



One minute guide

Arts, music and culture for children

No. 90, August 2015

What do we have in Leeds?

Our ambition is to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in, a child friendly city ([guide](#)). This is a crucial element of the council's work to become the best city in the UK by 2030. We believe that an important aspect of this ambition is for all 180,000 children and young people in the city to have access to a rich and exciting range of arts, music and cultural activities. In Leeds, there is a wealth of resources to achieve this including museums, galleries, libraries, Breeze and ArtForms. In addition, there is an almost endless list of music, drama, arts and other cultural activities available across the city. This guide provides a sample of the services available across the city, but focuses on those provided by the council.

The [Breeze website](#) helps you to find out what's going on and has a 'Search for activities and venues' function. By entering your postcode you can find out what is happening in your area. Children and young people (up to age 19) should be encouraged to sign up for a [Breeze card](#) (and joint library card) which gives them fast track access and early information about Breeze events and discounts to other events, activities and attractions.

There is also [Leeds Arts Networks](#) providing information on cultural opportunities for children and young people. In addition, the [Leeds Inspired](#) what's on website brings together the city's annual highlights alongside independent events to create an ever changing inspirational cultural calendar.

Museums and galleries

Leeds Museums and Galleries have nine very different sites: [Kirkstall Abbey](#); [Abbey House Museum](#); [Temple Newsam House](#); [Lotherton Hall](#); [Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills](#); [Thwaite Mills Watermill](#); [Leeds Art Gallery](#); [Leeds City Museum](#); and our open access exhibit store at [Leeds Discovery Centre](#).

Each site offers a menu of experiential, multi-sensory and interactive curriculum-based schools workshops, and family activities in the school holidays. They run under-fives sessions, teacher training, community workshops and projects, youth engagement and adult programmes. They also have creative spaces to work in and can support [Arts Award](#) and [Artsmark](#). For more information visit: www.leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries

Libraries

Leeds Libraries are free to join, open all year round and have something for everyone. Children can join the library and get their first library card (Breeze card) as soon as they are born. Leeds Library and Information Service offer a wide range of events and activities for children, young people and families to promote libraries as a safe, fun place to support literacy, learning and leisure. They offer an inclusive service to help children and young people with literacy and numeracy and support children and young people with additional needs. They promote reading for enjoyment and learning through an exciting and varied selection of materials, including digital resources. For more information visit www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries

Breeze Arts Festival, Breeze Arts Foundation and Breeze Culture Network

The [Breeze Arts Festival](#) is an exciting festival packed full of activities for 11-19 year olds, celebrating the creativity of young people across the city. Organised by young people, for young people, it takes place each year at the start of the summer holidays. The [Breeze Arts Foundation](#) aims to provide young people with opportunities, skills and confidence to gain employment or go on to further education and offer an introduction to the arts industry. It also supports young people to achieve accreditation through Arts Award and BTEC Level 1 in Performing Arts. [Breeze Culture Network](#) features a huge and growing directory of over 3,000 individuals and organisations working across Yorkshire & Humber to provide positive events, activities and workshops for children and young people.

ArtForms — Music and Arts

[ArtForms](#) is the Music and Arts team for Children's Services. They offer an extensive range of arts and cultural programmes in and out of school hours.

[ArtForms Music](#) delivers music teaching in schools and out of school community music at their music centres across the city including City of Leeds Youth Music Groups. They also lead the [Leeds Music Education Partnership](#) which coordinates the music offer to children in Leeds.

[ArtForms Arts Development](#) support schools and other organisations working with children and young people to provide high quality learning opportunities in and through visual art, dance, film, drama and the written and spoken word.

ArtForms [Artemis](#) is the artefact and art loan service which enables children and young people to have hands on access to objects linked to subjects and themes they are learning about in school.

Leeds Young Film

[Leeds Young Film Festival](#) (LYFF) is the largest event of its kind in the North. Every Easter LYFF brings the best new and classic films for young people from around the world to some of Leeds' most loved venues, including [Hyde Park Picture House](#) and [Leeds Town Hall](#). The festival features premieres and previews, special guests, activities and events for all the family. Also, the [Golden Owls](#) Young Filmmakers Awards is a chance for young people to win a city-wide filmmaking competition.

LYFF offer year-round opportunities for young people of all ages who would like to get involved in film. [The MediaFish](#) group of young consultants (aged 14-19), help to plan and programme films all year long, and other activities include the [BFI Film Academy Leeds](#) filmmaking course (ages 16-19) and film literacy programmes for schools

The [Not For Rental](#) programme gives viewers aged 15+ a chance to see rarely screened films on the big screen for the first time, bridging the gap between the viewing experiences of LYFF and Leeds International Film Festival.

What next for Leeds?

Leeds has officially launched its bid to be [European Capital of Culture in 2023](#) and our bid must be submitted by mid-2017. This process promises to generate more opportunities for and interest in cultural activities for children in Leeds.