



# Meet the Nightingale Nurse

## Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

**Preparing for Your Visit:** It is strongly recommended that supervising staff should arrange a pre-visit to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Free tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments. A Hazard Identification Sheet will also be provided in order to help you with your risk assessment.

### Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** This activity takes place in Pockerley Old Hall. To reach Pockerley Old Hall either take a tram to Pockerley tram stop or walk down from the main entrance.
- **Arriving on Time:** If your school has the first session booked (10.30-12.00) it is advisable to walk straight to Pockerley Old Hall. In the event of a late arrival every effort will be made to accommodate the full time of the activity, however, due to other bookings this may not always be possible.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** If you intend to wear costume, it will save time if you arrive already dressed but please remember that children need to be warmly dressed.
- **Storage:** Anything which is not required during the activity session will be stored in the undercroft.
- **Toilets:** There are toilets around the back of the Old House. A member of staff can direct you to these.
- **Health and Safety Information:** Please note that you will be in an area which is closed to the general public so please keep your party together and be aware of moving vehicles. If the paths look icy, please ask the group to take extra care. Before the session a member of staff will go through any health and safety issues. A Hazard Identification Sheet is also enclosed to help you with your risk assessment.
- **Access:** The Pockerley Old House is an historic building with old and uneven steps that must be mounted in a careful and sensible manner and may be inaccessible to pupils

with access needs. If there is anyone in your group with access needs please contact the Bookings Officer on 0191 370 4026 or email [bookings@beamish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@beamish.org.uk).

**Outline of Activity:** The daughter of the house is to join Florence Nightingale, caring for the wounded of the Crimean War in Scutari, Turkey. She is practicing the skills she will need to be a member of Miss Nightingale's nursing team: making nourishing food, keeping rooms clean and learning skills from a local doctor. Pupils will be divided into groups and then sent to the appropriate area with an adult supervisor from your school. Some activities will be led by Beamish staff and some will be teacher led, with instructions provided. The session will end with a plenary session back in the main kitchen with pupils tasting the biscuits made.

### **Background Information:**

Florence Nightingale was born in 1820, the daughter of a wealthy family. Her father believed girls should be educated, but the family were shocked when Florence announced she wanted to train to become a nurse. Nurses at the time were uneducated, hospitals were dirty with no anaesthetics and most people died; this was no place for a lady from the upper classes.

Florence persisted and in 1851 her family relented and she trained as a nurse.

The Crimean War was fought between 1853 and 1856, with Turkey, France and Britain fighting Russia. It was the first time journalists had been on the front line of battle and the reports they sent home about the conditions faced by wounded soldiers in military hospitals led to a public outcry. Soldiers were dying of hunger, cold and lack of proper medical care. This led Florence Nightingale and her nurses to travel to Scutari.

Florence Nightingale instigated changes that made a real difference to the survival rates in the hospital. She took control of supplies, ensuring men received healthy nutritious food, clean water, blankets, medicines and bandages. Wards were cleaned and moral was raised with news from home and activities for recuperating men.

After the war, Florence returned to continue her work establishing a training school for nurses and campaigning to improve health of the general public.

### **Objectives of Activity:**

- To find out what life was like when Florence Nightingale was alive.
- To discover what Florence Nightingale did and how she made a difference to nursing.

### **Ideas for Pre and Post Visit:**

- **Pre:** Find out about Florence Nightingale. Who was she, when was she alive and what did she do? What do you think life was like when Florence Nightingale was alive?

- **Post:** How did life in Florence Nightingale's time compare to today? Now you have spent time at Pockerley Old Hall you can talk about how homes, clothes and medicines compared. Would you want to go to be a nurse with Florence Nightingale? What skills would a good nurse need?

**Contact Us:** If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Telephone Simon Woolley on 0191 370 4011 or email [education@beamish.org.uk](mailto:education@beamish.org.uk).

## Hazard Identification Sheet - Meet the Nightingale Nurse

Location: Pockerley Old Hall

Potential Hazard	Who is particularly at risk	Context of hazard and steps to be taken by accompanying adults to prevent accidents	Risk of accident/dangerous occurrence High/medium/low	If high or medium what additional precautions or measures need to be taken to reduce risk to low
Slips and trips	Children and adults	The steps at Pockerley Old Hall are worn and uneven and some areas have low lighting levels. Museum staff will arrange equipment to minimise risk of trips. Children should be advised to wear sturdy shoes for the visit, to always walk around the house and to use hand rails and ropes where provided.	Low	
Fires/ candles	Children and adults	Fires will be lit in the Old House and the New House kitchen/parlour. Children will be advised to stay away from the fires and the metal guards in front of the fires. Only Museum staff to manage the fires. Any candles will be placed out of reach of children.	Low	
Dust/ smoke	Children and adults	Open fires and candles will be lit and children will take part in dusting activities. Beamish staff will keep areas as well ventilated as possible. Teachers and staff should be aware of any children with allergies/asthma. Please inform Museum staff leading the activity if there is a problem and an alternative task will be provided.	Medium	Beamish staff will ensure that all participants are aware of the fact there will be a fire and potentially dust in the air. Supervisory adults should ensure that all participants have necessary inhalers/medication.
Animals	Children and adults	Pigs, horses, cats and poultry live at Pockerley Old Hall, although children should not come close to the animals. Children should wash their hands before eating and drinking. The nearest hand washing facilities are at Pockerley Old Hall. Pregnant women should be advised to take extra care.	Low	

Food allergies	Children and adults	During the activity children will be helping to bake biscuits. All children will wash hands prior to the baking activity. Ingredients will include flour, oats, butter, golden syrup, ginger, salt, bicarbonate of soda. Before eating, children will wash hands. Beamish staff to check for allergies before handing out biscuits.	Low	School staff to be aware of any food allergies that would prevent children eating biscuit.
Bandages	Children and adults	Children will have a go at bandaging – Museum and school staff to ensure children don't bandage up too tightly.	Low	
Allergies to herbs & soap	Children and adults	During the cleaning and medicine activity, children will handle herbs and soap, which could potentially lead to an allergic reaction. School and Beamish staff to check before doing activity, if there is a problem an alternative activity will be provided.	Low	
Group work – security issues	Children and adults	During the visit children will be working in groups. <b>Children must be supervised at all times by an adult from the school.</b> Beamish admits free supervising places at a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children.	Low	
Washing with poss tub, poss stick and carbolic soap	Children and adults	Washing involves adding carbolic soap to a poss tub of warm water and agitating it will the poss stick. School and Beamish staff need to ensure children are careful with the poss stick so children do not hit one another. Soap will be pre-grated and children will wash hands at the end of the session. Anyone with sensitive skin can avoid contact with soap.	Low	
Sweeping with sand	Children and adults	The stone used for sweeping has a long handle – this should be very closely supervised by an adult (one to one). Brushes for children will be shorter handled to avoid children hitting one another with broom handles.	Low	
Winter weather – ice, snow, cold	Children and adults	Beamish is an open air museum. Please advise all participants on the trip to come dressed in warm clothing – winter coats, gloves, hats and sturdy shoes. Museum staff will keep paths clear and use grit to improve surfaces. Museum staff will advise teachers on the situation on arrival and react to conditions should they deteriorate.	Low	

**NB: It is advised that all participants wash their hands after the activity.**

**Date Reviewed:** 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014

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