

BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

LEARNING POLICY



Issued May 2010

1 Scope

This policy describes how learning is an integral part of services offered by Berkshire Record Office.

2 Governing standards

Learning will be available to all members of the community, without discrimination.

Berkshire Record Office will meet its obligations regarding service provision under the following general statutes:

- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- Race Relations Act 1976
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Equality Act 2006

In addition Berkshire Record Office will seek to implement best practice guidance for developing learning. This will include The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's *Inspiring Learning for All* framework, as well as guidance from The National Archives, the Society of Archivists, and other recognised national bodies.

3 Our learning vision

3.1 Berkshire Record Office seeks to provide learning opportunities for all members of the community. These opportunities will be provided through direct experience of our archive collections.

3.2 Learning will be embedded in the activities and services which we provide through our access and outreach work. These activities and services will seek to offer learning in at least one of the generic outcomes defined in *Inspiring Learning for All*:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Skills
- Attitudes and values
- Enjoyment, exploration and creativity
- Behaviour and progress

3.3 We will seek to encourage self-directed learning as well as initiating learning ourselves.

4 Self-directed learning

4.1 The Record Office will provide support for self-directed or informal learning. Support will include advice and information for learners and space to undertake learning, as well as the learning resource of the archive collections themselves.

4.2 Support for self-directed learning will be sustainable, and form part of the customer services provided for those undertaking research.

5 Initiated learning

5.1 The Record Office will seek to incorporate a learning element into any activities it provides for public engagement or to raise awareness of its services.

5.2 The Record Office will seek to work in partnership with other agencies to deliver learning activities. This includes with libraries, museums and local societies.

6 Planning and evaluation

6.1 The Record Office will include learning outcomes as part of its annual business plan. It will also include a learning element in any projects which it undertakes.

6.2 The learning experience offered by the Office will be evaluated, and equality impact monitored through usage statistics, the Institute of Public Finance's Survey of Visitors to UK Archives and customer feedback.

Usage statistics will be collected monthly. The IPF Survey takes place roughly every 18 months. Feedback will be collected daily. All will be documented in the Record Office's annual report.