



Case Study

Scottish Maritime Museum

WHY TAKE PART ?

The museum had always wanted to do a Takeover Day, but Scotland had not previously been involved.

WHO TOOK PART ?

Thirty P6 children (10-11 year olds) from a local primary school. The Education Officer approached a selection of primary schools and chose the one which expressed the most enthusiasm for the project. A nursery class from this school had previously taken part in a museum session but the Education Officer felt that in this case, Takeover Day was more appropriate for older children.

WHAT DID THEY DO ?

Children came into the museum prior to the event and interviewed staff members from many departments. They then pre-selected their own roles across the museum. On Takeover Day they performed different jobs in the morning and then all worked together in the afternoon to complete their exhibit on boat building and present it to visitors.

HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

Prior to the visit, the Education Intern visited the school. She described roles in the museum, focussed on a specific ship-building display, discussed display techniques and ran a public speaking class for the tour guides. The children made one prior visit to the museum in which they interviewed all the staff and made notes. On Takeover Day children took on roles as:

- Technicians – dressing up in appropriate safety wear and uniforms, shadowing the boat builder / carpenter before carrying out repairs to ships and preparing the exhibition space for the new curators
- Directors – sitting in the Director's office ('the big cheese') and making decisions, greeting important visitors and supervising
- Curators – assessing displays, discussing and writing labelling and overseeing work carried out by volunteers
- Education Officers – leading a group of nursery children in a nautical themed workshop
- Tour Guides – providing refreshments and tours of the museum, tenement flat and M.V. Kyles for visitors, the Provost and local MPs and MSPs
- Journalists – collecting informal feedback and pictures from visitors throughout the day
- Volunteer Managers – helping with the refurbishment of all ship-building tools which went into the display in the afternoon

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

Many parents, siblings, grandparents and teachers visited throughout the day and their exhibit remains on display for visitors to see. The museum extended its opening hours to 6pm to allow working parents to participate in their children's guided tours and other activities. Children all said that they had a fantastic day. The detailed preparation meant that the children were confident on the day and were able to gain much more from their different roles and responsibilities. Some museum staff members had initial reservations about taking children in to do such an ambitious project, but after meeting the children, became enthused. It had been particularly rewarding to work with other staff on a joint project which led to a more unified team. The Education Officer will use the feedback to set up a kids' page on the website and to co-curate further displays.