



Planning Your Storytelling Visit

Storytelling visits can offer a unique opportunity to celebrate and explore topics in an original and exciting way, as well as a chance to come together with people in your community, school or workplace, share stories and have fun together.

Storytellers can bring a wide range of stories from traditional tales, myths and legends, to dilemma and problem stories, or stories of local history, people and events. While the experience of sharing live stories in itself stimulates imagination and creative language, there are many ways in which stories can contribute to the aims of your project or organisation.

Booking a storyteller

Visit the 'Storytellers in Scotland' section of our website for profiles of professional storytellers working all over Scotland. For advice on which storytellers are suitable for your event please contact us. You can also use the directory search topics to find storytellers by geographical area and audience type/age group.

Planning a storyteller visit

After making your choice of storyteller, you can either contact them directly to discuss what kind of event you are planning, or we will happily contact them on your behalf to arrange the session.

There are a few things we would recommend you do when planning the visit to ensure everything runs smoothly on the day:

- When contacting a selected storyteller, let him/her know what you want to achieve from their visit. It is sensible to confirm these arrangements in writing. If your booking is made through the Scottish Storytelling Centre, you and the storyteller will receive written confirmation of the booking direct from the Centre.
- Remember that, although you want to include as many people as possible, it's important to ensure a quality experience for those who participate. As storytellers are not carers or child minders, an adult should always be present during storytelling sessions with children, young people and vulnerable people of all ages. This ensures that their professional skills will be maximised in complementing existing staff and resources.
- Apart from encouraging the participants to look forward to the storyteller's visit, can you use this anticipation to stimulate interest in stories, or in a particular theme? The storyteller can tailor his/her session to a specific theme or topic, but this should be discussed in advance.

- Where will the storytelling sessions take place? An intimate space is better than a large hall, and eye contact between storyteller and listeners is important. Can the audience sit round the storyteller in a semi-circle? If the audience is participating in some aspects of the session, or follow-up activities are involved, the space requirements may be different. Your storyteller will be able to advise you on suitable seating/space arrangements.

Making your booking

If you are booking a storyteller through the Scottish Storytelling Centre, there is certain information that will help us to coordinate your event. Event details are confirmed in writing before the event, so we need the following information as far in advance as possible from booking organisations or individuals:

Length, number and frequency of sessions

Storytelling sessions generally last a maximum of 1.5 hours. The recommended maximum duration for sessions with nursery children, older people and people with learning disabilities is 45 minutes

Group size/age range

Scottish Storytelling Centre recommendations:

Early years groups – maximum 30

Children and adults aged 6 plus – maximum 60

Interactive workshops (all ages) – maximum 20

Travel

Some storytellers have their own transport, and some use public transport to travel to and from visits. Please provide us with the full address of the venue, and any additional travel directions or tips that might be useful to the storyteller (local bus numbers, nearest train station etc.).

Whenever possible, the storyteller's travelling expenses should be covered by the organisation booking the visit. The Scottish Storytelling Centre's recommended rate for travel expenses is 40p per mile or the cost of public transport.

Accommodation

If an overnight stay is required, the booking organisation/individual will be required to make accommodation arrangements for the storyteller.

Payment arrangements

Please let us know whether you plan to pay the storyteller direct or would prefer to be invoiced by Scottish Storytelling Centre.

On the Day

- Make sure that the storyteller is welcomed when they arrive, introduced to any staff involved in the session, and shown round the venue.
- A cup of tea or coffee might be a life saver, and a glass of water during the session is always much appreciated!
- Although all Scottish Storytelling Centre directory storytellers have Enhanced Disclosure certificates, a responsible member of staff must be present throughout sessions with children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is important that this individual is supportive of the storyteller and not engaged in a distracting activity. A storytelling session which encourages participation is an ideal opportunity to observe and encourage listening and telling skills.
- Feedback is always welcomed by storytellers both from the organisers and participants – do let them know what you thought of the session!

Follow up

The storyteller's visit is a positive learning activity in its own right, but can also enrich ongoing activity in a number of ways. These include:

- using stories and storytelling to explore themes, projects or Curriculum areas
- using stories that reflect participants' own cultures or identities
- enabling people to develop their own storytelling skills
- telling stories to other people, young and old
- collecting stories from families and communities
- exploring use of languages and dialects, other than standard English, through story
- redrafting stories and creating new ones
- moving from oral to written versions of stories through storyboards
- illustrating stories and bringing together words and images on a computer screen
- exploring stories through the expressive arts
- encouraging discussion by telling and exploring stories.

Please visit our online shop or contact the Scottish Storytelling Centre for a list of available resources or for advice on organising a storytelling skills workshop to support your storytelling visit/project.

Current rates recommended by the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Storytelling sessions

Half Day	£120.00
Full Day	£200.00

Training workshops

Not-for-profit/voluntary organisations

Half day	£150
Full day	£225

Public sector organisations

Half day	£230
Full day	£350

Corporate

£500 - £1000 depending on requirements

A full day consists of a morning and afternoon, or an afternoon and evening. A half day consists of a morning, afternoon or evening, comprising up to two hours of storytelling with a suitable break.

Rates for work overseas should be discussed directly with individual storytellers or the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

All fees are subject to VAT.

Live Literature Fund

All storytellers listed in the directory are eligible to be booked for sessions through the Live Literature Fund (LLF), which is administered by the Scottish Book Trust. Please contact Clare Rodgers on 0131 524 0166 or clare.rodgers@scottishbooktrust.com for more information on eligibility for Live Literature funding.

Contact

If you would like further advice on booking or planning your storyteller visit, or would like to discuss uses for storytelling and storymaking in your organisation, please contact:

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