



Rushden Transport Museum & Railway essential information for teachers.

Thank you for enquiring into a school visit to Rushden Transport Museum accredited by the Arts Council of England.

Background

The museum collection is housed in the restored, Rushden Station built in 1893, owned and run by the Rushden Historical Transport Society.

The Society is a charity run by volunteers, for the benefit of the local community. It hosts the Cavalcade and Country Show in May and many themed events during the year at the station. The museum collection is open each weekend for the enjoyment and education of the public from April to October. It gives its older visitors a nostalgic trip down memory lane and a chance for younger guests to see how things have changed within living memory.

The focus for presenting our collection is how transport relates to Rushden and its surrounding area, in particular the Midlands Railway branch line from Wellingborough to Higham Ferrers which was essential in the development of the boot and shoe trade and consequently the growth of Rushden. This makes us an ideal location for the National Curriculum focus on a local study and how the railways changed Britain.

We are currently developing our ideas of what we can offer schools, so we would like to work with you to see how best we can fit into your plans.

School visits

We would strongly advise a pre-visit by you/teacher(s), especially if you have not been before, to meet us at the station, and discover what we have to offer. Meetings can be arranged by mutual agreement, please contact us at museum@rhts.co.uk. You may also want to develop your own risk assessment, our generic risk assessment is soon to be available for download from our website <http://rhts.co.uk/>, for your reference.

If you want visit our station with your class please complete the booking form and as we need to assemble our volunteers, and ensure there are no other diary fixtures, we need as much notice as possible.

We have three options – option 1 can be arranged within two weeks and option 2 needs 4 weeks prior notice. The details on offer can soon be down loaded from our web site, along with a generic risk assessment and booking form.

Preparation to consider to help your visit run smoothly:

- On request we can provide some background information in the form of a presentation, to share with staff members.
- Prepare your accompanying adults to the purpose and timetable of your visit.
- Prepare groupings so these can be split easily on the day.

- Prepare your class with any basic background knowledge you think they will need to know to get the most out of their trip.

During the visit:

- Please arrive at the allotted time(s), especially if more than one class is to be accommodated.
- You will be met at the Station by a volunteer who will welcome your class and give a brief Health and Safety talk.
- At the end of your visit we like to say good bye so please allow a little time to get assembled before leaving.

Additional information:

- The Station is within walking distance of Rushden schools
- Parking for coaches/minibus can be arranged if necessary
- The station can be quite/very cold, so we do not recommend visits in the cold winter months - December to March.
- There is wheelchair access around the site
- There are toilets available on the station.
- There is full access to the rooms of the museum, but no food or drink is allowed inside.
- There are no refreshments available, but we can accommodate eating of your own packed lunches, if required on the platform/in a carriage.
- The shop is not available.
- We have experienced and patient volunteers.
- If you want to take photographs please ensure you have sufficient cameras for each of your groups.

We hope this information has been useful and that we will see you and your class soon.

