

# The Fitzwilliam Museum

## Education Policy

This Education Policy amplifies the Museum's Statement of Purpose: to safeguard the collections, to make them accessible for study and enjoyment and to preserve them for future generations. It seeks to clarify the Museum's core educational role and its commitment to "the increase of learning".

The Fitzwilliam Museum is committed to ensuring physical and intellectual access to its collections through research, teaching, display, programmes of education and events for a wide variety of audiences, interpretation and publication both in print and electronically.

Education lies at the centre of all the Museum's activities. The Education Policy informs management decisions in such areas as: temporary exhibitions planning, interpretation of the permanent collections, the design of new galleries and refurbishment of existing galleries, ICT access to information, the publications programme and staff training. The implementation of the Education Policy is the shared responsibility of all staff in the museum.

The Museum is committed to:

- a) training all staff in their responsibilities towards the implementation of this policy
- b) encouraging access to the curatorial departments for the purpose of study and scholarship
- c) ensuring that education activities are informed by the Access Policy for Visitors through consultation with the Education and Access Advisory Groups on programming and provision
- d) collaborating closely with the History of Art and other Departments and Faculties of the University of Cambridge, guided by the Research and Teaching Committee of the Syndicate to achieve increased use of the collections for research and teaching
- e) encouraging volunteers and work placements at the Museum to fulfil in part its responsibility towards training the next generation of museum professionals;
- f) acknowledging and informing national standards and recommendations for museum education.

The Museum undertakes to:

1. consider the wide range of interests and needs of the very broad variety of visitors who access the collections and information about them;
2. provide a free education service for schools, including gallery teaching sessions led by a museum teacher;
3. provide training and resources for in-service and trainee teachers;
4. provide formal and informal educational opportunities for adult visitors
5. work in partnership with other providers of life long learning to expand the range of provision for adults based on the Museum's collections;

6. collaborate with community based agencies to provide free educational opportunities for adults and children with special needs
7. provide informal education programmes and events for family groups based on the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions;
8. provide a guided tour service, working in partnership with the City Council;
9. develop information provision in a range of media for the general public and for people with special needs
10. provide dedicated education facilities within the Museum;
11. provide leadership in the development of museum education within the Region and within the University;
12. secure adequate and sustainable funding for the future growth of education provision;

Approved by the Syndicate March 2006