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**Royal Mint Museum Education Strategy  
Learning Policy**

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**Item 1.0**

**Introduction**

The Education Strategy of the Royal Mint Museum outlines our commitment to increasing access to the Museum collection and to using the learning potential of the collection to facilitate formal and informal learning. The Education Strategy is formed from two documents: the Learning Policy which outlines our key objectives and delivery commitments, and the Action Plan which details how this will be achieved.

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**Item 2.0**

**Mission Statement**

The Royal Mint Museum will provide high quality education and learning that:

- Celebrates the 1100 years of Royal Mint history, artistry and endeavour
- Meets the learning needs of adults and young people in England, Wales and other parts of the United Kingdom
- Inspires people of all ages to engage with and learn more about the history of the Royal Mint and its current activities

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**Item 3.0**

**Learning Resource**

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**3.1**

The Royal Mint Museum collection contains approximately 200,000 objects relating to the Royal Mint and to minting history. The collection forms a remarkable record of one of the oldest continuously operating organisations in the world. Many of the items are unique, providing an insight into the evolution and on-going activities of the Royal Mint. The collection forms two broad categories:

- Material relating to the working of the Royal Mint as an institution and a manufacturer. The equipment, including coinage tools dating back to the medieval period, are not represented in any other collection in Britain to the same scale and diversity.
- Material relating to coins, medals and seals produced by the Royal Mint. The collection of coins and medals reflects the practice of items coming into the collection direct from the factory and consequently contains large numbers of trial and experimental pieces that are not represented as well in any other museum either in Britain or elsewhere.

The Royal Mint site on which the Museum is situated is a working factory

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and one of only a few in the world still to have the complete minting process from melting to striking on one site. Machinery moved from previous Royal Mint sites feature as monuments and items of industrial art. The Royal Mint Museum also has its own website.

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**3.2**

The Museum is currently engaged in providing learning opportunities through:

lectures for the general public and for staff

exhibitions

formal and informal learning through the content of the website

answering enquiries

producing publications

offering a coin identification service

small numbers of visits on-site and off-site visits to schools

partnerships with other organisations to provide learning opportunities including Historic Royal Palaces, the Museum on the Mound, the Ashmolean and previously the Manchester Museum

The Royal Mint Museum aims to stimulate discovery and research of the collection by contributing to external exhibitions and publications such as in Coin News and the British Numismatic Journal, holding Museum open days for staff, encouraging research into family history connections with the Royal Mint, engaging volunteers and allowing use of the collection as a resource for coin design and engineering.

For education provision that includes either visits to the Royal Mint or outreach visits to schools the Museum Education Manager responds on an individual basis after an assessment of what the request is and whether or not this can be accommodated. Every effort is made to meet requests where possible.

The Museum is bound by the security restrictions of being on a Ministry of Defence policed site and the health and safety restrictions of being a COMAH 1 (Control of Major Accident Hazard) site. Tours are available to pupils in groups of 8 who are accompanied by a trained tour guide and a member of school staff. A full site tour is possible for pupils over the age of 16 and a restricted tour to those aged 11 and over. Extension of access to those under the age of 16 has recently been achieved through the establishment of a new risk assessment.

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**Item 4.0**

### **Royal Mint Museum Objectives for Learning**

In the next five years the Royal Mint Museum will drive forward its Education and Learning programme.

To achieve this we will:

1. Develop high quality, fun and engaging learning experiences, formally and informally, for all ages and abilities, that embody the principles set out in the Inspiring Learning for All framework
  2. Develop partnerships locally and nationally, with museums and other educational bodies, to establish a meaningful and influential
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presence in the heritage education sector

3. Increase access , awareness and understanding of the Museum collection and use advocacy to raise awareness of Education and Learning at the Royal Mint Museum

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**Item 5.0****Modes of Engagement**

The Museum  
Visitor Centre  
Outreach  
Website  
Publications  
Lectures  
Exhibitions  
Events  
Enquiries  
Research

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**Item 6.0****Delivery Commitments**

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**6.1****The Museum**

We will increase the number of young people who visit the Royal Mint site and the Royal Mint Museum. We will target groups who may benefit most from on-site visits, such as A-level and GCSE subject specific groups, gifted and talented and Special Educational Needs groups, by approaching and building relationships with teachers in local secondary schools and colleges. We will also identify youth groups and other groups of young people such as those in pupil referral units who may benefit from visiting the Royal Mint. We will also look beyond young people to the wider community and build relationships with local interest groups. As part of our commitment to increasing access to the collection we will run a volunteer programme.

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**6.2****Visitor Centre**

On completion of new learning facilities as part of the Visitor Centre we will provide an onsite programme of activities in a dedicated learning space and gallery. We will develop structured programmes for Key Stage 2 which can be delivered throughout the year and develop formal resources that can be used in Key Stages 3-5. We will also ensure access to the collection through the gallery and provide informal learning about the collection for all visitors. We will run public lectures, adult education classes, temporary exhibitions and clubs for young people, and work in partnership with outside organisations to facilitate other learning opportunities.

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**6.3****Outreach**

We will develop a programme of outreach activities, events and projects in partnership with Royal Mint departments. We will offer assembly visits that are based on current events or key government initiatives, such as

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financial education. We will also develop a handling collection and complementary resources that can be loaned out to schools to support the teaching of topics such as World War I and World War II, and Britain post 1930. The Museum will also develop or take part in learning and community engagement opportunities. We aim to involve disadvantaged groups such as NEETS- those who are not in education, employment or training.

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**6.4 Website**

We will increase the formal learning content of the Royal Mint Museum website and tailor this to meet the needs of pupils from different key stages. We will redevelop the resource Coins in the Classroom and use this as a strong base for expansion. The resources will form part of a recognisable learning brand for the Museum which will be extended and echoed across all future developments. We will also increase the provision for informal learning on the website and ensure we provide a wide variety of media to suit the needs of adults and young people, specialists and non-specialists. We will work in partnership with other Royal Mint departments to deliver this.

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**6.5 Publications**

We will produce publications that are suitable for a range of audiences, to include: A New Illustrated History, Britannia, George and the Dragon and Maundy Money. We will make a compilation of articles from the Royal Mint Museum and look to producing publications suitable for a young audience, using Horrible Histories and other children's literature for inspiration. We will maintain our commitments to Coin News and other publications.

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**6.6 Lectures**

We will determine a yearly timetable for staff lectures to help raise awareness and attendance, although topics will continue to be determined by events current at the time. We will continue to contribute to public lectures locally and nationally and provide public lectures through the Royal Mint visitor centre.

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**6.7 Exhibitions**

Our exhibitions programme will be developed by the Exhibitions Curator and planned with reference to Museum priorities. The exhibitions plan will support the learning and access priorities of the Museum. As part of the programme we will develop relationships with local authorities that could lead to inexpensive, temporary exhibitions in schools, libraries and public places and provide informal learning material to support these. We will promote exhibitions in which we are participating (locally or nationally) to all Royal Mint staff and establish a more frequent turnover of temporary exhibition material in the Visitor reception, which will also be promoted to staff. Lunchtime talks will be given based on these exhibitions. We will promote good relationships with museums locally and nationally to exhibit our collection and become involved in the development of learning materials for these where appropriate. We will be proactive in providing exhibition material that responds to key learning initiatives such as literacy, numeracy and financial education.

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<b>6.9</b>	<b>Events</b> We will respond positively to opportunities to engage in one-off events that support and raise awareness of education and learning at the Royal Mint Museum. Where necessary we will work in partnership with the training department of the Royal Mint to help deliver these events.
<b>6.10</b>	<b>Enquiries and Coin Identification</b> We will continue to run the excellent historical enquiries service and actively promote our coin identification service.
<b>6.11</b>	<b>Research</b> We will continue to encourage independent research into the collection and the history of the Royal Mint. We will aim to support those studying for post-graduate qualifications.
<b>6.12</b>	<b>Partnerships</b> We will actively seek and develop partnerships with other Museums, heritage institutions, local authorities, community groups and other bodies who are committed to and facilitate learning at a local and national level.
<b>6.13</b>	<b>Accreditation</b> Education and Learning will meet the requirements for Accredited Museum Status
<b>Item 7.0</b>	<b>Access</b> The Royal Mint Museum is committed to improving access to its collection physically and intellectually. We will identify barriers to access in line with CyMAL guidance, engage in consultation with local access groups and make changes accordingly. We will ensure that online resources are diverse and meet the needs of the general public, so that as many people as possible feel that they have something to gain from the Royal Mint Museum. An access policy will be produced.
<b>Item 8.0</b>	<b>Measuring Success</b> It is important that all Education and Learning activities are evaluated to ensure that we are meeting the quality standards we have set. Evaluation will be conducted using Inspiring Learning for All guidance on Generic Learning and Social Outcomes until these are replaced or revised by Arts Council England. Events and visits will be further evaluated from qualitative evidence gained from individuals taking part and by the learning officer. Feedback on all learning activities will be encouraged and actively sought when developing formal education resources. Feedback will be responded to promptly and areas for improvement identified and acted on.
<b>Item 9.0</b>	<b>Action Plan</b> An action plan will detail of how the learning department will meet the objectives laid out in this document and establish a timescale for achieving this.
<b>Item 10.0</b>	<b>Policy Revision</b>

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The policy will be reviewed one year after it has been agreed; or if necessary in response to significant changes at the Royal Mint Museum before that date.

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