

Education Pack

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Guide notes

This pack is intended as a guide to support the planning and delivery of a school or group visit to Oriel Q. It is applicable for teachers and guides of all age groups. It aims to provide teachers, leaders and guides with the necessary information on which to build a successful and valuable group visit. It is designed to be read as a source for ideas for practical work and discussion, and as a basis for inspiration and suggestions in the lead up to a visit.

Oriel Q – Queen’s Hall Gallery Narberth SA67 7AS

www.orielqueenshallgallery.org.uk tel 01834 869454 email lynne-orielq@tiscali.co.uk

1. Oriel Q

Location

Oriel Q is located on the top floor of the Queen’s Hall, on the main street in Narberth.

It is 1 mile from the main A40 road between Carmarthen and Haverfordwest.

There is a railway station approximately ½ mile from the centre of the town.

There are regular buses from Carmarthen, Cardigan and Haverfordwest and outlying areas.



Map from multimap.com

Opening hours

Wednesday–Saturday 10am–5pm

The Manager, Lynne Crompton, is normally available at the gallery between 10am and 5pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Facilities

Oriel Q has four exhibition areas: a large gallery hall, a smaller gallery, a showcase area at the end of the gallery, and the stairway.

As it is part of the Queen’s Hall infrastructure, there are toilets, a café, a lift, wheelchair access throughout the building, and nearby Pay and Display parking.

Oriel Q stocks a selection of art books, as well as a range of prints, posters, greeting cards and postcards.

2. About Oriel Q

Oriel Q – the history

As part of the group Taf and Cleddau Community Arts, we started holding exhibitions in the Bloomfield Community Centre in 1987 and, from 1989, in the annexe of the Queen’s Hall.

When the Queen’s Hall was developed in 1994, we began to use the top floor for exhibitions, improving the lighting and the walls to make the gallery.

The gallery space within Oriel Q consists of a large gallery hall, and one smaller gallery, Oriel Fach, often used for video/film installations. There is an area at the end of the gallery that showcases smaller sculptures, ceramics, and jewellery. The stairway provides a further exhibiting area, where photographs are usually displayed.

All the gallery spaces are devoted to temporary exhibitions, which highlight the work of key local and international artists.

In 2004, the Arts Council of Wales made the Queen’s Hall Gallery a revenue-funded client, and Lynne Crompton was employed as its Manager and Curator.

Unfortunately, with cuts in the Arts Council of Wales budget, revenue funding was withdrawn in 2007.

The gallery now relies on an annual lottery grant from the Arts Council of Wales, but this does make the future insecure and we are seeking to identify other ways of funding.

Our mission

To:

- provide a stimulating programme of contemporary exhibitions and related talks;
- serve the local and national artistic community;
- be a flagship for the Visual and Applied Arts in West Wales;
- provide a platform and income for artists;
- develop an educational policy which will benefit visiting schools, and help teachers meet curriculum needs, by supporting them to deliver the new Literacy and Numeracy framework through art and give pupils a good basic knowledge of Art in Wales.

3. Oriel Q’s education service

Oriel Q has developed as a flagship for contemporary arts in West Wales, offering a stimulating programme of contemporary exhibitions and related talks and workshops. The gallery is committed to exhibiting the highest quality of contemporary art as well as supporting talented young and local artists. It aims to serve the local and national artistic community.

Aims

To:

- develop a visual awareness, an understanding of and a response to images;
- promote an interest in visiting museums and galleries;
- provide teachers at both primary and post-primary level with free resources;
- provide teachers with the opportunity to teach aspects of curricula with a fresh resource;
- support children and young people in progression routes and art/design career pathways.

Education

Schools & groups

We will co-ordinate school visits and tailor them for your group.

For further information, contact Oriel Q and ask for the Manager, Lynne Crompton.

Programme of lectures/workshops

Talks, classes and workshops are provided for artists and supported by the Friends of the Gallery.

‘Artists talk’ series

Artists give talks to accompany the current exhibitions, thereby providing a chance to meet professional artists.

Teachers’ packs

These are available and contain information pertinent to all planned exhibitions at Oriel Q.

The Oriel Q website is also a good source of information.

Entry to Oriel Q is free of charge.

4. Gallery education at Oriel Q

“Gallery education ‘exists to broaden access, understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts’.”

(engage)

We at Oriel Q believe that teachers or guides and their students should have the opportunity to experience artworks first hand. Pupils can then explore their own responses to them and increase their understanding of local, Welsh and international art.

Oriel Q supports the Art and Design National Curriculum. Our education programme aims to encourage cross-curricular work and building key skills by:

- using personal experience as a starting point to engage with art;
- assisting development of critical, conceptual and analytical skills;
- sharing ideas through discussion;
- inspiring practical activities through knowledge and understanding.

“Galleries are not inert any longer, they are expected to be dynamic learning centres; their benefit to the education system is touted as having a beneficial outcome on social and educational development.”

(engage)

There has been a recent review on arts and education by the Arts Council of Wales led by Chairman Professor Dai Smith and we await the recommendations in order to update and enhance our education policy.

Benefits

Research has proved that pupils of all ages can gain and develop many skills through a visit to an art gallery. Here are some accepted key benefits identified through gallery education:

- Confidence and familiarity with being in a gallery environment
- Developing observational skills
- Learning to communicate verbally about something visual and developing visual literacy
- Becoming familiar with different art forms: sculpture, painting, drawing, video, photography
- Investigating different materials and media
- Developing an ability to compare and contrast different artworks
- Confidence in discussing what they think of an artwork
- Learning to investigate an artwork
- Developing language and descriptive skills
- Creating an awareness of artists, their methods, mediums and contemporary practice
- Developing discussion skills
- Developing digital skills
- Improving practical visual art skills including sketching
- Encouraging pupils to think in visual terms

Looking and talking about art

Sample questions for engaging students in discussion:

- What can you see?
- When do you think this was made?
- Why do you think an artist made this artwork?
- What is it made from? Why do you think the artist has used these materials?
- How has the artist used colour?
- What do you like or dislike about the work?
- How does it make you feel? Does it have a particular quality that you like?
- How does it compare to other works in this gallery?
- How is the title or year it was made relevant to the artwork?

Art is subjective: there is no wrong or right way to think about art. Appreciate all comments that students make. This will encourage them to feel confident in looking and interpreting arts. Encourage explanations, e.g. what it is or what they see that makes them think or feel that way. This process allows for opinions to be backed up with visual reference.

Discuss the formal qualities of an artwork: colour, pattern, brush marks, tone or texture.

Artworks can be a great starting point for other ideas. Does an artwork inspire other ideas? Can it be linked to other classroom activities?

An artwork often reflects so much about the artist’s life. What is the artist conveying? Where did he live? How did he live?

Discuss with the pupils how they can find answers to their questions about the artworks or artists, and what information is available to them at the gallery.

Sketching the artwork helps develop drawing skills.

Making the visit an enjoyable, enlightening and memorable experience for the student will encourage them to return and nurture a positive relationship with art.

5. Planning your trip

Guidelines

- It is recommended that teachers or group leaders see the current exhibitions and facilities prior to their intended visit so they can be sure that it is suitable to their current topic or study programme.
- Explain to students what they will be doing during the visit and how the visit will be followed up in the classroom. They will relate better to the exhibition if they have started to explore the study theme in the classroom.
- A maximum of () pupils per school is advisable and supervision of those under 18 is required at all times. Adult/pupil ratios:
 - 1:10 (under 11 yrs)
 - 1:15 (11–16 yrs)
 - 1:20 (16–18 yrs)
- Be mindful of how long children will remain engaged in the gallery. Younger children/primary will usually learn best in short periods (20 mins). Older pupils respond well to an hour.
- The teacher/group leader is ultimately responsible for the behaviour of their group. The following principles are in place for the benefit of the artworks, staff and the public:
 - No running
 - No touching
 - No leaning against walls or plinths
 - No shouting
 - No mobile phones

Sketching or other activities will be discussed with the Manager Lynne Crompton.

- There is full disabled access to the gallery. Entrance for all school groups is the entrance to the Queen’s Hall building. Oriel Q is on the third (top) floor. Bags and coats may be placed in a designated area of the gallery. Packed lunches can be consumed on the premises.

Please note: Oriel Q, housed in the top floor of the Queen’s Hall, complies with all Health and Safety and Fire Safety legislation and relevant Local Authority regulations and is subject to regular inspections to ensure its compliancy.

Oriel Q takes visitors’ safety and security seriously. However, it is advisable to carry out a risk assessment relevant to your particular group’s needs as part of your planned trip.

6. How to book

All groups must book in advance. Bookings may be emailed to lynne@orielqueenshallgallery.org.uk or by phone on 01834 869454.

When you call or make contact to discuss your group’s visit, it is helpful to have given some thought to the following:

- A range of dates for the visit
- Group size and age of pupils
- Themes for talks or workshops
- Title of activity

Information required

Name of school

School address

School postcode

School telephone number

Name of leader/teacher

Telephone number of leader/teacher

The age group of school group

Date of visit

Time of visit

Particular interest

Number of visitors

Number of teachers

Student teacher ratios

Access requirements

Special considerations

7. After your visit

It is accepted that a gallery visit could be a great learning opportunity for children. But the learning process doesn’t stop there. Post visit discussions and related activities are a valuable tool, and provide children with further opportunity to explore what they saw at the gallery.

We value your opinion. Please let us have any feedback on your visit – what you liked or disliked, or what improvements you believe could be made to our school provisions.

Keep a look out for forthcoming events and workshops at Oriel Q as many are tailored specifically for school groups.

For up-to-date information visit <http://www.orielqueenshallgallery.org>