

The National Trust: A Vision for Learning

Putting Learning and Discovery at the heart of everything we do

From 2007 to 2010 the National Trust will be focusing on encouraging involvement, participation and discussion at all levels of its work.

We are committed to:

- Creating opportunities for life-changing experiences
- Providing places where people can be inspired and experience relaxation, enjoyment and enrichment
- Inviting people on a journey of discovery by engaging in learning
- Valuing learning for its own sake and for the equality of opportunity it brings
- Working in partnership to achieve our aims

Our aims

Deepening relationships with our visitors

We will enable learning experiences that are appropriate to individual needs, that encourage dialogue and allow for deeper engagement with us and our work.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring we better understand the learning needs of our visitors
- Developing the range of choices at our properties to suit the different learning needs of all our visitors
- Developing opportunities for people to engage actively in our work
- Evaluating our work with schools and developing a sharper focus for our formal education programmes
- Developing the Trust's work with young people especially through volunteering

Deepening relationships with local communities (and other relevant stakeholders)

We will use our diverse properties as venues and catalysts for learning, enabling us to develop mutually beneficial relationships with local people.

We will do this by:

- Enabling inclusive and participatory access to our properties
- Establishing relevant relationships with individuals and groups around our properties

Learning from ourselves and others

We will embrace learning by analysing our own and others' successes and failures, and encouraging experimentation, innovation, evaluation and participation.

We will do this by:

- Encouraging ways of working that place learning at the heart of everything we do
- Actively supporting mentoring and coaching
- Developing learning opportunities for our staff and volunteers

'We really enjoyed our visit. The Trust should do more of this – reminding us of our shared social history – worth the membership fee alone.'
Visitor to the Back to Backs in Birmingham

'Ofsted Inspectors were 'bowed over' by the quality of learning emanating from Guardianship work.'
Guardianship scheme at Hardcastle Craggs, comment by lead teacher from Old Town Primary School

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