

Powderham

Themed Experiences

Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

Create Your Own Coat of Arms

A long time ago, knights wore heavy armour to protect themselves in battle. Because their faces were hidden behind big metal helmets, no one could tell who was who so each knight had an image that was unique to them on their shield, called a coat of arms. This coat of arms would sometimes even be displayed on flags!

Now it's your turn to be a knight and design your own coat of arms! With cardboard provided, cut out a shield or flag shape and decorate it with colours that represent you, add symbols that tell your story, and decorate it! Show off your coat of arms to your classmates and families, and take on the challenge to explain what each symbol represents!

We will provide everything you need to carry out this workshop. Teachers/Assistant support and input is requested with this activity. We recommend groups of 20 for this activity. Up to 3 sessions can be booked per visit.

Create Your Own Stained Glass Window

After you have completed your tour of the castle, we hope children have been inspired by all the amazing stained glass windows we have in our State Dining Room and Chapel.

The children can take this opportunity to create their own stained glass window and this can be filled with colour and imagination for them to take home and display in their own homes!

We will provide everything you need to carry out this workshop. Teachers/Assistant support and input is requested with this activity. We recommend groups of 20 for this activity. Up to 3 sessions can be booked per visit.

Victorian Baking

In Victorian times, families didn't have big ovens like we do today. Instead, they cooked tasty treats on a griddle over the fire. One favourite snack was griddle cakes - soft, warm, and perfect with jam or honey. Now, you can bake like a Victorian and make your own!

We will provide everything you need to carry out this workshop. Teachers/Assistant support and input is requested with this activity. We recommend groups of 20 for this activity. Up to 3 sessions can be booked per visit.

Nature Explorers

Get ready for an outdoor adventure as a nature explorer! Grab your clipboard, your nature backpack, and head outside to discover all the tiny creatures hidden in Powderham Estate!

Embark on an exciting adventure to learn about the old trees in our American Garden! These

trees might have travelled from faraway places, and it's time to discover how old they are and where they came from.

We will provide everything you need to carry out this workshop. Teachers/Assistant support and input is requested with this activity. Sensible footwear is recommended and the children should come ready to explore outside. We recommend groups of 20 for this activity. Up to 3 sessions can be booked per visit.

*Powderham reserves the right to cancel this experience in extreme weather conditions.

Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 4

The English Civil War

Powderham played an important role during the English Civil War as a Royalist stronghold. In December 1645, the castle was defended by 300 Royalist soldiers under Sir Hugh Meredith. However, it was soon attacked by Parliamentary forces led by Sir Thomas Fairfax.

Although the first attempt to capture the castle failed, on 25 January 1646, Colonel Robert Hammond successfully took control of it. The battle left severe damage, and parts of the castle remained ruined and exposed to the weather for decades. It wasn't until the early 1700s that Sir William Courtenay, 2nd Baronet, restored Powderham to its former glory.

Step back in time to the English Civil War, our Tour Guides will tell the thrilling story of Powderham, where brave knights, soldiers, and commanders fought to protect their land!

After the tour the students can create their own castle flags - as either a Royalist or Parliamentary! Additionally, students can write a soldier's letter - imagine you are a soldier at fighting at Powderham, what would you write home?

We will provide everything you need to carry out this workshop. Teachers/Assistant support and input is requested with this activity. We recommend groups of 20 for this activity. Up to 3 sessions can be booked per visit.

Tudor Experience

Powderham Castle, home to the Courtenay family, played a significant role in Tudor politics, hosting royal visits and reflecting the family's growing influence. In 1556, after the extinction of the senior branch of the Courtenays in Tiverton, the junior branch at Powderham became de Jure Earls of Devon. The castle itself evolved through Tudor, Georgian, and Victorian enhancements, shaped by the family that lived there. As a centre of political power, the castle witnessed major historical events, and its architecture offers a glimpse into the family's legacy, from Tudor timber to Victorian furnishings.

Explore how the castle, over centuries, has remained a symbol of the Courtenay family's strength, adapting to each era while still reflecting its historic roots in the Tudor period.

After the tour the students can explore their own family history, understand generational connections, and learn about the importance of genealogy and heritage. By creating a family tree, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the ancestry and how families evolve over time.

We will provide everything you need to carry out this workshop. Teachers/Assistant support and input is requested with this activity. We recommend groups of 20 for this activity. Up to 3 sessions can be booked per visit.

Key Stage 5 & Higher Education

Our tour guides can deep dive into the rich history of our medieval castle. This tour is designed for higher education students (16+), so we'll be exploring more detailed aspects of the castle's past, architecture, and its role in major historical events. Whether you're studying history, architecture, politics, or art, this tour will be tailored to your academic focus to provide a full and enriching experience. Let us know what you're currently studying, and we'll make sure the tour fits your interests!