

Aberdeenshire

COUNCIL



Education, Learning & Leisure

ABERDEENSHIRE HERITAGE

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING POLICY

Aberdeenshire Heritage will:

- Promote and develop the educational potential of the Aberdeenshire Heritage Education Resource Centre and of the museums and other resources managed by the museum service.
- Develop educational support and resource materials for all types of educational groups from pre-school through to adult education and lifelong learning.

Aims

- To enrich the education of children and adults through the imaginative use of the museums and collections
- To enable the museum service to maximise the educational potential of collections, buildings and other resources
- To ensure that the collections and resources are available to as many age, ability, gender and cultural ranges as possible, including through outreach services
- To develop partnership in working with other educational providers
- To disseminate information regarding the provision available to schools and other relevant lifelong learning agencies
- To promote understanding of our heritage in Aberdeenshire and its value in contemporary society
- To be aware of and respond to developments in education and lifelong learning

These aims will be developed within the framework of the 5 National Priorities for Education:

- Achievement and Attainment
- Framework for Learning
- Inclusion and Equality
- Values and Citizenship
- Learning for Life

Audience

The Aberdeenshire Heritage Education Resource Centre will provide a service for the following groups:

- Teachers and pupils from educational establishments within Aberdeenshire and beyond
- Adult education or recreation groups

Type of Provision

- Displays relating to the museum collections and supporting key areas of the 3-18 Curriculum and Curriculum for Excellence
- Education support for schools visiting the Resource Centre, as well as outreach provision, employing a range of techniques to encourage children and other learning groups to engage positively with the displays, including:
 - o Handling real or replica artefacts
 - o Creating contexts to promote the student's interest in and understanding of the artefacts
 - o Opportunities for cross-curricular activities including art and design
 - o Provision of appropriate worksheets for pupils and teacher information packs
 - o The establishment of loan boxes of artefacts and other resources, supported by teacher notes, pupil worksheets, workshops
 - o Visits to schools by museum service staff
 - o Loan boxes to support workshops for use with reminiscence and other lifelong learning groups
- In service training for teachers, non-teaching staff, librarians, class-room assistants, Independent museums, museum service staff, volunteers, etc.
- Establishing a library of reference material, including books, spoken word and photographs, to support the artefacts and displays. This can be in conjunction with other bodies such as Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service.
- Opportunity for teachers and others to make preliminary visits to liaise with museum staff and to establish the resources etc which are available.

Health and Safety

- Health and safety of all visitors will be of paramount importance; risk assessments will be carried out and safe procedures established for the handling of artefacts and use of resource centre equipment. These will be communicated to schools and other visitors prior to their visit.

- Emergency procedures for the evacuation of the building in an emergency will be established.
- All members of staff and all volunteers working within the resource centre will have undergone appropriate Enhanced Disclosure checks.

Action Plan

- To consult with schools as to the areas of the curriculum for which Aberdeenshire Heritage could most usefully provide support.
- To ascertain the views of schools and lifelong learning groups as to the most effective way of providing support.
- To respond by:
 - o Developing displays within the Aberdeenshire Heritage Education Resource Centre and museums
 - o Developing themed loan cases containing artefacts, photographs, books and other resources
 - o Providing teacher information packs and pupil work packages to support the above
 - o Providing workshops for teachers intending to visit the resource centre with their pupils as well as for lifelong learning groups
- Provide a guide for schools visiting the resource centre.
- Carry out risk assessments and establish safe procedures for the handling of artefacts. Make risk assessments available to schools and other appropriate bodies intending to visit/use loan kits and/or arrange for visitors to carry out their own if requested.
- Explore with other agencies the setting up of possible packages for whole day visits to the area (for example, the Ranger Service at Aden Country Park).
- Establish a consultative group to exchange views, share good practice and to determine a future educational programme for visits to the resource centre and for outreach activities, including loan materials (flag up as CPD activity for teaching staff).
- Review and revise policy and practice at regular intervals.