

Working with schools

In 2003 we commissioned research to help us understand better what teachers and school children wanted from museums and galleries. We found out that many teachers value museums as "the keeper of so much magic for kids".

As a result of these findings, we are now working on ways of helping teachers and children get more from the experience and collections. These strategies have been put together in the Educational Programme Delivery Plan.

The Hub is particularly keen to encourage more children to come to galleries, whether in school or family groups. We are currently working to achieve 38,000 new contacts between children and our museums and galleries by the end of 2006.

The effects of this can already be seen. Manchester Museum has increased their school visits to over 26,000 and Manchester City Galleries have increased the number of children taking part in weekend and holiday workshops by 873%.

"The children's fascination with the artefacts was a joy to share." Teacher from schools outreach project, Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery

"The teachers have been really enthusiastic and we hope that an improved relationship with schools will help us to provide quality resources over the long term. It's one of the unique ways in which museums can contribute to learning." Education Officer, citizenship project, Harris Museum & Art Gallery

"The response from pupils who took part was extremely positive and they enjoyed the 'behind the scenes' aspect of the workshop." Teacher from schools outreach project, Bolton Museum & Art Gallery.

