



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone

Harmony Garden

Information for schools



Harmony is a garden of abundance. The vegetable garden demonstrates traditional growing techniques, with crop rotation of (usually) brassicas, legumes, roots and potatoes. There are soft fruits (strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants and gooseberries) within a netted fruit cage, while pears grow against the tall garden walls. The mixed flower borders are skilfully laid out to provide an aesthetic frame for the big house.

Harmony House is a fine example of a Georgian home. With its perfect symmetry, it is one of the best town houses in Scotland. There is no access to its rooms, but pupils can study the Georgian exterior.

Harmony and Priorwood Gardens are 300 metres from each other, and are cared for by the same NTS staff. A class can visit both gardens within half a day.

The school visit offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence

- We are happy to discuss your requirements. A variety of topics can be arranged, particularly around the seasonal vegetable garden.
- Your pupils may visit Harmony Garden only, or combine it with one to Priorwood.
- Horticultural specialists on site can advise both pupils and teachers on creating or caring for a School Garden.
- Study Georgian architecture.

Resources for schools

- Interpretive panels within the garden.
- Interpretive tablets (which children can carry and use in small groups).
- Guide book.
- Children's Trail.

Planning your visit

- To book: please contact the Property Manager/Head Gardener.
- Harmony Garden is open for school visits between April to October each year.
- Maximum class size: 30 pupils, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult helper to 10 pupils.
- Access: there is full access to and in the garden, though some paths are gravelled, and grassy areas may be difficult for wheelchair users.
- Toilets: there are accessible public toilets about 450 metres away from the garden entrance.
- Refreshments: There is no café. Pupils are welcome to picnic in the garden. It is a safe enclosed area. We can supply some tables and chairs, if required. (You may also use Priorwood Garden where there are picnic tables and, in wet weather, pupils can shelter in the Dried Flower Room.)
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk/Learn

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Planning your visit (continued)

- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers should prepare their own RA for the visit.
- There is more information about planning a visit to a Trust site on the NTS Learn website: www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php
- For more information about Harmony Garden, please go to: www.nts.org.uk/Property/Harmony-Garden/

Charges

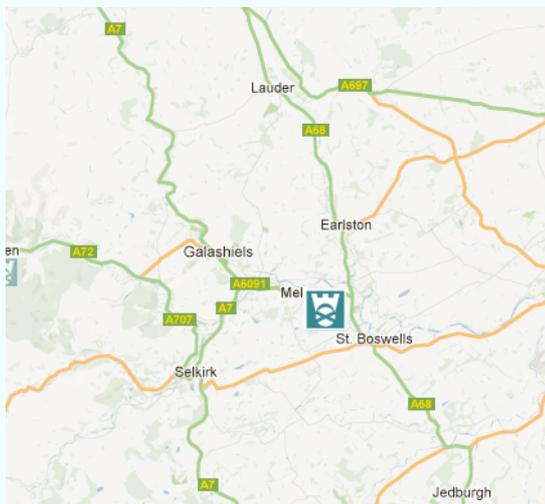
- There is no admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership.
- Non-members are welcome but there is an admission charge of £1 per pupil.
- Accompanying adults are admitted free.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- Membership: please apply to the property manager/head gardener at [Priorwood Garden](#) (details below). – or go to the NTS Learn website: www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php

During your class visit

- A garden tour can take up to 45 minutes. If your pupils are having a walk and an activity, then allow at least 1 hour. If you are also going to Priorwood Garden, then allow 1.5 – 2 hours for your visit. Times can be discussed when booking your visit
- A class will be split into 2 groups for some activities. The groups may be led by NTS staff – or one group may be teacher-led (depending on staff availability). Please discuss this when booking your visit
- Teachers are responsible for pupils and their behaviour.
- Pupils are welcome to take photos/ films.
- There is a gift shop at Priorwood Garden. Pupils may visit the shop - but in small groups please, under supervision of a teacher.
- On arrival, please bring your pupils to the Priorwood Garden shop, where you will be greeted by a member of staff.

Getting to Harmony Garden

- Harmony Garden is in Melrose, opposite the Abbey. It off the A6091. Ordnance Survey Ref: NT547342.
- There is a large public car/coach park about 250 metres from the garden (opposite Priorwood Garden) – in the centre of Melrose.



For online viewing:

Click on the map to see a full size version online.

[Click here](#) to view our route planner online.

For more information and a booking form, please contact:

Property Manager/Head Gardener,
Priorwood Garden & Dried Flower Shop,
Melrose,
Scottish Borders TD6 9PX

Telephone: 0844 493 2257

Email: priorwood@nts.org.uk