



the National Trust
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a place for everyone

Priorwood Garden

Information for schools



Priorwood has a fine orchard, woodland garden, herb garden and flower borders (for dried flowers). The orchard contains many different apple trees (all labelled), ranging from heritage to present day varieties. These grow alongside other trees that have historical associations with the local area: mulberry, medlar, crabs, scroggs, plums, gages and pears.

The new woodland garden allows pupils to learn about evergreens and deciduous woody plants. Younger pupils may investigate leaf shapes, textures and colour. The herb garden is a reminder of Melrose Abbey and its monks. (The Cistercian monks used herbs for medicinal and culinary purposes.)

Schools groups can also book for dried flower demonstrations or to try out the techniques. We grow flowers both for aesthetic and drying purposes. The flowers are dried in our purpose-built workshops (where they can be hang dried, sand dried or pressed).

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. Particular topics can be arranged for the garden, orchard, woodland and herb garden.
- We offer a variety of activities – for instance: studying plants; looking at trees; shapes and texture
- Some activities will be led by NTS staff and some teacher-led. This can be discussed when booking a visit.
- A class can also book for a craftwork session using dried flowers from the garden (pupils will be taken through the various stages).
- We have a unique collection of apple trees: celebrate Apple Day at Priorwood Garden.
- There are horticultural specialists on site – pupils (and teachers) can learn all that they wish to know for creating or caring for a School Garden.

Resources for schools

- Interpretive panels within the garden.
- Interpretive tablets (which children can carry and use in small groups).
- Guide book (available in 2013).
- Children's Trail (available in 2013).

Planning your visit

- To book: please contact the Property Manager/Head Gardener.
- Priorwood Garden is open for school visits all year round.
- 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 150 metres away from the garden entrance.

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

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Planning your visit (continued)

- Refreshments: There is no café. The garden is ideal for picnics, with both grassy areas and picnic tables. It is a safe enclosed area. In wet weather, pupils may shelter in the Dried Flower Room.
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors.
- 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 Priorwood Garden, please go to: www.nts.org.uk/Property/Priorwood-Garden-Dried-Flower-Shop/

Charges

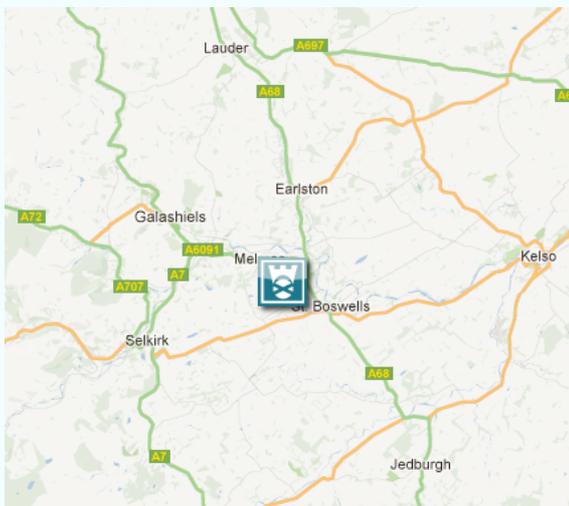
- There is no admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership.
- Non-members are welcome but there is an admission charge of £1 per pupil.
- Accompanying adults are admitted free.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- Membership: please apply 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 Harmony 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. Pupils may visit the shop but in small groups please, under supervision of a teacher.
- On arrival, please bring your pupils to the shop. You will be greeted by a member of staff and taken through to the garden.

Getting to Priorwood Garden

- Priorwood Garden is in Melrose, next to the Abbey, off the A6091. Ordnance Survey Ref: NT547341
- There is a large public car/coach park 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 4932257

Email: priorwood@nts.org.uk