

St. Helens Archive Service

Education and Learning Policy

1. Introduction

St Helens Archive Service is committed in helping people from all backgrounds reach their full potential. Education is a vital part of achieving this aim by harnessing creative and innovative ways of encouraging learning, including greater use of technology, existing resources and collaborative and innovative partnerships across disciplines.

Archive resources play a unique role in forging identity and connecting communities with their heritage. This policy outlines how St Helens Archive Service provides a dynamic and stimulating educational resource to all levels of education within St Helens and beyond.

2. Educational Aims

St Helens Archive Service aims to:

- Improve the quality of learning through increased access to the Archive
- Promote the study of the borough of St Helens, its people, culture and history
- Promote a sense of identity and place within the community, encouraging engagement particularly from non-mainstream user groups
- Raise the profile of the Archive Service
- Support the objectives of St Helens Council

3. Objectives

In order to achieve these aims, St Helens Archive Service will:

- Provide a range of learning opportunities across all groups
- Work with schools, local history groups and other organisations
- Provide advice and guidance on the provision and application of archival documents for educational use
- Improve access to resources

4. Application

St Helens Archive Service will deliver these objectives by:

- Providing a Search Room where users can access collections
- Offering class visits, plus electronic and physical educational resources and material
- Offer events, workshops and talks relevant to different communities
- Respond to enquiries by email, telephone, letter, social media and in person.
- Promote events and activities via print, social media and other channels
- Provide a positive and welcoming learning environment

5. Partners

- 5.1. St Helens Schools Library Service offers professional support and advice, book stock and project loans to primary, special and secondary schools. St Helens Archive Service will continue to work with the Schools Library Service to promote and distribute information and resources to schools across the borough.
- 5.2. St Helens Archive Service will continue to work with library staff to develop and deliver class visits and activities in libraries. Current class visits focus on the history and people of the borough and align with National Curriculum objectives. The resources include facsimiles of archival material, historical detail, personal accounts and engaging activities, and can be delivered by library staff in any library; improving access across the borough.
- 5.3. St Helens Archive Service will strive to develop its educational work with groups and organisations. Previous educational activities have occurred with St Helens Arts Service (commissioned groups), St Helens Music Service (Young Musicians) as well as other groups (Our Warm Welcome, St Helens Youth Theatre, UC Crew, local heritage groups etc.) to provide resources, workshops and learning opportunities.

6. Access and Priorities

- 6.1. Group and educational visits are arranged by contacting the Archivist, there is currently no charge for visits.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 7.1. Feedback from education and learning activities is gained through feedback forms and the recording of comments. This feedback is monitored to ensure appropriate priorities are being pursued and that the activities meet the needs of the stakeholders.

8. Review

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