

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre School Visit Menu



We have five options for school visits, which can be booked individually or combined in one session – see end of document for suggested combinations.

We charge £40 per visit and are part of the Scottish Government's Heritage Travel Subsidy for Schools Scheme: schools can claim up to 75% of transport costs (up to £300) for each class visit to the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre. Find out more: <https://sjhc.org.uk/school-visit/> and https://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/free-learning-visits/#school-visits-travel-subsidy_tab

To comply with kosher food rules in the building, we ask that food and drinks are not brought on site, except for kosher snacks and water. More information can be provided about kosher food.

I. Garnethill Synagogue Tour

An historic Victorian building, a place for Jewish worship, study and community use.

A guided visit around the first purpose-built synagogue in Scotland. Opened in 1879, it is still used by Garnethill Hebrew Congregation as a place of worship. Garnethill is a synagogue in the Orthodox tradition, an attractive Category A listed building with original stained-glass windows and historic furnishings including the ark (Aron Kodesh), reading platform (Bimah), eternal light (Ner Tamid) and pews.

During the visit students will:

- Sit in the prayer hall
- Find out about the synagogue layout and key internal features
- Hear how the synagogue is used for weekly Sabbath and festival religious services
- View a Torah scroll (Five books of Moses)
- Be offered an opportunity to try on a prayer shawl (Tallit) and the head covering (Kippah)
- Discuss aspects of Jewish religious practice and festivals
- Hear about the reform tradition and discuss changing attitudes to religious practice

Question and answer time is included. For primary pupils we can include an art activity or quiz, to allow them to spend some more time in the space.

Suggested time: 45 mins – 1 hour

Class size: Synagogue seating can accommodate a full class size of 33 or more

Ages of students: Suitable for all ages



2. Kashrut- Jewish Dietary Laws

View the Synagogue kitchen and explore the Jewish dietary laws set out in the Torah that still underpin the Jewish way of life for many people.

Students will find out how kashrut laws originated - which foods are allowed (kosher) and not allowed (treif). In the synagogue kitchen, students will see how it is designed to meet the kosher rules with separation of dairy and meat food and utensils. They will learn about traditional foods associated with the Jewish Sabbath and festivals including Pesach, Purim and Chanukah. Students can compare and contrast their own experiences and refer to foods associated with other religions. We can include an activity about kosher foods – we have a worksheet for lower primary and a flashcard game for upper primary and lower secondary levels.

- Suggested time:** 15-30 mins depending on inclusion of activity. Good to combine with the Synagogue visit
- Class size:** Ideally small group size with maximum of 16 pupils
- Ages of students:** Suitable for all ages



3. Immigration- A New Life in Scotland

A guided viewing of the timeline, map and case displays, exploring where Scotland's Jews came from, their reasons for migration and what they did here.

The display covers the three main periods of Jewish immigration into Scotland:

- The late 1700s to the 1870s, when growing industrialisation attracted Jewish people from England, Germany and Holland.
- From 1880 to the early 1900s, poverty and increased persecution within the Russian empire drove hundreds of thousands to seek a better life. At this time Scotland was a land of economic opportunity.
- From the early 1930s after Hitler's election in Germany through to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, when Jews and Jewish life were targeted by the Nazi regime.



This option fits well with the Higher History topic *Migration and Empire 1830-1939* but can be tailored to fit a younger age group. We look at some individual stories and include a focus on Isaac Hirshow, who emigrated from Russia to the Gorbals in 1922 and became cantor at Garnethill Synagogue

- Suggested time:** Around 30-45mins
- Class size:** Ideally small group size with maximum of 16 pupils
- Ages of students:** Most suited to upper primary and secondary

4. Learning Kits: Refugee Stories

The Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre is equipped with resources to allow students to find out about the experiences of child and adult refugees from Nazi Europe who found a safe haven in Scotland.

Working in small groups, pupils will share a kit of facsimile documents, photographs and written testimony about a refugee, working out answers by studying documents and debating and considering a range of issues. Each kit is drawn from items in the collections of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, which is also housed in the synagogue.

Students will gain insights into a real experience of living under the Nazi regime, following the story of how each person escaped, what it was like starting a new life here in Scotland, what they went on to do, and what happened to their family. Issues including antisemitism, persecution, citizenship, democracy, the refugee experience and friendship will be discussed.

Students can find out about one of three people:

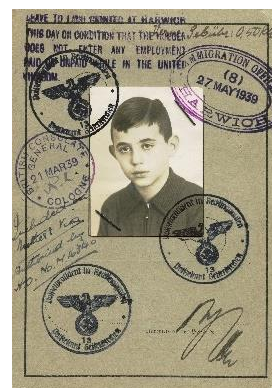
Dorrieth Oppenheim, a young Jewish girl living in Kassel in Germany. After Kristallnacht, the UK Government permitted a number of unaccompanied children to enter the UK for safety. Dorrieth was just 7 years old when she left on a Kindertransport in July 1939. A young Christian couple from Edinburgh, Mr and Mrs Gallimore, took in Dorrieth. Her parents were able to correspond for a while with Mr and Mrs Gallimore about their daughter, their views on religion and their hope to be able to leave Germany.

Sadly, Dorrieth's parents both died in the Holocaust. Dorrieth later married Andrew Sim and raised her family in Ayrshire. She wrote *In My Pocket*, an illustrated book for children that is based on her experience of the Kindertransport.



Ernst Marchand, a Jewish boy living in Gelsenkirchen in Germany with his mother Irene. Ernst was 9 years old in May 1939 when he and Irene escaped the Nazi regime and arrived in the UK. Irene was permitted entry with a UK Government visa admitting her to undertake domestic work. Irene and Ernst came to Glasgow to the refugee hostel set up for boys next door to the synagogue, where Irene became the matron.

Ernst went to school here and later to Glasgow University. He never went back to Germany. Ernst's words describe life under the Nazis, detail how they experienced discrimination - for example, being forced to adopt a new name identifying them as Jewish - and how they escaped. Ernst reflected later on how his life experience affected his views on religion and attitudes to refugees.



Hilda Goldwag, a Jewish woman living in Vienna in Austria with her widowed mother. Hilda, a talented artist, escaped to safety in April 1939, thanks to the Domestic Bureau in Scotland who secured her a UK visa. Hilda's 1939 passport is stamped 'J' (for Jewish) and records her journey to Peebles where she started working for a Church of Scotland minister.



At the Quakers' Friends Meeting House in Edinburgh, Hilda met refugee Cecile and the two became lifelong friends and later lived in a flat very close to Garnethill Synagogue. Hilda was exempted from internment as a refugee from Nazi oppression and permitted to do war work, working later as a textile and graphic designer. Hilda lost her whole family in the Holocaust.

- Suggested time:** Around 45mins – 1 hour
Class size: Seating for maximum of 16 pupils, working in 4 groups of 4. Works well for half of a class while the other half view the Synagogue
Ages of students: P6-S2

5. Scotland a Sanctuary

The Holocaust period display in the Succah* includes an illustrated timeline and panels showing events leading up to the Holocaust in Nazi Europe, how people responded here and how Jewish refugees found safety in Scotland in the 1930s and 1940s.

An interactive visit to the Holocaust display, with the option of a quiz based on the display.

- Suggested time:** From 15 – 30 mins.
Class size: Around 20 pupils
Ages of Students: Secondary students

* The Succah is the building in the lower courtyard, used for celebrating the annual weeklong autumn harvest festival of Succoth. The Holocaust display is not available for a few weeks around Succoth.



Popular Visit Combinations

Primary 3-5: Learning About the Jewish Religion and way of life

Options 1 & 2 including art activity in the Synagogue: 1 hour 30 minutes

Primary 6 to S2: Learning about the Jewish way of life and the Holocaust

Options 1, 2 & 4: 2 hours.

Secondary-level studies on migration to Scotland

Options 1, 3 & 5: 2 hours

Please get in touch if you would like help to tailor your visit, or if you have any questions: schools@sjhc.org.uk