

Social Inclusion Policy

May 2002

NMM Mission Statement:

One museum working to illustrate for everyone the importance of the sea, ships, time and the stars and their relationship with people.

Key Objectives:

- To be proactive in ensuring equal access to the Museum's collections and in using them to enhance the lives of the widest possible audience (*supporting NMM Objective 1*).
- To share knowledge and expertise with all members of the community (*supporting NMM Objective 2*).
- To strive to be a place of learning for all members of the community (*supporting NMM Objective 3*).
- To develop and promote a sustainable programme for social inclusion (*supporting NMM Objective 4*).
- To work in partnership with other agencies on projects and programmes to promote social inclusion (*supporting NMM Objective 5*).

Definitions:

- *Social inclusion*: Ensuring that all members of the community are encouraged to use the site, collections and expertise held by the Museum, regardless of ethnic origin, means, ability, age, gender or sexual orientation .
- *Access*: Promoting the removal of barriers between the Museum and all members of the community, including physical, sensory, intellectual, cultural, financial and attitudinal barriers.
- *Learning*: 'Learning is a process of active engagement with experience... which leads to change, development and the desire to learn more'. Every interaction has the potential to be a learning experience.

Policy:

Social Inclusion is at the core of the Museum's system of values. It is a key driver in all decisions relating to strategic vision, policies and programmes.

This includes:

- Access to the site:
 - appropriate facilities for all visitors to the Museum's buildings and grounds
 - clear on-site information about access
 - clear off-site information about facilities
- Access to collections and expertise
 - ensuring varied means of delivery to suit the needs of a diverse community
 - multi-layered interpretation of the museum's core values through exhibitions, publications and learning programmes
 - use of IT resources to facilitate digital access and learning
- Developing new audiences
 - extend the Museum's visitor base to reflect the diversity of the community
 - conduct audience consultation to ensure effective communication with potentially excluded groups and individuals
 - respond to the needs of potentially excluded audiences
 - monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of all procedures and processes

The Museum expects all its stakeholders to work towards delivering this policy.