through a guided tour of part of the town
- Individually, and in small groups, make a study of a series of buildings, making notes and completing pupil worksheets
- Have the opportunity to engage with photos and artefacts relating to some of Dungannon’s older buildings

#### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy: Talking and Listening; Reading; Writing

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC: Being Creative; Working With Others

Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



# The Workhouse: A World Book Day Event

The Irish Famine of the mid-nineteenth century was a turning point in Irish history. This tragic event is now regarded as one of the greatest social disasters of 19th century Europe. Between 1845 and 1850, when blight devastated the potato crop, in excess of two million people either died or emigrated.

Dungannon was affected during the famine years, and our heritage education programme, "The Workhouse", is an endeavour to aid children's understanding of this period in our history.

The best-selling children's novel, "Under the Hawthorn Tree" by Marita Conlon-McKenna, is a stimulus for our activities, which are produced in collaboration with Dungannon Library, and which mark World Book Day.

This event is suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils. Each session starts at 10.00am and lasts for two hours.

## Aims

### Pupils will:

- Carry out an investigation into the history of Dungannon Workhouse in Dungannon Library
- Take part in living history in Ranfurly House in which they will be admitted to the workhouse
- After the living history presentation, participate in a discussion when they will report on what they have learned and experienced.

### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy: Talking and Listening; Reading; Writing

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC: Being Creative

Statutory Requirements: Change Over Time; Place



## Words on the Hill

Why was the seven-year-old son of Hugh O'Neill arrested? Where was the castle moat and what was in it? Join the acclaimed writer and storyteller Liz Weir in creative writing workshops and explore these and other mysterious facts from the Hill of The O'Neill – then transform them into poetry!

The poetry writing workshops run for one week in late September/early October and one week in February. There is one 2½ hour session each day beginning at 10.00am. The programme is suitable for Key Stage 2/3 pupils.

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Engage with historical facts relating to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster through a guided tour of the permanent exhibition and Hill of The O'Neill
- Take part in a writing workshop with the writer and storyteller Liz Weir
- Write poems based on the history and heritage of the Hill of The O'Neill that will be published in a compilation of children's poetry



Liz Weir

### Curriculum Links

Language and Literacy:  
Talking and Listening; Reading;  
Writing

The World Around Us: History

TS and PC: Being Creative; Working  
With Others

Statutory Requirements:  
Change Over Time; Place



## Plantation of Ulster Study Visits: Year 9

As part of the Year 9 study of the Plantation of Ulster, pupils can pay a class visit to the permanent exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster.

The students are provided with specially created resource booklets and are taken on a guided tour of this exhibition. They are then escorted to the Hill of The O'Neill where they find out about the significance of the site that was once the medieval capital of Ulster.

### Aims

#### Pupils will:

- Engage with a heritage site which played a pivotal role in the Plantation of Ulster
- Examine an exhibition dedicated to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster
- Be provided with resource booklets to enable engagement with the exhibition

### Curriculum Links

Environment and Society - History (KS3)

KS3 Key Elements: Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding

TS and PC: Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Working With Others



## More Learning Activities

- Bespoke heritage education programmes
- Guided tours of the exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster, and Hill of The O'Neill - KS1 to KS4 and Post-16
- Literacy Trail - KS2 and KS3 (Y8)
- Numeracy Trail - KS2 and KS3 (Y8)
- Pupil resources: available in English, Irish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Tetum and Ulster-Scots

### Contact Details

For more information, or to make a booking, get in touch with:

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# Award Winning Heritage Education Programme

The quality of our Heritage Education Programme has been recognised as it has received two awards:

- A Sandford Award
- A Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge

The Sandford Award recognises this centre's outstanding contribution to heritage education and learning within the historic environment: "The good experience that schools have in attending Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre is a triumph of organisation and a testament to the Education Officer and managers." Sandford Award Winner, Judge's Report

The awarding of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge demonstrates that our Heritage Education Programme has passed a robust assessment designed to ensure that it is meeting schools' learning and risk management needs.



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**The Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre is a Mid Ulster District Council Facility**