

# LEEDS CASTLE'S MONARCHY & MORE



## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The workshop is designed to cover a range of sections within the English and History areas of the National Curriculum. Suitable for children at all stages of |Key Stage 2

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The workshop focuses on the history of Leeds Castle in the form of a drama production, performed by the children. It covers the listening, speaking and drama requirements of the primary literacy strategy, and in the history curriculum the chronological understanding, knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past and historic interpretation.

## WORKSHOP SESSION

The one hour session tells the story of the Monarchy at Leeds Castle using the most colourful characters, important to its history. From a time before the Castle was built, when it was the Manor of Leeds, through 300 years of royal ownership, and then following the sale of the castle by King Edward VI, the royal connections up to the present day. In a fun and imaginative way the children will learn about the royal persons and events that have contributed to the rich history of Leeds Castle. The final part of the session will look at the future of the Monarchy and the children will be encouraged to think about who will succeed our reigning monarch and when.

**All of the class will be involved in the story; it is essential that you assign children to their characters before the day. This is important as you will know your class and each child's aptitude for role-play - it also saves a lot of time on the day.**

Simple costumes and props will be available for each group to dress up as the main characters in the story and act the plot out as the story proceeds.

After lunch, the class will be split into two groups and led through the Castle by the workshop leaders, where they will see the features and interiors referred to in the story session.

## TIMETABLE OF THE DAY

We are an inclusive venue and can accommodate groups of up to 100 children. The timetable you follow will depend upon the size of your group.

The timings shown are approximate and can vary depending on how the workshop and tours progress. We are able to be flexible and the Education Leaders will consult with you on the day if there are particular circumstances or considerations.

### Timetable 1 - For group size 40 and below

WHOLE GROUP	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.
10.15 am	Directed to the Education Centre by staff
10.30 am	Workshop session
11.30 am	Lunch & Free Time
12.45 pm	Guided Tour of the Castle
1.30 pm	Free time – depart when you are ready.

### Timetable 2 - For group size 41 – 75

GROUP A		GROUP B	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.		
10.15 am	Directed to the Education Centre by staff		
10.30 am	Workshop session	10.45 am	Guided tour of Castle
11.30 am	Lunch	11.30 am	Lunch & free time
12.45 pm	Guided tour of Castle	12.30 pm	Workshop session (Ensure that toilets are used beforehand)
1.30pm	Free time – depart when you are ready.	1.30pm	Free time – depart when you are ready.

## TIMETABLE OF THE DAY

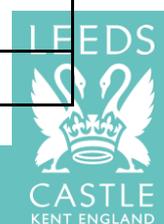
### Timetable 3 - For group size 76 – 100

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.				
10.30 am	Arrive at Education Centre and workshop session	10.30 am	Free time & snack	10.45 am	Self-guided Castle tour
11.30 am	Self-guided Castle tour	11.45 am	Workshop session (Please arrive by 11:40 and ensure that toilets are used beforehand)	11.30am	Free Time & Lunch
12.30 pm	Lunch & free time	12.45 pm	Lunch & Self-guided Castle tour	1.00pm	Workshop session (Please arrive by 12.55 and ensure that toilets are used beforehand)

### Cast List

Please nominate pupils to play the different characters in the story before attending the workshop. There will be enough costumes for every pupil to participate. Remember to bring this list with you on the day!

<b>Main Characters</b>	
Harold Godwinson	
King William I	
King Edward I	
Queen Eleanor of Castille	
Lord Badlesmere	
Lady Badlesmere	
Queen Isabella	
King Richard II	
King Henry IV	
Queen Joan of Navarre	
King Henry V	
Catherine of Valois	
King Henry VIII	
King Edward VI	
Edward VIII	
Wallis Simpson	



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1066-1119

Following the death of the Anglo Saxon king, Edward the Confessor in January 1066, Harold Godwinson succeeded him claiming that Edward had promised him the throne on his death bed. In France, the French Duke, William of Normandy, claimed that earlier, in 1064, Edward had promised him the English crown when he died. William subsequently invaded England and killed the English King, Harold, in a big battle at Hastings. William shot Harold in the eye with an arrow and then crowned himself King of England on Christmas Day 1066. Following the Battle of Hastings, William divided England up and the Manor of Leeds was given first to his half-brother, Bishop Odo, and later to a cousin, Hamon (Hamo) de Crevecoeur, who had fought alongside William at the Battle of Hastings. It was Hamo's grandson Robert de Crevecoeur who began the building of Leeds Castle in 1119.

1272 -1358

King Edward I became King 15 years later, he was very tall with long arms and legs and his nickname was Longshanks! His wife, the Queen, was Eleanor of Castille, a very beautiful Spanish princess with dark hair. Eleanor, an astute business woman purchased the castle in 1278, and together she and Edward added to the buildings, creating a medieval royal castle for them to live in. Eleanor brought luxury things with her to decorate the castle, such as glass for the windows and carpets for the floors and walls. Despite the marriage being a political one, the two fell in love and together had 16 babies.

When Edward I died, his son, Edward II became king. Without informing his wife, Queen Isabella he granted the castle to Bartholomew, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Badlesmere. One day in 1321, the queen arrived at the castle seeking shelter while Lord Badlesmere was away. Lady Badlesmere refused the queen entry, and in fact had her archers fire on the royal party, killing some of them. The Queen sent word to the king and he immediately sent men to besiege the castle. Lady Badlesmere relented after a few days, and she and her children were sent to the Tower of London. She was the first woman to be imprisoned in there. Lord Badlesmere 'went on the run' and evaded capture for a few months, but was eventually caught and beheaded!

1382 – 1422

King Richard II acceded to the throne in 1377 at the age of 10. He reigned in troubled times and at the age of 14 had to deal with the Peasants revolt of 1381. There followed 18 turbulent years until eventually his cousin Henry Bolingbroke gained much support and challenged for the throne. Richard surrendered without a fight and Henry ascended to the throne as King Henry IV in 1399. Richard was imprisoned first at Leeds Castle and then later Pontefract Castle where he died several months later.

Henry already had six children by his first wife, Mary de Bohun, who had died five years before he became king. His eldest son Henry later became King Henry V. In 1403 Henry IV married his second wife, Joan of Navarre, who did not bear him any children.

When her husband died, Joan and her stepson first enjoyed a good relationship. As time went on he began to suspect her of plotting against him. He also needed vast sums of money to fund his battles in Wales and France. Henry accused her of witchcraft and imprisoned her first at Pevensey castle, and then three years later he relented and put her under house arrest at Leeds Castle. The housekeeping accounts kept during her stay at Leeds in 1422 are on display in The Gatehouse.



Meanwhile in France, Henry V having won the Battle of Agincourt was also given Catherine of Valois, the daughter of the French King, Charles the Mad as his wife. After Henry had died Catherine secretly married a commoner, Owen Tudor. It was their grandson Henry who killed King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and claimed the throne and began the reign of the Tudor dynasty.

1520 - 1552

King Henry VIII was tall and handsome when he was younger, with reddish coloured hair. He was considered to be very good looking, but he is most famous for having 6 wives. His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was married to him for 24 years and visited Leeds with him once or twice. Henry did a lot of building at Leeds; he made it bigger and more luxurious by adding another floor and putting in bigger windows.

In 1520 Catherine & Henry both stayed at Leeds Castle overnight on their journey to France to meet with the French King, Francois 1, at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Entertainment was provided by Jesters.

In 1537 King Edward VI was born to Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour. Edward became king in 1547 at the age of 9.

In 1552 he sold Leeds Castle, having no further use for it. Since then it has been owned by private families, but there have been several royal connections.

1778 - Today

King George III visited Leeds castle with his wife Charlotte in 1778 when it was owned by the 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Fairfax.

Duchess of Kent (Queen Victoria's mother) drove past 'this beautiful castle' in her carriage.

Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson were guests of Lady Baillie (the last owner of the castle 1926-1964) over at least two weekends.

Princess Alexandra - Cousin to Queen Elizabeth the II visited Leeds Castle on many occasions as Patron of the Leeds Castle Foundation since 1975.

## What Next?

The royal family will not own Leeds Castle in the future but we look ahead at the possible future of the monarchy

- Who is king or queen now
- Who will be next? When?
- Who will come after Charles?
- Who will come after William
- When is George likely to be king?

In theory.....If the monarchs inherit the longevity gene from the Queen and Prince Phillip it could be that Charles reigns for 20 years, William for 45 years meaning that potentially George could be in his late 60s before he becomes king circa 2080s



## FOLLOW UP IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

### Storytelling & Drama

- Ask the children to choose one of the historical characters and use mime to act the character to the rest of the class. Can they convey by movement and expression alone who they have chosen to be?
- Divide the children into pairs or small groups. Using one of the historical characters, ask them to devise a TV interview to tell the story of their time at Leeds Castle. They will need to think about the interviewer's questions as well as the answers from the character. This could be recorded, or performed in front of the class.
- Older children could choose a character and turn their story into a modern day version, performing in groups.

### Finding Out

- Using available informational sources such as books and the internet, encourage the children to find further facts about the characters associated with Leeds Castle.
- Encourage research into the other important people connected with Leeds Castle, other than the people we have already learnt about.
- Encourage the children to think about what life was like for the people in the castle during any one of the characters' ownership.
- Encourage research into what life was like for ordinary people, like themselves. Did all children go to school at the time of the Tudors reign?

### Writing

- A group of children could work together to design a comic strip, based on one of the incidents from the story of Leeds Castle e.g. the arrival of Henry VIII at the castle, or William I being crowned in Westminster. This will involve deciding how many frames they will need and how they can put the dialogue into its simplest form.
- Provide the children with a crossword or word search grid, and ask them to devise their own puzzle, using words connected with the castle and its owners.
- Either alone, or in groups, choose one of the characters and write a newspaper headline and article about him or her.

### Art & Design

- Each of the owners of Leeds Castle had their own coat of arms, which can be seen in the castle. Provide a shield template and get the children to design their own coat of arms.
- The children could make puppets of the characters they have learnt about.
- Ask each child to draw up his/her family tree or a timeline of their own house or school.
- Ask the children to make a drawing or model of the earliest manor house or castle as it would have been during the ownership of one of the characters.

