

## Learning Policy Draft

The Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre is owned and managed by the Faversham Society, a voluntary society which also manages the Chart Gunpowder Mills and Maison Dieu, a medieval pilgrim house in nearby Ospringe.

### **The Mission Statement of the Fleur de Lis is:**

*The Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre will collect and preserve artefacts and any associated evidence reflecting Faversham's society and culture and it will share these collections and related knowledge with the widest audiences, whilst also contributing to cultural tourism in the Faversham area.*

### **Learning Policy Mission Statement of the Fleur de Lis is:**

***to engage with people of all ages and communicate information relating to the collections, the museum site and the history of Faversham<sup>1</sup>***

### **The collections**

The objects illustrate the history of Faversham from the Iron Age to present times, with a substantial number from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In addition, there is a small collection of oral history recordings and archival documents. The Fleur de Lis was originally a sixteenth-century inn, and there are other buildings of importance in the history of Faversham within walking distance.

### **The displays**

The galleries are housed in rooms and corridors of the three, adjacent, Grade II listed Fleur de Lis buildings. This provides opportunities for small group working rather than whole class activity. The Big Shed has more space for groups to work in. Several galleries have inter-active work stations for small groups (up to 4) to use. A DVD showing the displays on the upper floor is provided for those with impaired mobility. There is a small Gallery for temporary exhibitions.

### **The facilities**

- Lavatories including provision for disabled visitors
- Two spaces available for learning activities and/ or lunch (the larger space – the Hall –upstairs with platform lift available). Meeting Room on ground floor with wide door and ramp.
- Equipped kitchen
- Open courtyard space
- Off-site parking (public car park 5-10 minutes walk)
- Shop with wide selection of local history books

### **Target Audiences**

#### **Formal education**

- Those in compulsory education between the ages of 5 and 16
- Students in further or higher education
- Adults

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<sup>1</sup> Both Mission statements are taken from the latest draft of the Forward Plan 2009-2013

## **Informal learning**

- Families
- Staff (volunteers)
- Young people
- Organised groups

## **Aims**

### **1. Provide a learning service for those in formal education**

#### **Objectives**

- 1.1. to establish a dialogue with teachers, tutors and Advisory staff to find out what is needed for learning groups or individuals to have a positive learning experience in the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre
- 1.2. to make learning accessible through interpretation, provision of additional learning resources, provision of INSET or similar for teachers and tutors, or workshops for learners
- 1.3. to provide optimum physical conditions and a safe environment for learning to take place
- 1.4. to set up and maintain an administrative structure to ensure an efficient service for those in formal education

### **2. Provide an outreach service**

#### **Objectives**

- 2.1. to establish a dialogue with teachers, tutors, or others involved in the care of those who are unable to visit the museum, to inform the provision of outreach services
- 2.2. to assemble boxes of real or replica material, with information, pictures and suggestions for use, which can be loaned out
- 2.3. to train and equip staff (volunteers) to conduct workshops, conduct lectures, or use handling material, with learning groups
- 2.4. to provide web pages which will help users learn about the museum and its stories
- 2.5. to set up and maintain an administrative structure to ensure an efficient outreach service

### **3. Develop the skills and interests of staff (volunteers)**

#### **Objectives**

- 3.1. to provide support, information and training sessions for volunteer staff
- 3.2. to form a specialist group to act as education staff for visiting groups, workshops and outreach work

### **4. Raise awareness of the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre within the community**

#### **Objectives**

- 4.1 to arrange activities, eg family events, open days, trails, etc
- 4.2 to work with partners to reach community groups, including those do not normally visit the museum

### **5. Enhance visitor understanding of the museum and ensure its stories are accessible**

#### **Objectives**

- 5.1 to ensure that the interpretation provides opportunities for visitors with different learning styles and levels of literacy

## **6. Create a framework for monitoring and evaluation so that experience can inform future provision**

### **Objectives**

- 6.1 set up a system for recording and analyzing learning group numbers
- 6.2 set up a system for seeking and recording feedback on the learning experience from teachers, tutors and learners
- 6.3 review and develop learning provision on the basis of feedback on a regular, formalized, basis

### **Priority audiences**

The Fleur de Lis is staffed entirely by volunteers, so implementing the education policy will be a gradual process. Some activities for informal learning already take place (Open Days and Secret Gardens, for example) and these are well-supported. A wider range of provision for informal learners could be developed but this may depend on the availability and commitment of enthusiastic volunteers or on the appointment of an externally funded Learning Officer. The immediate priority is the further development of the existing service for those in formal education, because:

- government initiatives are requiring schools and individual pupils to seek resources and creative stimuli in the cultural sector. The Faversham Society wishes to increase its engagement with young people and recognizes that providing a service to schools is an efficient and effective way of achieving this using its current volunteer resource
- students in further and higher education often have to work on individual or group assignments which involve research, or on projects with a creative outcome. There may also be a valuable opportunity for students to increase their knowledge of the world of work, and for the museum to encourage young people in volunteering activities
- tutors of essential skills courses for adults seek a variety of stimuli with which to engage learners, and this is an area in which the museum has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the community
- the Fleur de Lis has a long-standing and fruitful relationship with the local WEA, which has been at the heart of the wide programme of research undertaken by the Society.