

Take advantage of a unique opportunity to

Explore the Poor Law at The Workhouse, Southwell

A level tours for all syllabuses

Inspire your students with a thirst for historical exploration by bringing them to The Workhouse. Seek out forgotten stories and follow the path of inmates from the 1820s to 1940s.

Why The Workhouse?

The best surviving workhouse in England.

Housing the poor from 1824 to the 20th century.

Providing social care into the 1980s.

Used as a model by the Royal Commission for the Poor Law in 1834.

Which tour?

Syllabus	Workhouse to Welfare 1824-1948	Audio tour	Disease, Destitution and Death tour	The New Poor Law tour	Inquiry Board Workshop	Investigative Workshop 1	Investigative Workshop 2
OCR AS Condition of England		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OCR A2 Poor Law to Welfare State	✓						✓
Edexcel AS Poverty & the British State		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Edexcel A2 The State & the Poor in Britain	✓						✓
AQA AS Government Response to Poverty		✓		✓	✓	✓	
AQA A2 Public Health			✓				

Workhouse to Welfare 1824-1948

An interactive guided tour looking at the development of The Workhouse from its early beginnings up to the influence of the Welfare State. You will see areas usually closed to the public, such as the 1870s infirmary, 1920s laundry and the mortuaries.

Destitution, Disease and Death

Why did typhoid pass the workhouse by? What happened to cadavers? An extensively researched guided tour through which you can find out about the mental and physical health of workhouse inmates in the 19th century, from the itch to scarlet fever.

The New Poor Law Act

A factual guided tour which explains how The Workhouse, Southwell fitted into the national system. Discover why the Master earned less than the Clerk and listen to real extracts from the minutes of the Guardians' meetings to find out the truth behind workhouse administration.

Audio tour

A self-guided tour exploring The Workhouse with a narrative audio guide, based on real archival evidence.

Inquiry Board Workshop

After studying extracts from the Guardians' minutes, Manual for workhouse Masters and other sources, students question costumed witnesses to discover whether or not the workhouse system really did what it set out to do: to deter sturdy pauperism, reduce the demands on the poor rates and effectively relieve the deserving poor.

Investigative Workshop 1

In small groups, students study a variety of sources on paper and on the internet to tease out the answers to questions such as "Did outdoor relief really end with the advent of the New Poor Law?" This can be geared towards your coursework or exam specialism. Please arrange in advance.

Investigative Workshop 2

As Workshop 1, but covering a wider span of years in order to include later developments. . Please arrange in advance.

When can we visit?

The Workhouse is open for educational visits from early February to late November every year.

Guided tours: Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm, but subject to monthly opening hours and days.

Workshops: usually following a guided tour

Please contact The Workhouse for details, as most timetabling needs can be accommodated.

How much does it cost? (Prices are per student and are subject to change)

NT Education Group Members*:

Audio tour – £1

Guided tour - £2.50

Additional workshop - £1.50

Non-members:

Audio tour - £6.00

Guided tour - £6.00

Additional workshop - £2.00

*Ask the Workhouse for membership prices.

How can I book?

Contact the Community Learning Officer for further information or to book a visit.

Phone: 01636 817262

Email: workhouseeducation@nationaltrust.org.uk

Address: The Workhouse, Upton Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0PT.

Pre-booking is essential for these activities and a free preliminary visit is strongly recommended for your preparation and ours.

Combined visit

If you are coming some distance, you may choose to visit another attraction during the trip. Although not all National Trust properties, the following sites may be of interest and are all within about 40 minutes travelling time from The Workhouse.

Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre, Newark: 01623 836627

Galleries of Justice, Nottingham: 0115 952 0555

Southwell Minster: 01636 812649

Clumber Park: 01909 544918

Mr Straws House: 01909 482380