



Case Study

Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre

WHY TAKE PART ?

The School approached the museum as they wanted to be involved in partnership community projects. The Education Manager thought Takeover Day would be a good fit for a children's museum as it would enable children to take centre stage in a single day.

WHO TOOK PART ?

Sixty two Year 6 children (10-11 year olds) from one primary school with 5 of their teachers.

WHAT DID THEY DO ?

The children decided on the theme of Roald Dahl's life and the ideas which inspired characters in his stories. Divided into groups they created a new archive display, contrasting Roald Dahl's school experiences with those of their own; curated an exhibition of illustrations; performed a dramatic piece about Roald Dahl's life to care home residents and parents and acted as 'living statues'.

Prior to the day, the school and museum organised a cross-curricular planning meeting involving teachers with different specialist knowledge. Students were encouraged to participate in group tasks that would complement their skills and interests. They visited the museum to research materials and to prepare a drama performance and artwork for the exhibition. The museum built relationships with other partners including a care home and schools and the PR and Marketing team promoted the event via social media.

HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

On Takeover Day itself students took over roles as:

- Actors – devising and presenting play performances to an invited audience of care home residents and parents
- Archivists – devising an archive display from the museum's unique collection. They researched and selected appropriate archive material, wrote interpretation texts and arranged the display in cabinets
- Curators – displaying prepared drawings using different media in Miss Honey's Classroom and writing wall panels and text labels
- Interpreters – balancing on plinths as 'living statues' and being characters in role when activated by a human push button

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

Well-organised planning ensured that all children were very involved. They accepted their responsibilities with great enthusiasm. Takeover Day stickers made them feel important. The educational benefits were very clear and linked to many aspects of the curriculum as well as to the museum's collection, including engagement with archive material. The children gained a different perspective into working life, leading to insights into new roles and future aspirations and they said that it had been an enriching experience. The archive display engaged visitors with Dahl's life and works. It was on show for the duration of the following term and was much admired by visitors, enhancing the collection with its imaginative use of Dahl's autobiography. It was a great opportunity for outreach in the community and the intergenerational link was precious. Care home residents are now keen to return to work with young people. The museum has accessed a new audience with the children centre stage.