

Huguenot Learning Policy

Discover Your Story

Summary

Learning is embedded throughout all activities at the Huguenot Museum. This document details our learning mission and what our audiences can expect from our learning services.

This policy supports the Huguenot Museum Forward Plan.

Mission Statement

Huguenot Museum: Discover your story

The Huguenot Museum tells the story of Britain's first refugees: the skills they brought to the UK, their descendants, and relevance to the story of refugees today.

"We help people to better understand the present by learning about the past, enabling them to make connections between Huguenot history and the world around us."

Huguenot Museum Mission Statement 2014

The Huguenot Museum also emphasises the central role of education and the importance of collection development, stewardship and research as endorsed by the Museums Association.

'Museums enable people to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artefacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.'

(Museums Association AGM 1998)

Our Learning Mission

We aim to establish connections between all our audiences and collections in the Museum, thereby enabling visitors to create their own frameworks for learning. We aim to motivate and inspire our visitors to build on these frameworks beyond their visit and give them the skills and confidence to do so.

The Huguenot Museum uses the term 'learning' in its broadest sense and values all kinds of informal learning activities, as well as formal education.

The Huguenot Museum is committed to serving the needs and exceeding the expectations of existing and potential audiences. This is achieved through a broad range of programmes and services based on the collections.

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Learning Resources

The Huguenot Museum occupies the top two floors of 95 High Street, Rochester. It consists of three main gallery spaces taking the visitor through the story of the Huguenots from persecution, to the skills and trades they brought to England through to Huguenots today.

The top floor of the Museum is entirely given over to our 'Huguenot Learning' space. This space is the primary area for guided formal and informal learning sessions for all age groups.

The Museum has a dedicated handling collection for use in formal and informal learning sessions as well as paper based resources.

The Museum has trails to use within the galleries for families or organised groups.

The Museum collection is also used, where appropriate, for formal and informal learning sessions. A dedicated case is situated in the Learning Space for the display of these collections.

Facilities

The Huguenot Museum has a number of facilities available which will improve the learning offer at the Museum:

- Permanent galleries (which include elements for all learning styles: objects, text panels, digital interactives, handling areas).
- A dedicated learning space on the top floor. This includes tiered retractable seating for lectures and demonstrations, an 'interactive' workbench, large screen TV, washing area for messy activities, tables and chairs for workshop sessions and resources for a number of different formal and informal learning activities.
- The dedicated learning space can also be used as a lunch space for organised group bookings.
- A dedicated set of toilets and cloakroom for the Learning Space.
- Coach drop off and pick up point at the rear of the Museum.
- Fully accessible rooms and one accessible toilet.
- Baby change facilities.
- Research room for visitors wishing to study the collection.
- Museum shop selling resources with which to continue learning (books etc)

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Learning aims and principles

- Experiences will be stimulating, enjoyable, relevant and appropriate for visitors.
- Programmes will maximize the potential of the Museum's collection and explore the many stories and interpretations that it offers in a way that is relevant to our audiences.
- Programmes will recognise that people learn in different ways and have different strengths and interests.
- Opportunities for intellectual progression will be provided where possible to ensure visitors are challenged, stimulated and can develop.
- We will evaluate the impact of our learning services and always seek ways in which to improve.

Access Principles

- Services will meet the needs of lifelong learners and strive towards access for all, regardless of age, sex, social status, ethnic origin or ability.
- Services will reflect the diversity of cultures locally and globally and the history of immigration in Britain. They should increase inter-cultural respect, whilst challenging discrimination, inequality and racism.
- We are committed to consultation with existing and potential audiences in order to develop appropriate and attractive learning experiences.
- The museum will provide a forum for debate where differing perspectives can be explored, preconceptions challenged and critical thinking developed – within a framework where visitors' physical, emotional and intellectual needs are met.

Management Principles

- We will adopt a reflective practice by examining our own, and others, perspectives on our purpose and processes and use this in future planning.
- We will keep abreast of developments in the wider world, which can improve museum practice.
- We will consistently deliver high quality services at value for money.

January 2014

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