



Case Study

Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

WHY TAKE PART ?

The museum had never previously taken part in Takeover Day but had heard about the scheme and was very keen to find a way to reinforce contacts with local schools with whom they had lost touch. The existing family trail needed updating and the Curator wanted to gain children's input.

WHO TOOK PART ?

Sixty children from two Year 4 classes (8-9 year olds) and their form teachers. The museum chose a school which is very near to it and with which they formerly had close links.

WHAT DID THEY DO ?

Children worked as stewards on the front desk, ran guided tours of the house, cleaned objects and ran a family craft event.

HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

The Curator and the General Manager organised two preliminary visits to the school to describe the collections and the different roles. So many children wanted the same roles that they were invited to write 'job applications' from which the teachers selected the best applicants. The children visited ahead of the day to orientate themselves and to prepare their tours. On Takeover Day itself students acted as:

- Stewards – meeting and greeting visitors
- Tour Guides – leading visitors through the galleries
- Technicians – cleaning and caring for objects using correct procedures
- Education Officers – creating family trails and devising questions
- Artists – working on craft activities and other art projects
- Shop Assistants – selling merchandise in the shop

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

Children were delighted by some objects on display which linked directly into their history curriculum lessons e.g. helmets from The Second World War. They loved the Takeover Day packs, badges and certificates. They took photos and, back at school, they made an Advent calendar as a Christmas present for the museum with facts behind every door. Teachers said the children were delighted with the day as they are not generally allowed to handle objects in museums but here they were actively encouraged to do so.

The museum normally has few visitors on a Friday but lots of family members came to visit on Takeover Day and went on their children's tours. Many had never visited before and all gave positive feedback. Many families have since returned for repeat visits, creating a new, broader audience.

The Curator is planning an official launch of the trail and is keen to involve the children who created it. The Curator also intends to develop a designated area for education activities and expanded school sessions. She would like to create topic boxes or sets of handling objects which can go into schools for outreach sessions.