

Learning & Development Policy

Learning and Education at the Vale & Downland Museum

The Museum is a small independent Museum in the Vale & Downland area of South Oxfordshire. We have learning and education at the heart of our work and are committed to promoting and advancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Vale & Downland area by supporting learning and enjoyment of the archives and objects in our care. We aim to be a resource for learning for visitors of all ages and with many different backgrounds and abilities, making a positive contribution to the lives of our visitors and to the communities in which they live.

Aims

To create an environment that supports learning and access for all our visitors, removing barriers to physical, intellectual, sensory, economic and cultural access.

To develop sustainable programmes and partnerships that encourage new visitors, including those who have not traditionally visited the Museum, to benefit from the learning opportunities in the Museum.

To offer a variety of hands-on and other informal learning opportunities for visitors, to assist in overcoming intellectual and language barriers to use the collections.

To support the National Curriculum with engaging and appropriate programmes for schools from KS1 to Sixth Form.

To use evaluation and consultation, with visitors from a wide range of backgrounds and abilities, at all appropriate stages of planning our work to support learning in the Museum.

To develop scholarly knowledge of the collections and make that available through:

- Provisions of programmes for the general public
- Discussions with external groups and specialists
- Curatorial identification of future additions to the collections
- Liaison with other Museums in Oxfordshire to provide joint services
- Appealing and informative displays of the collections and exhibitions in a way that promotes learning at many levels

- Documentation of the collections
- Development of a Museum-wide database which is available in the Museum and on the web.

Objectives

Specific objectives for achieving our aims are set out in the Forward Plan.

Policy approved by Trustees 22 June 2017

Updated policy devised 8 April 2020 by Lin Lawson

Policy due for renewal **March 2018**

Reviewed and approved by Trustees...July 2021.....