

EDUCATION POLICY

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1. LEARNING AND EDUCATION AT THE ASHMOLEAN

The Ashmolean Museum is a department of the University of Oxford and holds the University collections of art and archaeology. As a university museum, the Ashmolean has learning and education at the heart of its work. We are committed to promoting and advancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the civilisations of the world by supporting learning and enjoyment of the objects and archives in our care. We aim to become 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.

2. AIMS

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

Offer a wide range of effective and enjoyable educational programmes which engage, inspire and interest visitors with a wide range of backgrounds and abilities.

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.

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

Offer teacher training programmes on using Museums and supporting the National Curriculum, including collaborative work with regional Teacher Training programmes.

Collaborate with regional institutions, including the University's Department of Continuing Education, on programmes to support life-long learning.

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

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.

Develop scholarly knowledge of the collections and make that available through:

Provision of programmes for the general public

Teaching within the University

Teaching external groups and specialists

Curatorial identification of privately owned finds and works of art.

Serve regional aims by acting as a centre for advice and leadership in areas such as scholarship, public education, conservation.

Display the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions in a way that promotes learning at many levels.? Displays will:

Be appealing and informative

Be accessible to visitors with a variety of learning styles and abilities.

Make collections and archives available through:

Documentation of the collections

Development of a Museum-wide database which is available in the Museum and on the Web

Personal access to the collections

Use of study rooms.

Produce publications based on the collections, both in print and on the web, including:

Publications for a full range of audiences from academic, through informed lay men to school children and non-specialist visitors

Scholarly catalogues and other publications.

3.?OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for achieving our aims are set out in the Museum?s Public Education Plan, Curatorial Education Plan, and Access Specific Action Plan.? These plans are reviewed regularly.

4.?REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed each March, by the Management Committee of the Museum.