

Fyvie Castle for schools

Fyvie Castle was once a royal stronghold and one of a chain of castles used by the peripatetic, medieval Scottish monarchy. The land around the castle was royal hunting forest and the name means 'deer hill' in Gaelic. Built on a flat platform, circled to the north and west by a curve of the river Ythan, and protected by an extensive area of bogland to the east, the only feasible direction of attack was from the south.

Fyvie's five towers cover almost 600 years of Scottish history and bear the names of the five families who have been the lairds - Preston, Meldrum, Seton, Gordon and Leith. There is an important collection of portraits including works by Batoni, Raeburn, Romney, Gainsborough, Opie and Hoppner. In addition are arms and armour and 17th-century tapestries.

The grounds and Fyvie Loch were designed as a landscaped parkland around the beginning of the 18th century. Features include a restored racquets court (The Playhouse), ice house, bird hide, and repaired Victorian earth closet.

● education programme

Fyvie castle is an important primary resource that offers cross-curricular learning opportunities for key areas of the 5-14 Curriculum

a site visit offers

- a guided tour of the castle (allow 1_ hours)
- Ranger Service
- lochside walk
- a model showing construction of a mediaeval castle

classroom resources

- illustrated guidebook (available on request)
- *Young Person's Guide to Fyvie Castle*

● practical information

planning your visit

- pre-booking is essential
- Ranger Service must be pre-booked
- maximum class size: 30 with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 children
- 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 welcome a free preparatory visit by the teacher

during your visit

- please note: visiting teachers are responsible for discipline
- on arrival: please meet in the entrance hall for the tour of the property
- picnic facilities: lunches may be eaten in the car park picnic area – the racquets court may be available in bad weather
- shop: open during the property's opening hours - please visit in small numbers to avoid overcrowding
- toilets: situated in the car park

● for more information contact

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