

Education policy

Learning &
Engagement

1. Introduction

Mansfield Palace Theatre seeks to celebrate the history of Mansfield District and is committed to encouraging participation in cultural activities by local communities and visitors, for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

Our mission is really simple, we want to bring people together to create healthier, proud communities. We're all about helping local people discover the world around them, cherishing Mansfield's unique stories, and bringing them to life. Our big dream is to be a place where you belong in the hope that everyone can be inspired.

2. Definition of Education

Mansfield Palace Theatre believes 'education' to be a core function of its service, which enables all sections of the community to make connections with our building - including Mansfield Museum, its collections and exhibitions.

3. Aims

- To provide an enjoyable, useful and well-used educational resource, incorporating the fullest range of positive and fun life-long learning opportunities, for the widest possible audience, including mixed-age groups with a range of interests.
- To increase knowledge and understanding of the local heritage and environment, including contemporary and historical issues such as environmental change, sustainable development and the part the theatre and museum's visitors might play in these.
- To extend the formal learning experience for local schools in ways not feasible within school, across an array of National Curriculum topics.
- To provoke visitors' curiosity and create an atmosphere of enjoyable exploration and discovery for all.

4. Methods

- Providing maximum opportunities for engagement and interaction through our classes, workshops and community projects.
- Producing Outreach services such as Memory Loans Boxes for the use of community groups and work in and alongside school and community groups.
- Stressing the theatre and museum's relevance to their visitors.
- Maintaining welcoming and stimulating learning spaces which reflect the theatre and its activities, in which even the youngest of pupils can feel stimulated and safe.
- Ensuring that formal materials for school visits have close links to the National Curriculum and cater for a broad spectrum of learning styles.
- Delivering thought-provoking, active, child-centred sessions.
- Exploring links with outside partners such as Inspire Trust and Townscape Heritage Trust.



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5. Audience

The theatre's aim is to be as inclusive as feasible, drawing in as wide a cross section of local people as possible. We remain particularly focused on:

- Families with young children
- Older children, independent of their parents
- Formal local school groups
- More 'hard to reach' young people and Home Educated children
- Ethnic minorities

6. Public awareness

- Mailshots (including digital) to all Nottinghamshire primary schools and beyond, once a year, detailing the range of formal sessions available.
- Engaging visiting teachers in discussion of facilities which might be of future use to them and their colleagues.
- Providing visiting teachers with up-to date written information on all aspects of the formal school visits programme.
- Utilising the local press and social media channels to celebrate successes.
- Production of a thrice-yearly Newsletter.
- Welcoming teachers and other interested parties to visit informally, to see how they might build theatre resources into their schemes of work.

7. Evaluation and Consultation

- Formal teacher evaluation questionnaires issued at the end of every session.
- Comments in the various Visitors' Books.
- Verbal feedback.
- Unsolicited written responses from teachers.
- Feedback from visiting schools in the form of children's work and emails.
- The number of repeat visitors.
- The number of word-of-mouth recommendations.
- The number of paid for bookings.



Mansfield District Council
Cultural Services