St Vigeans Museum, home to one of the most important collections of Pictish sculptured stones in Scotland, offers a fantastic opportunity to explore the lives of Scotland’s early people.
Historical background

St Vigeans Museum is home to one of the most important collections of Pictish sculptured stones in Scotland. The site offers a fantastic opportunity to explore the lives of Scotland’s early people through the carved stones that they left behind.

The church at St Vigeans is dedicated to St Fechin (from whom it gets its name), a 7th-century Irish saint. Though there is no record of St Fechin having visited Scotland, followers of his cult may have founded a monastery among the Picts at St Vigeans as early as the 8th century.

Evidence points to St Vigeans as being an important religious site associated with a nearby royal centre from the 8th to the 10th century. This evidence can be seen in the collection of more than 30 elaborately carved stones now preserved in the museum.

Most of the stones were recovered from the parish church on the mound next to the museum, suggesting that the site had long been a place of religious significance. The collection includes cross-slabs carved with Pictish symbols, cross fragments and grave markers. It is one of the largest and finest collections in Scotland. Further fragments still remain in the church’s walls.

The church of St Vigeans served as the parish church for the people of Arbroath until the 16th century. The oldest parts date from the 12th century, though most of what you now see is the result of a 19th-century restoration, when many of the Pictish fragments were uncovered.

An exploration of the churchyard will uncover well-carved 18th-century headstones, characteristic of Angus folk-art. Closer inspection of the church wall will also show how some of the old stones have been incorporated into the building work.

The stones in the museum itself provide a fascinating insight into Pictish life and beliefs at a time when Christianity was spreading throughout the country. The exact meaning of many of the stones may never be known, but what they do tell us is that St Vigeans was a site of some significance in the Pictish heartlands of Angus.
Integrating a visit with classroom studies

Before the visit

- Make a giant timeline with pupils, counting back the centuries with them from the present day to help develop a sense of time. Key events that they already know about can also be marked on the timeline.
- Both the churchyard and the museum display objects which have survived for hundreds of years. Discuss with pupils which materials survive and which decay. Look at objects around them today – which parts will survive for longest? Get pupils to think about which objects from the past might not have survived, and to think about the gaps in our knowledge of the past.
- Look at a map of known Pictish sites in Scotland and locate St Vigeans. Are there any Pictish sites in your local area? Which parts of Scotland did the Picts seem to live in?

Working on-site

During the visit to the museum and while looking around the churchyard, encourage pupils to focus on the stones and buildings as evidence of the past, recording information from these and the graphic panels as appropriate.

Useful starting points in the museum might be:
- What purpose did the stones have?
- How did the craftsmen design and make them?
- What stories do the stones have to tell?
- Why have the stones survived for so long?

Pupils can create their own evidence record by:
- taking notes
- making quick drawings
- using the stampers in the museum

On the Historic Scotland website www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/education_unit teachers can find additional resources to help with work on-site.

Suggestions for follow-up work

After the visit pupils can pool their findings to create a fuller record of the site and the lives of the people who lived there. A wide range of activities is possible, for example:
- artwork relating to the stones, incorporated into a poster, leaflet or souvenir design
- carving on different types of stone or modelling material
- a slide show with commentary on their visit
- imaginative writing or role play based on the lives of people who might have lived in St Vigeans at the time of the Picts
- imaginative writing based on the creatures, symbols and scenes that they have learned about from the stones at St Vigeans
Visiting St Vigeans – planning a visit

This resource provides simple background information which can be read to pupils and points for discussion and investigation which will support the displays.

The museum is organised as follows:

1. Introductory Area
2. A Place of Burial/Stones of St Vigeans
3. Christian Figures
4. Symbols
5. Crosses

A tour of the museum, with associated activities, should take no longer than 45 minutes to an hour.

The museum itself is small and can only accommodate groups of 15 at a time. As a result you may want to consider how you plan a visit.

If you have a larger class, it might be an idea to split them and arrange for alternative activities for one group, while the other explores the museum.

The churchyard is certainly worth a visit and a few related activities are suggested in this pack. There are also interesting nature walks along the Brothock Burn nearby.
Tour notes: On the trail of stones and stories

Location 1: Introductory area

Gather your group in the small introductory area of the museum. Here they can dispense with coats and bags and be given a brief introduction to the site.

Please note that although the stones have survived for over 1000 years, they are very fragile and should not be touched.

Setting the scene

This information can be read to pupils.

• The Picts were the native people of this part of Scotland from at least the 3rd until the 9th century. Evidence from their lives has been found all across the north of Scotland. They were also the first Christians in this area.

• It is clear from the evidence that Angus was a very important part of Scotland for the Picts. Many of the most important Pictish discoveries have been made in this area.

• The Picts were especially famous for their art. This can be seen on their carved stones and jewellery.

• One of the most important collections of Pictish stones was found here at St Vigeans. The stones that you are going to explore were found in the church and churchyard on the hill next door. This tells us that about 1200 years ago St Vigeans was a very important place for the Picts.
Did you know?

One thing that the Picts did leave behind was their place names. Many of Scotland’s towns have Pictish origins, for example places beginning with ‘Pit’ (for example Pitlochry, Pittenweem) or ‘Aber’ (for example Aberdeen, Abernethy).

Did you know?

St Vigeans gets its name from an Irish saint called St Fechin who lived 1400 years ago. Though we don’t know if St Fechin ever came to St Vigeans, his followers may have brought a relic of him here. The only other Scottish town named after a saint at this time was St Andrews – which shows that St Vigeans was definitely an important place.

Location 2: A Place of Burial/Stones of St Vigeans

The first area of the museum looks at stones that were used as grave markers and memorials.

Information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.

- Experts believe that the stones in this area were once used as grave markers and memorial stones to remember people by. They think that these would have commemorated important Pictish people who lived over 1100 years ago.

Discuss with your group:

- What does a gravestone look like nowadays?
- What might you expect to find carved on a gravestone?

Ask the pupils to go round and look carefully at the stones in this area. You might want to split them into twos or threes. Ask them to look for the following things and discuss these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher prompts</th>
<th>Desired pupil responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What similarities and differences can you find with gravestones today?</td>
<td>Similarities – They have carvings. Some have crosses on them. Differences – There is no writing or dates. There are pictures of animals, etc. Some of the stones lie flat rather than upright.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look for crosses. How many can you find?</td>
<td>Pupils should be able to find evidence of five crosses in this section – but don’t worry if you can’t find them all!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does the cross symbolise?</td>
<td>Christianity – crucifixion of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does this tell us about the Picts?</td>
<td>They were Christians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look for animals and people – which ones can you find?</td>
<td>On the various stones, pupils should be able to find: horses with riders, a snake, strange beasts, stags, deer, hounds, birds, a hare, a bear, a fish, a boar and an archer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look closely at the three recumbent (flat) stones. There are rectangular holes in two of them. What might the holes have been for?</td>
<td>An upright cross of stone or wood might have been slotted in here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recumbent stones

Information for teachers

- The three recumbent stones have a variety of designs and markings on them for the pupils to explore. Encourage them to look closely and try to work what they think is happening in the scenes on each of the stones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher prompts</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on the side of the first flat stone?</td>
<td>Apart from the cross on the top, pupils should see a strange beast with four legs, wrapping its long neck, head and tail between its legs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on the side of the next flat stone?</td>
<td>Pupils should make out a man standing with his arms raised and with each hand in the jaws of a monster. There is also a naked man upside-down flying through the air.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on the side of the final flat stone?</td>
<td>Pupils should see a hunting scene carved in five panels. From the left, there is a stag, a doe looking anxiously backwards towards a fawn, being chased by a hound. The right-hand panel shows a highly decorated bird with large claws.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Drosten Stone

Information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.

- The final stone in this area is one of the most famous Pictish stones ever found. It is called the Drosten Stone because of the writing which can be found on the left-hand side. The designs on the face are very intricate and show a high degree of artistry and skill. We will return to look at the other side of the Drosten Stone later in the tour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher prompts</th>
<th>Desired pupil responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on the face of this stone?</td>
<td>Pupils should be able to make out the numerous animals and designs. Look out for the deer with her fawn suckling between her legs and the archer about to shoot at a wild boar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This stone has writing on it – can you find the writing?</td>
<td>There is writing on the left-hand side of the stone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you think the writing might be about?</td>
<td>Encourage any guesses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information for teachers

The answer is that nobody really knows. It is written in Latin, which was very rare at the time. Normally any writing on Pictish stones would be in an old script called Ogham. The first word is ‘Drosten’. Some people believe this stone may have been put up as a memorial to a lord or a holy man. Others think Drosten might have been an old saint. Some even think Drosten might just have been the name of the man who carved the stone – perhaps the strange symbols on the back are his signature. Could he be the man firing the cross-bow? What do you think?
Did you know?

St Paul and St Antony were important characters in the early Church. St Antony is said to have been the founder of monasticism. He lived alone in the desert for many years. Saint Paul lived in a cave for almost a hundred years and was brought bread every day by a raven. When they met, they talked for one day and one night. When St Paul died, aged over 113, he was buried by St Antony with the help of two lions.

Location 3: Christian Figures

Go up the ramp to the next collection of stones on the left. These stones show the influence that Christianity was now having on the lives of the Picts. The carved figures on the stones have their own stories to tell.

Information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.

- The Pictish people had their own early beliefs and superstitions but were being converted to Christianity by men such as St Columba, who travelled throughout Scotland trying to persuade people that they should believe in God. Evidence that the Picts had been converted to a new faith can be found in these stones.

Ask the pupils to go round and look carefully at the stones in this area. You might want to split them into twos or threes and take a stone each. Remember, the stones are carved on both sides. Ask pupils to look for the following things and discuss these.

- Look for crosses, animals and people on these stones.
- Can you make out what might be happening in any of the scenes that you see?

Once each group has looked carefully at their stones, they can feed back their responses to the rest of the class. Encourage other class members to give their own interpretations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on this stone?</td>
<td>On the front is a cross with a figure on either side. The one on the left is a monk wearing a robe. He is carrying a book in his left hand with his right hand raised over it. The figure on the right is an angel – you can see his wings folded at the front.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information for teachers

The main figures are thought to be God and Jesus. The lower figures might be Saints Paul and Antony, whom we know were important characters in the early Church. Is this them meeting for the first time in the desert? (For more information see the ‘Did you know?’ box on this page.)

On the back are four figures – two sit at a throne, and two carrying sticks walk towards one another.

On the back of the stone are four figures. The top two are sitting at a throne – you might be able to make out the outline of a seat at the back. They are both wearing robes and appear to be in conversation with each other. They are both carrying sticks and books. One is sitting higher than the other – suggesting that one might be more important.

On the bottom right of the stone you can clearly see a man with a long stick. He wears a short, hooded cape and appears to be walking towards another man. We can’t see him very clearly, but you might just be able to make out part of his head and a similar walking stick.
### Teacher prompts

**What can you see on this stone?**

### Desired pupil responses

On the front is a large cross – you should be able to make out two birds in the top corners. They have long necks with their heads turned backwards, preening their feathers.

On the back of the stone two men sit, facing outswards. They appear to be sitting under some sort of enclosure (maybe a canopy of woven palm leaves?). If you look very carefully, you can see the man on the left has his cloak fastened with a large brooch.

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### Information for teachers

Again, experts believe that these figures might represent St Paul and St Antony.

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### Teacher prompts

**What can you see on this stone?**

### Desired pupil responses

On the front is a large cross with very intricate designs carved into it. There are still scenes that you can make out on either side of the shaft. On the left-hand side you can see two monks walking towards the cross. One man is carrying some sort of bag, possibly for a gospel book, and both are carrying sticks. Between their heads is a square object. This may show the legend of Simon Magus who fell to earth and banged his head on a block!

On the right-hand side of the cross, two men sit facing each other. Together they are holding a disc, thought to be bread. Below them is a bull at an altar and a kneeling, naked man. He seems to have stabbed the bull in the neck and is drinking its blood with his long tongue.

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### Information for teachers

Again, nobody really knows what these scenes are supposed to depict, though most experts agree that the two seated men are Paul and Antony breaking bread together in a cave – stories tell that when they were hungry, God miraculously provided them with bread delivered by a raven whose beak and wing can be seen on the stone.
Did you know?

Saint Columba is said to have won over King Bridei of the Picts and converted him to Christianity after a magical duel with the king’s magician.

Another story relates how Columba was victorious over a fearsome water horse at Loch Ness. Could this have been the first sighting of the Loch Ness monster?

Teacher prompts | Desired pupil responses
--- | ---
What can you see on this stone? | There is not much left of this stone, but on the front you can just make out part of a man wearing a cloak. His right hand is pointing to a book he is holding. On the other side of the fragment is a horseman carrying what might be a long spear.

On one side of this stone you can just make out a man in a cloak. On the other side you can see a horseman.

There is some intricate carving on the front of what is left of this stone. On the back is a man carrying a book.

Teacher prompts | Desired pupil responses
--- | ---
What can you see on this stone? | Again, little remains of this stone, but on the back you can see part of a man carrying a book in his hands.
Location 4: Symbols

The next area, at the back wall of the museum, provides an opportunity to explore the mysterious symbols that are commonly found on Pictish stones.

Information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.

- The Picts are famous for the symbols that they carved on their stones. These symbols are repeated so often that experts think that they must mean something – but what? A lost language? People’s names? Nobody really knows, so they remain a mystery.
- Look carefully at these stones and see what you think yourselves. You will find a mixture of symbols and animals, but they are all thought to mean something.

Again, the class could split up into small groups and study the different stones. They might want to sketch the carvings as well, before feeding back their own opinions on what the symbols might be and what they could possibly mean.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on this stone? Information for teachers</td>
<td>On the left is the ‘mirror’ symbol. It is almost impossible to make out, but there is a ‘comb’ symbol underneath.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Desired pupil responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The mirror and comb are almost always found together. Some experts think that they might represent women, who were very important in Pictish society. However, men also took great care of their appearance, especially their hair, which was often braided and kept in place with combs and pins. Combs and mirrors are often found placed in graves – a sure sign that they were valued objects to be taken to the afterlife.</td>
<td>On the right is a snake with a rod running through it. Underneath the snake is a bird of prey.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Snakes are one of the most common animal symbols found on Pictish stones and are often associated with death, rebirth and healing. You will notice that the snake has a ‘rod’ running through it. This is common in Pictish art and the snake is the only animal that is found associated with this symbol – a sign that it was considered important. Eagles are often associated with chiefs and leadership. Perhaps this stone was telling us about a great leader who was brave and powerful like an eagle?
### A ‘double-disc’ symbol

**Teacher prompts**
What can you see on this stone?

**Information for teachers**
This is another very common Pictish symbol with different interpretations. Similar symbols have been found in tribal art across Europe. Perhaps it represents two worlds – life and death? Or perhaps the sun? Or even a union between two people? It is almost always found crossed with a ‘Z-rod’. You can see where this was originally in the fragment. A better example can be seen on one of the other stones.

**Desired pupil responses**
A ‘double-disc’ symbol

### A bird of prey

**Teacher prompts**
What can you see on this stone?

**Information for teachers**
Stags have always been important in ancient mythologies and were said to have special powers. Stag’s heads were often incorporated into family coats of arms hundreds of years later.

**Desired pupil responses**
This fragment has symbols on the front and back. On the front is another bird of prey. On the back is a stag poised in the moment of flight, having been disturbed by something behind him.

### A stag poised for flight

**Teacher prompts**
What can you see on this stone?

**Information for teachers**
Again, experts are not sure about what the ‘Z-rod’ signifies, but it is one of the most commonly found Pictish symbols. Many believe it represents a broken spear. Perhaps the broken spear symbolises death. Or does it represent someone who can break spears – maybe a great warrior?

**Desired pupil responses**
On this stone you will see another ‘double-disc’ symbol, this time with a very clear ‘Z-rod’ through it.

### A ‘double disc’ with a ‘Z-rod’ through it
Location 5: Crosses

Follow the route round the museum to the Pictish crosses. Again, these stones give an indication of how Christianity was becoming integrated into Pictish life and beliefs.

Information for teachers

As you can see, some of these crosses are incomplete. However, archaeologists are able to piece together their original designs by following the symmetrical patterns of the artwork. You could encourage the class to do likewise. They could sketch the cross designs and intricate patterns for use later on in the classroom – where perhaps they could design their own Pictish crosses. Please note, however, that stone rubbings are not possible in the museum.

The Drosten Stone

The final cross on the tour, however, brings us back to the famous Drosten Stone. You can now see the other side of it in this collection of crosses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you see on this stone?</td>
<td>The sides of the cross are filled with strange and magical beasts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information for teachers

On the table next to the stone, pupils can create the outline of the imp on paper and perhaps complete his features as they might have originally looked on the stone.

These seem like strange and monstrous beasts to have carved on a gravestone. However, experts believe that they are meant to show how the power of Christianity can defeat all manner of monsters – they are all helpless when faced with God. Again, the legends of St Antony tell of his battles with terrible creatures during his travels, but through his faith he was victorious against them all. That is perhaps what this stone is trying to show.

Down the rest of the left-hand side is a long reptile-like animal with its tail entwined around a beast with a dragon’s head. The next beast down appears to have the head of a sea horse and at the bottom you can make out a four-legged, animal with a long neck and feathery wings.

Down the right-hand side is another strange looking four-legged beast with a short, curly tail. Beneath it stands a snarling creature with triangular, pointed teeth. The next creature looks a little like a donkey eating grass, while at the bottom you can see two serpents entwined.
Did you know?
There is a legend that when the church was originally built, a kelpie (a mischievous water spirit) was magically taken prisoner and made to drag the stones up the hill. For many years the local people would not enter the kirk during certain services for fear the building would collapse due to the kelpie’s curse.

St Vigeans churchyard: Exploring the site

Enter the churchyard through the main gate near the museum and walk up the path to the church door.

Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.
- All of the stones displayed in the museum were originally found either in the walls of the old church or in this churchyard, suggesting that it has been an important religious site for over 1000 years – long before the current church was built.
- Experts think that the hill made this a good choice for an important religious site because people could see it from miles around. It is also surrounded by two burns, making it feel as though you are cut off from the rest of the world!
- Though there are records of an earlier church, most of what you now see was built 140 years ago. The oldest remaining parts, however, are nearly 1000 years old, making it older than the abbey in Arbroath.
- Though the church was largely rebuilt 140 years ago, lots of interesting stones were used in the building work and are now hidden in the walls. We’re going to go round and see if we can find some of them. You’ll need to look carefully.

St Vigeans secret stones

The group could go round the church exploring the walls and looking for any stones that stand out as being unusual looking or out of place in the building work.

Starting from the main door of the church and working anti-clockwise, here are some key interesting stones to look out for:
- On the right-hand wall, between the second and third windows you will see a particularly long slab, similar in height and thickness to the stones in the museum. It is also greyer in colour than the rest of the red sandstone. Could this be a Pictish carved stone?
- A little further down you will see a sparkling, blue stone with a flat face – it stands out against the dull red sandstone around it. Where did it come from?
• On the same wall, between the third and fourth windows, is a rectangular, grey slab. If you look carefully, you will see that it has a slight projection on the upper part. Experts believe that this could be a sign that it has a cross carved into it.

• You will find this stone on the right-hand corner of the church. The design on it is a consecration cross. Medieval churches would have been consecrated by a bishop and stones like these would have been put in place to mark the event. St Vigeans was consecrated in 1242, and this is one of the original stones which marked the occasion. Other consecration stones can be found in the wall that surrounds the churchyard.

• On the end wall of the church you will find another similar consecration stone. Originally there would have been 12 of these.

• Walking back up along the long wall of the church you will see a stone with mysterious diagonal markings on it. The markings are very similar in style to inscriptions in Ogham, an ancient written language. Could this stone hold a hidden message?
Stories from the stones

If you have time, another possible activity would be to get the class to explore the gravestones in the churchyard.

Start at the large free-standing cross with the Celtic designs (see the photograph opposite). This is a memorial stone to a former minister – Reverend William Duke. He oversaw restoration of the church in 1872 and was responsible for collecting the stones that are now in the museum. He was a real expert on the Pictish stones and his memorial reflects this. The cross is carved with intricate designs and even has an inscription on the side – just like the Drosten Stone.

From here, the class could work in small groups (possibly threes or fours). Each group could take a different area of the graveyard. They could note information that they find on the gravestones then discuss and map these back in the classroom.

Some things that they could look out for might include:

• Who was the oldest person to be buried?
• And the youngest?
• Are there common family names?
• Were there a lot of deaths in any particular year?
• If so, why might this have been?
• Which are the oldest burials?
• And the most recent?
• Are many causes of death noted on the stones?
• If so, what have been common causes of death over the years?
• Are there any common or interesting symbols on these stones?

Do these help you to understand the jobs of the people buried here?
Perhaps you could sketch some of the most vivid or attention-grabbing ones.
Visiting St Vigeans

Location: St Vigeans is off the A920, half a mile north of Arbroath.

Pre-visits: We strongly recommend that teachers make a pre-visit to St Vigeans in order to familiarise themselves with the site and to make a risk assessment. This visit is free, but please phone in advance to arrange (see Booking a Visit).

Booking a visit: The museum is run by Historic Scotland. There is no charge for booked educational visits.

The churchyard is open to the public, though appropriate respect for the site should obviously be observed.

To book a visit to the museum phone 01241 433739. Please note that the museum operates limited opening hours, which are:

- 1 April to 30 September: 10am to 3pm, Tuesday to Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.
- 1 October to 31 March: 10am to 1pm, Tuesday to Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Parking: There is a small carpark over the Brothock Burn, a very short walk from the museum. Please note it is unsuitable for large buses, but accessible to a minibus.

Outdoor classroom: There is an outdoor classroom site in St Vigeans, about 5 minutes walk from the museum. This Angus Community Planning Partnership development has pathways and a circular cleared area that has been lined with sawn vertical tree trunks and fenced around with willow hurdles. Display boards sited along the paths give information about local natural heritage and history.

On-site handling resources: The Picts Handling Box, which can be accessed as part of a school visit, will provide pupils with a hands-on experience to complement a visit to the sculptured stones. The box contains replica artefacts connected to the stones, including Pictish dress and personal items, which will give pupils an insight into how the Picts may have lived their lives 1200 years ago.

Health and safety: Please note the following:

- If you choose to explore the churchyard, please be advised that the path and bankings are steep and can be slippery in wet conditions.
- As part of our commitment to Green Tourism, we ask that all litter be disposed of back at school.

FAQs

Q. What is the minimum number of adults required for supervision?
A. 1 adult to 10 pupils.

Q. Is it possible to have a guided tour?
A. If staff are available, it may be possible to organise a small tour. This must be arranged in advance.

Q. Is there disabled access?
A. Wheelchair users can access the museum, though the churchyard may present some difficulties.

Q. Are there lunch facilities?
A. There are no packed lunch spaces on-site, though if the weather is good, it is a wonderful place for a picnic!

Q. Where are the toilets?
A. Please note that there is only one toilet on the site – a rota system of small groups might be advisable!

Q. Do you carry out risk assessments on behalf of schools?
A. Risk assessment of the site is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the group. Hazard information sheets available on the Historic Scotland website provide information that can help teachers prepare their risk assessments.

Q. Is there a shop?
A. No.

Q. What should pupils bring?
A. If the class is going to explore outside the museum, appropriate outdoor clothes should be worn. You may also want to bring clipboards, paper and pencils as there are opportunities for the class to sketch artwork and take notes during the visit.

Historic Scotland Education Unit: For further information about school visits, events and resources for teachers visit the education pages on www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
Additional resources

For Teachers

BOOKS
Martin Carver Surviving in Symbols: A Visit to the Pictish Nation Historic Scotland/Birlinn 1999
Lively, well-illustrated and lucid, this is perhaps the best introductory book for the non-specialist.

Historic Scotland Education Investigating Carved Stones Historic Scotland 2009
Downloadable from www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Duncan Jones A Wee Guide to the Picts Goblinshead 1998

Anna Ritchie Picts Historic Scotland/Stationery Office 1997
A useful guide to the Picts, with detailed information on certain stones and good illustrations.

CD
Dr Jane Geddes St Vigeans Stones Historic Scotland 2009
Official souvenir guide. Illustrated information about the Pictish stones at St Vigeans Museum.

WEBSITES
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pictishsculpturedstones
An overview of Pictish stones in Scotland

www.nms.ac.uk/education_activities.aspx
The Museum of Scotland Museum on the Move outreach programme online resources relating to the Picts

www.scran.ac.uk
Search for images of objects associated with the Picts and the early Church.

For Pupils

BOOKS
Terry Deary Cut-Throat Celts Scholastic 1997
One of the popular Horrible Histories series.

Allan Burnett Columba And All That Birlinn 2007
An informative and readable take on the life of Columba.

WEBSITES
http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/sysm/scots/index_choice.shtml
This website accompanies the popular schools TV programme See me see you and looks at the life of monks and Picts.

www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishhistory
Resources for pupils relating to eras in Scotland’s history, including the Picts. Useful for personal research projects. Includes games and information.

www.nms.ac.uk/education/kids.aspx
National Museum of Scotland interactive pages – Picts

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