

Bringing your school to the River & Rowing Museum

We love welcoming schools to the museum here in Henley-on-Thames. It's wonderful to see the way the museum's themes can inspire, and how groups explore the riverside location we're lucky to call home.

There are various workshops you can choose from for your school visit. They cover many areas of the curriculum and are based on the things we love: the river, the town of Henley and Kenneth Grahame's timeless story 'The Wind in the Willows'.

Once you've decided which workshop is best for your school, send an email to edbookings@rrm.co.uk with a few details:

- what your preferred dates or days of the week are
- any constraints you have on timings
- which workshop you'd like to do
- how many pupils you'd like to bring and what year they are
- whether you have any special educational or access needs
- the email address for us to send the invoice to
- who the main contact on the day will be

To ensure the right levels of safeguarding and supervision, you'll need to bring an appropriate number of adults with you:

- 1:6 for pupils under the age of 7 (Foundation & key stage one)
- 1:8 for pupils between the ages of 7 and 11 (key stage two)
- 1:15 for pupils aged 11 and over (key stages three & four)

The cost for a workshop with museum tutors is £7.50+VAT per pupil, with a minimum charge of £160+VAT.

About the workshops

The workshops are generally divided into three parts:

- A tutor-led session in the Thames Room, with various activities
- A tutor-led walk along the river
- A teacher-led session in the museum galleries

We begin at 10am and finish at 2.15pm.

Understanding rivers

The workshop helps pupils to understand river processes, with reference to the River Thames, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical vocabulary.

It also introduces children to the idea that rivers are more than a geographical feature. Rivers are habitats, trade routes, places of work, places for leisure activities and environments which need to be carefully managed, if all these activities are to be sustained successfully alongside each other.

Key stage two. Geography.

River of life

Using the environment of the River Thames pupils will develop their scientific skills of observation and identification to name and group living things in different ways and identify their suitability to their environment (adaptation).

Pupils will also investigate predator/ prey relationships, and the idea of simple food chains.

Key stage one or two. Science.

Ugly bug ball

The aim of the workshop is to investigate the minibeasts and plants living in the areas around the Museum and how they depend on each other. The course gives pupils a chance to examine mini beasts close up, learn about insect life cycles, and search for live insects in their natural habitats. It also highlights the issues of endangered species such as the Stag Beetle, which is in decline as its habitat disappears.

Key stage one. Science.

Flood

The workshop aims to enhance understanding of the river processes, flooding, and the balance between human and environmental relationships in a river drainage basin. In addition, students will learn about large-scale management methods along the River Thames and review advantages and disadvantages of different flood protection methods. The workshop primarily focuses on the Thames, with a particular emphasis on the area between the River & Rowing Museum and Marsh Lock.

Key stage three. Geography.

Building bridges

The workshop aims to help children work in small teams to understand bridges as structures. Children learn that structures can fail when overloaded and that techniques can be used to reinforce and strengthen structures, such as folding, joining, using cylinders, arches, and triangular shapes. Pupils will measure a bridge's load and span.

The workshop also aims to help children use a range of first and secondhand evidence from the Henley and River Galleries to learn about the history of Henley Bridge.

Key stage one or two. Science and history.

Boat trail

The workshop focuses on the idea of a journey by boat and gives pupils the opportunity to discover the scientific principles of 'Pushes and Pulls' as they consider how boats move through the water. It also gives a geography focus as they make observations with regard to people and places and introduces pupils to learning from objects from the past. In addition, pupils can learn new vocabulary regarding the parts of a boat.

Key stage one. Science, history, and geography.

Wind in the Willows

The workshop provides creative challenges, which explore the connections between Grahame's characters and the real habitats and wildlife that inspired them.

Key stage one or two. English and science.

Toad and friends

The workshop aims to give pupils a chance to explore and discover the wider world in a safe and unique environment. It links to many Early Learning goals and introduces pupils to the Museum setting and collections using the story of the Wind in the Willows.

Foundation. Art & design, music.