

Every Child Matters to MOSI

Every Child Matters is a nationwide approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to 19 years. The rich variety of learning experiences at MOSI can help young people to:

Be healthy

- Engendering the idea of outdoor leisure pursuits promotes a healthy lifestyle.
- The content of some programmes deals with aspects of healthy lifestyles.

Example – The Supermarkets to Sewers show encourages young people to think about healthy eating.

- Some of the activities at MOSI involve physical activity. The site itself covers 12 acres and so children will walk a lot during a visit here.

Example – The Castlefield history tour involves a walk of 1.5 miles.

- Young people who successfully achieve activities will improve their self-esteem and happiness leading to mental and emotional health

Enjoy and achieve

- Young people have stated that they enjoy visiting the museum and want to learn more.
- Many young people who first visit MOSI with their school enjoy the visit so much that they later return with their families to attend one of the many family events.
- The programme involves a range of hands-on activities to appeal to learners of different styles.

Example – Primary school groups learning about forces have the opportunity to take part in 5 separate investigations within an hour. They also get the chance to watch a model steam engine in action and can later link this to a visit to the Power Hall.

- Visits enrich the curriculum and make it come alive.

Example – Groups learning about Romans have the opportunity to handle many Roman artefacts, try on Roman dress including helmet, tunic and armour and then take part in a tour around a reconstructed site led by a Roman soldier in authentic costume.

- Young people get the opportunity to directly experience real artefacts and watch real machines in action during Textiles and Power Hall demonstrations.
- Cross-curricular sessions give young people the chance to link subjects and hence maximise learning.

Example – Groups can link science, history, technology and art during a lesson on papermaking or fabric printing.

- The Museum offers creative opportunities providing inspiration for storytelling, music, art and dance.

Example – MOSI works closely with the Hallé Orchestra to give young people the opportunity to develop and perform a composition linked to a scientific theme.

- Activities and projects increase students' motivation and capacity for learning.

Example – MOSI worked closely with a SEN group from Melland High School to use objects from the museums collection to develop narrative, literacy and film making skills.

Make a positive contribution

- Young people have the opportunity to develop social responsibility when they are out of school in an unfamiliar environment and this engenders a positive attitude.
- Young people are encouraged to respect objects and historic buildings.
- Young people can take part in activities which encourage them to have respect for the environment.

Example – 167 Girl Guides have worked with MOSI on their Go For It Green awards.

- Young people are given opportunities to work in teams and develop social skills, self-confidence and independence.

Example – Secondary school debates allow young people to work in groups with students from other schools to question experts, find out more about current science issues and produce a group presentation. Recent issues have included vaccination, nuclear power and premature babies.

- Young people are encouraged to have a voice in the planning of school visits and Museum activities.

Example – The MOSI Junior Board meet every term to advise the Museum on strategic issues, judge competitions, launch new exhibitions and pilot new sessions.

Achieve economic well-being

- Young people have the opportunity to take part in several vocational activities and hence become aware of possible career paths open to them.

Example – Meet the scientist is a regular, popular event which gives young people the opportunity to find out more about a particular career and ask questions of an expert in the field.

- Young people are able to use MOSI as a model for studying how a leisure and tourism related business works.
- Skills of independent thinking and self-confidence which are developed by the MOSI programme will prove useful to students in their future careers.

Stay safe

- Young people are given the opportunity to learn within a safe environment out of the classroom, with fully trained staff to support their learning.
- MOSI has a carefully considered Child Protection Policy.
- MOSI carry out Health and Safety Risk Assessments for each activity.
- Some of the programmed activities give young people the opportunity to find out how to keep themselves safe now and in later life.

Example – Secondary school debates cover issues such as vaccines whilst Girl Guides are given the opportunity to learn first aid skills.