

Brodie Castle for schools

Brodie Castle, built in the 1560s, near the coast of the Moray Firth at the foot of the Grampians, has been home to the Brodie family for the past 800 years. Generations of Brodies have left their mark on their home, altering it, redecorating it, adding new ornaments to suit their needs and tastes.

The present structure is based on a 16th-century 'Z' plan, with additions made in the 17th and 19th centuries. Particular internal features are the ornate ceilings, 17th-century Dutch, Modern British and French paintings, and a fully equipped Victorian kitchen and nursery.

The castle grounds cover 175 acres of mainly woodland habitat and offers woodland walks, a nature trail and a 4-acre pond with two observation hides (one of which is wheelchair accessible). Conifers, rhododendrons and monkey puzzle trees were planted in Victorian times to create the wild garden. Brodie is also famous for its specialist varieties of daffodil. A carved Pictish stone stands at the end of the east drive.

● education programme

Brodie Castle and Estate is an important primary resource that offers cross-curricular learning opportunities for key areas of the Environmental Studies and Expressive Arts 5-14 curriculum. Please contact the Regional Education Officer (see below for contact details) to further discuss 5-14 National Guidelines links.

a site visit offers

- a general tour of the castle which can be tailored to the individual needs of each school.
- a tour of the castle grounds and woodland walk with a visit to the pond and again which can be tailored to each school's needs

Visits linked to 'The Victorians' topic can be arranged through the Regional Education Officer.

classroom resources

- Victorian study box of original artefacts (available for loan from the Falconer museum, Forres)

● practical information

planning your visit

- pre-booking is essential - please telephone the Education Guide at Brodie Castle. Castle opens at 12 noon but schools are welcome earlier.
- maximum class size: 20 with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 children. Larger groups can be accepted and will be split into groups of 20 or less with one group taken inside the other outside.
- cost for school parties: children £1 - accompanying adults admitted free of charge. Educational Membership of the National Trust for Scotland allows free entry to all NTS properties.
- preparation: we strongly encourage teachers to make a free preparatory visit

during your visit

- visiting teachers are responsible for discipline
- on arrival: please report to reception in the entrance hall to book in with the education guide
- please leave bags and coats on the coach for the duration of the visit
- picnic facilities: available in the grounds of the castle.
- shop: open during the property's opening hours - please visit in small numbers to avoid overcrowding

● for more information contact

Property Manager • Fiona Dingwall
Fiona Dingwall, Brodie Castle • Forres • Moray • IV36 2TE
telephone (01309) 641371 • (01309) 641600

Regional Education Officer (Highlands & Islands) • Sue Mackenzie
telephone (01463) 732632 • fax (01463) 732620 email : smackenzie@nts.org.uk

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- there is an Adventure Playground area near the car park
- toilets: available in the car park and at the rear of the castle

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