

Souter Johnnie's Cottage for schools

Souter Johnnie's Cottage is an important building on the Burns' Trail. The souter, John Davidson, and his wife Ann became friends with 16-year-old Robert Burns in 1775, when Burns spent a summer learning mathematics at the local school. The souter later became famous as Tam's drinking companion in Burns' poem *Tam O'Shanter*. The cottage was built in 1785, and Burns would have dropped by during his brief return to Kirkoswald in 1786. The 18th-century style cottage consists of two living rooms and the shoemaker's workshop, plus the 'alehouse' containing statues of the Souter, Tam O'Shanter, the landlord and his wife.

● education programme

Souter Johnnie's Cottage is an important primary resource that offers cross-curricular learning opportunities for key areas of the 5-14 Curriculum

a site visit offers

- an education programme with group assignments
- a kirkyard trail (Burns' connections)

classroom resources

- teacher's notes
- guidebook
- family guide

● practical information

planning your visit

- pre-booking is essential
- maximum class size: 36 with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10-12 pupils
- 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

- visiting teachers are responsible for discipline
- parking: no parking available at the property (please apply to the Property Manager regarding arrangements)
- picnic facilities: weather permitting, pupils may picnic in the garden
- refreshments: no facilities available at the property
- toilet: available at the property

● for more information contact

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