



MLA North West Strategic Commissioning Programme Learning Links 2006-07

Learning Links, now in its third year, is a funded professional development opportunity for museum/archive staff and teachers to spend a minimum of 5 days in each others' workplace.

The programme aims to:

- Use the vast resources and different learning experiences of museums and archives to improve teaching and learning for children and young people
- Broaden access to museums and archives to schools and education providers that traditionally do not visit museums

Learning Links will do this by:

- Offering teachers/educators from “non-participating” schools (see definition over page) placements in museums and archives to develop new programmes and resources to support the curriculum. The 2006-07 programme will particularly target early years practitioners, Newly Qualified and Recently Qualified Teachers. MLA North West can provide support in brokering these partnerships.
- Offering museum and archive staff similar placements in target schools to develop their knowledge of the curriculum

The outcomes will be

- Sustainable new links between local authorities, schools and museums and archives
- Skills development for teachers and museum and archive staff
- Innovative new education programmes and resources. In order to gain maximum impact, for the 2006-07 programme the DCMS/DfES have requested that the museum learning programme should have an overall focus on citizenship and diversity.
- A body of evidence demonstrating the impact of museums and archives on teaching and learning
- Better understanding of the barriers which prevent schools visiting and using museums and archives
- Evidence to inform a regional integrated cultural offer to children and young people

In addition to the 5 placement days teachers and museum and archive staff will be required to attend two central meetings or training sessions organized by MLA North West.

A maximum grant of £2000 will be available to each participating museum or archive.

All placements must take place by the end of February 2007

31 museums/ archives took part in the 2004-06 Learning Links Programme, hosting placements for 47 primary, secondary or further education teachers. Please see the MLA North West Strategic Commissioning web pages for the list of participating organisations (<http://www.mlanorthwest.org.uk/ourwork/learningandaccess/schoolscollegesandhighereducation>)

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The MLA definition of non-participating schools

Participation refers to a museum or archives relationship with a school and the extent to which it uses the resources and skills of the museum or archives to support teaching and learning.

The definition describes the minimum activity which makes up this relationship and is taken over a two year cycle so as to cover the way schools plan their curriculum.

To say that a school participates the school must demonstrate one of the following:

Group visit to the museum or archive

Participated in museum/archive-led outreach or use of loans in school

Buy and use online museum/archive education resources in school