

Learning and Engagement Plan 2019-24

This policy sets out the strategic context, aims and objectives of the Learning Strategy 2019-2024.

Education and learning are fully integrated into all areas of museum planning we will work hard to sustain existing audiences, involving them as volunteers and where possible consult them in decision making, encouraging them to participate in activities and special projects onsite, through outreach and digital learning initiatives.

The priorities during this period for each audience or programme area are outlined below.

Schools and Formal Learning

- New sessions will be developed as we consider new ways of working using digital technology.
- Project funding for work using animation to enhance educational interaction of specific groups (Primary schools and Young adults) will be applied for.

Early Years and Primary Schools Programme

- In 2019/20, we will evaluate our permanent displays and assess their use within our formal learning offer.
- In 2020/21, we will carry out a review of the primary programme to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that it accounts for any changes to the national curriculum.
- The booking system and museum operational diary will be upgraded to a more user lead online system, resulting in more efficient administration of the schools and other programmes.

Provision for Teachers

- Deepen our relationship with local teachers and teachers' networks.

- Our INSET provision will be reviewed and developed so as to further provide in-depth CPD training opportunities for teachers to encourage confidence and skills in using objects, multisensory materials and primary sources in their lessons at school.

Work-based Learning Programme

- We hope to offer Museum based apprentice placements which will widen access to museum careers to underrepresented groups.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Programme

- Best practice in the provision for children, young people and adults with special educational needs will be developed.
- Specifically supporting staff to acquire basic skills in BSL (currently one member of staff is studying BSL level 2 they will lead a basic training session to ensure the ability to greet, guide to the café and W.Cs and basic finger spelling)
- To work in the museum sector providing training on working with ASD and to feed this into our activities programme via specific sessions for children with ASD .
- To develop our skills and extend the reach of our provision to new schools and specialist units, we will actively seek out potential new partnership opportunities.

Access and audience development

- We will work with a broad range of audiences and encourage active participation to ensure our offer is relevant and of interest to communities and individuals living locally to the museum.

Older People's Programme

- A diverse programme of activities will be delivered onsite and offered as outreach for older people; including reminiscence cafe, and craft activities.
- We will develop ways of sustaining this provision from 2019 onwards, through the use of volunteers and by seeking new funding.

Programme for Deaf and Disabled Visitors

- The access section of our website will be developed to include visual stories, and large print labels for partially sighted visitors.
- Specifically supporting staff to acquire basic skills in BSL (currently one member of staff is studying BSL level 2, they will lead a basic training session to ensure the ability to greet, guide to the café and W.Cs and basic finger spelling)

Young People

- We will work with local schools to provide work experience
- We will work with the Kids In Museums Manifesto to organise take over days.
- Additional funding opportunities for youth projects and programmes will be identified and pursued.

Family Learning Programme

- A programme of family learning activities will be offered during school holidays
- Additional funding will be sought to encourage active participation by local families and the development of resources.

Volunteering

- Young volunteer programmes will be instigated in 2019 – 21 and we will investigate ways of sustaining and developing these volunteering initiatives.
- We will review our existing arrangements for volunteer management and involvement and develop new policies, procedures and forward plans, diversifying the range of volunteering opportunities at the museum.
- We will involve volunteers from the local community in the delivery of heritage activities and projects.

Digital Learning

- Our online learning pages will be reviewed, leading to the creation of a 'Teachers' Zone' on our website by 2021.
- We will look for funding to work with young people to produce creative content for inclusion on the website and in digital interactives at the museum.
- The access pages will be updated and usability testing undertaken to improve general accessibility of the website.

Young People (Public Programme)

- We will develop ways for young people to actively participate at the museum through volunteering and creative projects including the creation of youth friendly talks on our temporary exhibitions and permanent displays.

Adults

- Adult group and adult public programme provision will be reviewed and evaluated in 2019–21. These findings will be used for the development of an ambitious and imaginative programme of activities.