

White Drawing Room

With its white and golden-yellow colour scheme the White Drawing Room is dazzling. Its glittering central chandelier measures about two metres across, and hangs low into the room. Four small versions are equally spaced towards the edges of the room.

Down the left side of the room are three windows. To the right, a set of mirrored double doors stand either side of a central fireplace. Standing in front of the first set of doors is an ornate yellow piano. In front of the fireplace, facing each other, are two golden sofas. A matching fire screen stands between them.

A continuous frieze runs along the top of all four white walls, consisting of a line of circular garlands with a triangle in each one. Above this frieze, rectangular panels contain moulded cherubs, cavorting among flowers, trees and birds. Above this layer is the wide coving. It's decorated with latticework as in previous rooms but this time it curves down into the room, like draped fabric. The central part of the ceiling consists of three roundels with radiating gold lines.

In the centre of the wall at the far end of the room is a second white fireplace with a portrait above it of a woman in white. There's the option to hear more about this portrait in a moment. Either side of the portrait is an ornate cabinet topped by a tall mirror. On top of

each cabinet, two candelabra and a single vase. The mirror and cabinet on the left is in fact a secret door - used by the Royal Family to enter the State Rooms from their private apartments beyond. The candelabra and vase are secured to the cabinet, and when the door is opened the mirror and cabinet swing forwards together.

