



**exploring pottery from every angle**

Teachers' Information & Planning Guide

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
Booking your visit .....	2
Facilities.....	2
Suggested Itinerary .....	3
Workshops.....	4
Short Sessions.....	4
Themed Events/Shows.....	4
Key Ideas and Exhibits .....	5
What is clay?.....	5
Studio Pottery .....	5
Design and Production .....	5
The NarrowBoat .....	6
The Factory .....	6
The Dig/Time Team.....	6
The Magic Carpet.....	6
The Pottery Shop.....	6
The House .....	6
The Pavilions .....	7
Mezzanine.....	8
The Memory Bank and News Reader.....	9
Foundation Stage Opportunities .....	10
Key Stage 1 .....	10
Key Stage 2.....	12
Key Stages 3 and 4.....	14
Special Groups.....	14
Risk Assessment .....	15
Exhibit Curriculum Mapping.....	16

## **Introduction**

Ceramica uses an exciting combination of interactive exhibits, videos, models and artefacts to explore the journey of clay from its raw state in the ground, through an array of stages of production, to its destination in our shops and homes. There is a wide range of cross curricular links with particular reference to Materials, Process' and Changes, Art and Design, Manufacturing and Leisure and Tourism. Our staff of 'Visitor Services Assistants' are on hand to enhance your group's learning experience. The following notes will give you the exhibition background necessary for you to make the most of your visit to Ceramica.

## **Booking your visit**

We recommend you visit Ceramica prior to booking your group trip. For a free 'teacher pass' and to book your visit, short sessions and workshops please contact Karen Burgess on 01782 832001.

There are lots of carpet areas around the exhibition which can be used to focus groups on particular exhibits. Information about these led activities are listed under 'short sessions'.

Workshops take place in the Education Room, and this room is also used as an eating area.

## **Facilities**

- There are toilets within Ceramica and we are adjacent to attended public toilets.
- There is an area for the storage of coats and bags.
- There is a designated Education Room for schools to use for workshops and lunch.
- There is lift access to all floors.
- The shop stocks a range of items which can be purchased for under £2, e.g. Wade Whimsies, stationary etc
- Clip boards, writing/drawing materials and book boxes are available on each level.

## **Suggested Itinerary**

We would recommend that if possible you come for a free pre visit. To arrange this please contact Karen Burgess on 01782 832001.

To get the most of out Ceramica, your group needs to be well supervised and focused. To help you to achieve a successful and productive visit we suggest the following.

### Primary

You should allow a minimum of 2 hours for your visit, not including lunch.

- It is recommended that you divide your group into 3 sub groups sending each one to the areas identified on the floor plan. Using the key ideas provided the pupils can then access the interactive exhibits in a focused manner. An A3 pot spotters sheet can be provided for reproduction at school for the children to bring along on the visit.
- Pupils can access information independently by using touch screens, audio visual equipment and software available but these learning experiences can be enhanced with adult support.
- Bizarreland and the Pavilions can each accommodate up to 30 pupils and ideal timings for each of these floors is:
  - Foundation Stage - 45 mins Bizarreland, 45 mins workshop
  - KS1 and 2 - 45 mins Bizarreland, 45 mins Pavilions.
  - Short sessions range from 5-10 minutes, workshops last for 45 minutes.

### Secondary

You should allow a minimum of 1 hour, not including lunch or a workshop for your visit.

- It is recommended that you divide your group into 3 sub groups, sending each one to the areas identified on the floor plan.
- It is important that your groups are focused, so we recommend using or adapting the worksheet provided.

If you have any problems during your visit, please speak to any of the Ceramica Visitor Services Assistants who will be happy to help.

## **Workshops**

These are available all year round. They:

- Link directly to the QCA Science, Art, History, D&T schemes of work and can be adapted to meet the needs of your particular group.
- Are approximately 45 minutes in duration.
- Focus on Design and Technology and/or Art and Design although there will be references to History, Geography, Science, Literacy and Citizenship.
- Include the exploration of design and research, or a material/process/ technique used in the production of ceramics.
- To book a workshop please contact Karen Burgess on 01782 832001.

## **Short Sessions**

These are available all year round. They:

- Focus in on a particular part of the exhibition.
- Are optional.
- Last between 5 and 10 minutes each.
- Link directly to activities in the QCA schemes of work.
- To book a short session please contact Karen Burgess on 01782 832001.

## **Themed Events/Shows**

Please contact Karen Burgess on 01782 832001, or visit our website [www.ceramicauk.com](http://www.ceramicauk.com) for details.

## **Key Ideas and Exhibits**

Ceramica uses an exciting combination of interactive exhibits, videos, models and artefacts to explore the journey of clay from its raw state in the ground, through an array of stages of production, to its destination in our shops and homes. It is divided between four levels, **Bizarreland**, **The Pavilions**, **Mezzanine** and **The Education Room**.

Each of the exhibition levels then has sub- divisions. Bizarreland has nine areas, The Pavilions first floor eight and the Mezzanine seven.

### Bizarreland:

**What is clay?** : The model shows the position of clay in its' raw state underground. The street model shows how fired clay is used under ground in the manufacture of bricks and pipes. The boards and banners around this area describe the properties and uses of clay, and the painted panel follows the journey of clay from the ground to the mantle piece. A short session \* here shows the 'ingredients' which have formed the clay over millions of years, and how clay soil is different to sandy soil and the implications of this.

**Studio Pottery:** Looks at the tools and the craft of the designer/ maker Studio Potter. The area is manned part time and so if you needed this as a part of your focus you would need to indicate when booking. There is a phone here where you can listen to stories of the studio potter. A workshop is available on this theme.

**Design and Production:** This area shows various aspects of form production and finishing. There are moulds on display, a tea pot handle and spout interactive, a jollyng model and a pattern making interactive. A short session\* here could involve a close look slip casting, lithographing or design art work. This area demonstrates aspects of materials and their properties and the idea of irreversible changes can be discussed. Linked workshops here are the production of a food safe plate in conjunction with the Royal Stafford Ceramic Café or Mother Nature Designer.

**The Narrow Boat:** This area has two inter-actives. The crane moves so that the children can load the boat and it also has a moving seat that the children can try 'legging' the tunnel. There is also a phone here where eye witness accounts and experiences can be heard. The cabin provides a role play area and also a setting for stories songs and rhymes for younger groups. The short session \* here is based on the history of our local canal, The Trent and Mersey and the lives of the children on board a working boat. There is the chance to book a workshop based on the Roses and Castles painting tradition.

**The Factory:** Looks at the firing process of ceramics; again the discussion of materials and irreversible change is well illustrated. The two kilns show a biscuit firing and a glost firing. The biscuit firing is in the closed kiln and the ware is touching. The glost kiln is on the trolley and the ware is spaced. This exhibit promotes discussion based in the materials and temperatures used in the production of ceramics.

**The Dig/Time Team:** The video lasts 11 minutes and the carpeted area can be used for sub groups to watch this. There are artefacts in the cabinets and a model of the most exciting part of the find, Josiah Wedgwood's factory floor of the Ivy House works. The real factory floor is outside the Ceramica shop marked by blue, inscribed tiles set into the pavement. Children can get their hands dirty in the interactive 'dig trays'. A short session\* here could discuss the importance of ceramic artefacts in our historical understanding, followed by the construction of an artefact time line. A linked workshop here is the Pottery of the Ancients.

**The Magic Carpet:** Fly over Burslem in February 2003 and then in the smoky atmosphere of the 1840's. This aerial film shows the geography of Burslem past and present.

**The Pottery Shop:** Provides an excellent role play area and chances for money and problem solving activities. A short session\* here would be focused on the job of the shop assistant. This area could also promote discussion on packaging and the presentation of food technology projects.

**The House:** Find the ceramics in the home and the garden; some are more obvious than others. A short session\* here could look at fair testing of domestic ceramic products or the sorting and classifying of materials. The linked workshop here is containers.

## **The Pavilions**

**Wade:** A short session here\* would look at the use of ceramics in promotional wares or the feel of ceramics and the textures which can be achieved. There are some touch screens on this stand to describe some of Wade industrial ceramics.

**Royal Doulton:** There is a revolving display of four Royal Doulton patterns and short film displaying each. A short session\* here would look at the work of Gainsborough and his influence on some of the figures on display, or the role of the company curator and researcher in the design of new products. On display around this stand are copper plate engravings used in the production of a printed pattern.

**James Sadler:** Has a video where the elements of the tea pot and its design are discussed. There are teapots from a variety of decades on display and a pour the pot interactive where children can decide which tea pot pours best. A short session\* here would involve the construction of a tea pot time line or the disassembling of a teapot. Linked workshops are Decorate a Tea Pot and Take a Tea Pot.

**Steelite and Dudson:** Here children can see the range the companies produce using a limited number of shapes but decorated with a variety of patterns. It is worth waiting for the slide presentation to end and the audio 'Professional Plate' to begin. This gives the children some insight into the special materials and tests which are needed to produce a plate used in restaurants and hotels. The strength of these plates can be tested on this stand using the 'edge strength demonstrator'.

**Moorland Pottery:** Have ware on display which is less conventional than most. They also have a sponge printing demonstration on view. A short session\* here would look at the geometric shapes used in the production of both pattern and form by this company. A linked workshop would be Investigating Pattern.

**The Kiln:** is Ceramica's authentic model of a bottle oven. It has a computer interactive game where you are invited to 'fire' the kiln for 60 seconds by balancing the coal and oxygen input. This area also provides a setting for the discussion on the history of the pottery industry and what it was like to work in times past. A short session\* here would focus on the job of the fireman and how the job has changed.

**Royal Stafford:** Look at the influences of fashion and lifestyle on design. Finished wares, video and text give an insight into the work of the designer of today.

**Wood and Sons:** The pad printing video on this stand demonstrates how patterned plates are mass produced using modern technology. A short session\* here would look at the design work of the ceramic designer and follow the production of a plate through the ideas and developmental stages to the end product.

### **Mezzanine**

**Cobridge Stoneware:** Display their work and their video talks about the work and research which has gone in to developing their product which re-creates old effects and techniques. Their method of production is very technical and it has taken a great deal of research to develop glazes and bodies which can be fired to very high temperatures. They use a method of decoration called scragfitto.

**Moorcroft:** Have a display of ware at its various stages of production so that their decorative process of 'tube lining' can be followed through. The video is detailed and shows all of the stages of production which many of the other companies also follow i.e. slip casting, decorating, firing, glazing and firing again. A short session here would follow through the production stage at a pace where questions can be asked and ware can be handled. A workshop linked to this would be Investigating Pattern, Containers or Mother Nature Designer.

**Burgess Dorling and Leigh:** This stand shows the artefacts, materials and processes used by this factory which still produces ware by using Victorian methods and machinery. There has been a big book produced about this factory called *Who Made this Teapot*, which shows all stages of production. Arnold Bennett used this factory, then Burgess and Leigh, as his reference for his novel *Anna of the Five Towns*, which is depicted in the stands video.

**Arnold Bennett:** Arnold Bennett wrote about Bursley, the fictional town which he based on Burslem using its landmarks and buildings in his work. The town hall which holds Ceramica featured in 'The Card', where a charity ball was held. There are three phones here which tell of Bennett and his Bursley.

**The Memory Bank and News Reader:** Read the Ceramica news by selecting one of the four stories available on the auto cue. Once you have finished your broadcast, watch your recorded item on the screen above the station.

The Memory Bank is held on two independent computers next to the news reading area. To start, press the silver button. This acts in the same way as a mouse button. Put the headphones on, which are located on a hook to the right of the screen and use the blue tracker ball to move the mouse arrow to locate your searches. Press the silver button to select your searches and listen to stories of Burslem in 'Talk of the Town' or tales from the factories which are located in 'Pot Bank'. Comprehension questions are available for this exhibit.

## Foundation Stage Opportunities

Bizarreland provides role play opportunities which can support the following areas of learning:

- Communication, language and literacy
- Mathematical development
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development

Clay making workshops support the **Creative development** strand  
Visits for this age group can be tailored to supplement the individual plans of the early years practitioners for their children.

## Key Stage 1 Opportunities

Short Sessions Menu (Choose an activity if you wish)

### Bizarreland Short Sessions

- **Archaeology:** Explore Chronology using an artefact timeline. (H)
- **Narrow boat:** Find out why the canals were built and what life was like for the children on board. Costumes and Role Play Opportunity (H)
- **Shop:** Buy and sell pottery in our role play shop. (PSHE)
- **Home:** Sort and Classify materials found in the home. Role Play Opportunity. (S)
- **Factory:** Mr Potter story sack. Find out why and how glaze is applied to ceramic items. Decorate a paper jug.

### The Pavilions and Mezzanine Short Sessions

- **Wade:** Use a feely bag to guess the ceramic object. (S)
- **Royal Doulton:** Find out about Thomas Gainsborough and his portraits used as models for the Gainsborough Ladies. (A/DT)
- **Churchill Sadler:** Find out how tea was involved in the growth of the ceramics industry; identify the parts of a tea pot. Build a tea pot timeline and decorate a paper teapot. (H/DT)
- **Moorland:** Discover the use of geometric shapes in the design form and patterns of modern ceramics. (A/DT)
- **Royal Stafford:** Examine the influences of colour, places and lifestyle on a new, contemporary pattern. (PSHE)
- **The Bottle Oven:** Find out about how pottery was fired in the past and listen to accounts of the people who worked with the Bottle Oven. (H/E)

- **Moorcroft:** Discover the stages of production used by Moorcroft. (DT)
- **Burgess Dorling and Leigh:** Read "Who made this Teapot?" and find out about their Victorian manufacturing processes. (H/DT)

### Key Stage 1 Workshop Menu

Education Room (Choose one, 45 minute workshop)

- **Mother Nature Designer:** Experiment with the methods of applying decoration to clay. 1) Trace a design and slip trail onto a clay tile (slip trailing was used prevalently in Tudor times) or 2) Stencil, sponge or paint a design onto a plate. This work is done onto a biscuit ware plate using non firing colours.
- **Can Buildings Speak?** Look at the patterns found in the Old Town Hall. Explore the patterns through printing and drawing onto paper or create a textured clay tile.
- **Studio Pottery:** Hand building workshops. Produce a textured tile, paddle coil or thumb pot. (These projects use air drying clay which can be painted). (A/H)
- **Roses and Castles:** Discover the story behind these traditional designs and have a go at producing a piece of canal art onto a biscuit ware, decorative plate.
- **Tools of the Trade:** Investigate the materials used by the industry- clay and plaster to produce a relief plaster cast which can be painted.
- **The Art of Deco:** Look at this influential design style and produce your own deco pattern onto a biscuit ware, decorative plate.
- **Places and Patterns:** Use this workshop to decorate a fired pot in an authentic pattern - Mexican, Greek etc choose the location or age of design.

(A) - Art, (H) -History, (DT) - Design Technology, (E) - English, (S) - Science, (M) - Maths, (PSHE) - Personal, Social and Health Education.

## Key Stage 2 Opportunities

Short Sessions Menu (Choose an activity if you wish)

### Bizarreland Short Sessions

- **Archaeology:** What was it like to live here in the past? What did the
- Time team discover when they visited Burslem in 1998? (H)
- **Narrow boat:** Look at the reasons behind the building of the Trent and Mersey Canal. Find out what life was like for the children who lived on the Narrow boats. Role Play Opportunity.
- **Clay, Rocks and Soils:** Where does clay appear in the ground? Which organic materials form clay? Does water flow more quickly through sand than clay?(S)
- **Production:** Discover how plaster moulds form liquid clay into a solid object which can be fired. Can the firing process be reversed? (S)
- **Shop:** Buy and sell pottery in our role play shop. (M, PSHE)
- **Walking with Wedgwood:** Find out about the life and work of one of Burslem's most famous sons.

### The Pavilions and Mezzanine Short Sessions

- **Wade:** Find out about the promotional wares Wades produce. How two dimensional characters and ideas can be developed into three dimensional products. (D/T)
- **Royal Doulton:** Find out how the modellers at Royal Doulton use portraits and historical sources to inform their work for new figures. (A/DT)
- **Churchill Sadler:** Take a Tea Pot. Discover the importance of tea drinking became to the growth of the pottery industry. Look at the form of a tea pot. Complete a teapot time line using evidence and clues. (H/ DT)
- **Moorland:** Discover the use of Geometric forms in the shape and pattern in modern ceramics or find out about local ceramic designer Susie Cooper and her Chelsea works days.(H/A/DT)
- **Royal Stafford:** Examine the influences of colour, places and lifestyle on the production of a new, contemporary pattern. (DT/PSHE)
- **The Bottle Oven:** Find out about how pottery was fired in the past and listen to accounts of the people who worked with the bottle oven. (H/E)

- **Burgess Dorling and Leigh:** Read 'Who made this Teapot?' and discover the Victorian manufacturing techniques still used by this company. (H/DT)
- **Arnold Bennett:** Find out about the life of Arnold Bennett. Listen to extracts from his works which describe the buildings and locations which survive in Burslem today. (H/E)

## Key Stage 2 Workshop Menu

Education Room (Choose one 45 minute workshop)

- **Investigating pattern:** Look at the elements and motifs used in contemporary design. 1) Slip trail onto a clay tile or 2) Use a stencil or sponges to print onto a biscuit ware, decorative plate.
- Bring a design along to Ceramica and produce a food safe plate of your design. (M/A/DT)
- **Containers:** Look at the work of contemporary craftspeople and their design work. Hand build a container using coils or slabs. Change the surface of the clay by using textures or impressing objects. (A/DT/ PSHE)
- **The Art of Deco:** Find out about life in the 1920s and 30s and the influences on the design style. Paint a decorative plate using a deco design. (A, H)
- **Can we Change Places?** The town hall is an example of how a space can be changed to suit a purpose. Look at paintings and drawings done in the past of the building. Make a paper collage about it's' transformation using visual images and drawings. (A/DT).
- **A Sense of Place:** Use viewfinders to identify patterns and textures of The Old Town Hall. 1) Make a textured tile with clay using your research or 2) Make a plaster cast moulding in the style of The Old Town Hall or 3) Hand build in clay (air drying) a classical figure in the style of The Angel Weather Vane or the atlas caryatids. (A)
- **Roses and Castles:** Discover the story behind these traditional designs and have a go at producing a piece of canal art onto decorative, biscuit ware plate.
- **Egyptian Discovery:** Journey with Howard Carter to the tomb of Tutankhamen, look at the role of the ancient potter. 1) Make an impressed Egyptian tile or 2) Model an Egyptian figure or canopic jar 3) Make a 'paddle' pot. (H, A )

- **Roman Holiday:** Find out about the Roman find at the Trent Vale kiln site, make a Roman coil or face pot and find out how the potter was an essential part of the Roman Army.
- **Cameo Roles:** Look at Josiah Wedgwood's portrait cameos and medallions, create a clay self portrait in this classical style.

(A) - Art, (H) -History, (DT) - Design Technology, (E) - English, (S) - Science, (M) - Maths, (PSHE) - Personal, Social and Health Education.

### **Key Stages 3 and 4**

Session for KS3 and KS4 can be catered for in particular the areas of art, design and travel and tourism.

### **Special Groups**

Out of school clubs, Guides and Scouts, Sure Start and Home School groups have found Ceramica to be a versatile resource which encourages an interactive approach to learning.

Modern stimulating displays and lift access to all floors ensure children and adults with special needs have a wealth of opportunity to learn and explore during their visit. Workshops can be adapted to suit the needs of individual groups.

## Risk Assessment

### Activity

Educational visits to Ceramica. Visits to the centre will include the use of exhibition spaces and the supervised use of the Education Room. Some groups will also use the Education Room as a lunch facility.

### Person in charge

School teacher/s in overall charge. Ceramica staff will oversee all workshops in the Education Room.

### List of Hazards

- Stairs in exhibition spaces.
- Doors.
- Glass cases in exhibition.
- Tripping on table/chair legs in Education room.
- Interactive displays - soil and pottery pieces in archaeology area, seat and winch in narrow boat area, potters wheel, sand and cupboard doors in home role play area, coins in role play shop.
- Cuts from handling fired ceramic objects and pottery tools.
- Handling of wet clay.
  
- Use of lifts.
  
- Crossing of one road to use The Royal Stafford Cafe for food safe plate projects.

### Who may be harmed

School pupils and/or accompanying adults.

### Safety Precautions

- Handrails markings on stairs.
- Door Guards, safety catches.
- Toughened glass.
- Verbal warnings and adequate supervision.
- Supervision of activities.
  
- Clear instructions on handling all material, supervision of activity.
- Instructions to wash hands thoroughly after using materials.
- Under 16's may not use the lift unless accompanied by an adult.
- Verbal warning and adequate supervision.

### Further Action

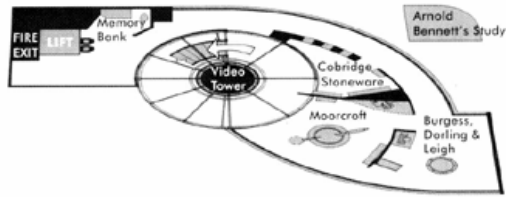
Ongoing assessment of potential hazards. Continuous training of Ceramica staff in risk assessment.

## Exhibit Curriculum Mapping

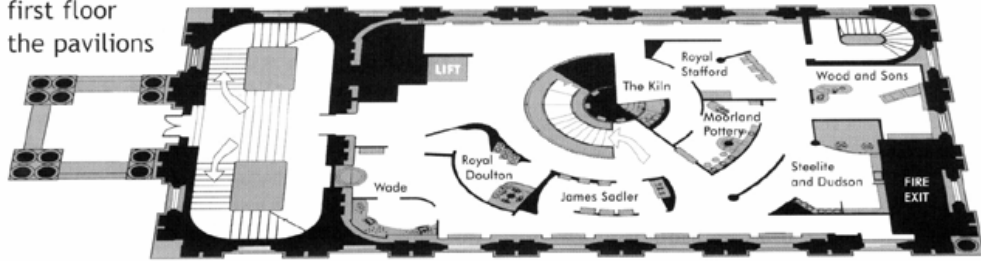
Foundation Stage										
	The Time Team	The Magic Carpet	The Factory	The Narrow Boat	Design and Production	Studio Pottery	What is Clay?	The House	The Pottery Shop	
Mathematical Development					✓			✓	✓	
Knowledge and understanding of the world	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	
Creative Development				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
<b>Key Stage 1 and 2</b>										
<b>Maths:</b>										
Calculations										✓
Understanding Patterns and Properties of Shape					✓	✓				
Understanding Properties of Position and Movement					✓					
<b>Science:</b>										
Grouping Materials									✓	
Changing Materials			✓			✓		✓		
<b>Design and Technology:</b>										
Developing, Planning and Communicating Ideas					✓	✓		✓	✓	
Working with tools, equipment, materials and components to make quality products					✓	✓				
Evaluating processes and products			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Knowledge and Understanding of Materials and Components			✓		✓	✓				
<b>History:</b>										
Chronological Understanding	✓			✓						
Knowledge and understanding of events people and changes in the past	✓			✓						
Historical Interpretation	✓			✓						
Historical Enquiry	✓			✓						
<b>Geography:</b>										
Geographical enquiry and skills		✓		✓						
Knowledge and understanding of places	✓	✓		✓			✓			
<b>Art and Design:</b>										
Investigating and making art and craft				✓	✓	✓				
Educating and developing work				✓	✓	✓				✓

# Ceramica Floor Plan

- mezzanine  
the pavilions



- first floor  
the pavilions



- ground floor  
bizarreland

