



Victorian Lesson

Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

Preparing for Your Visit: It is strongly recommended that supervising staff should arrange a pre-visit appointment to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Complimentary tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments.

Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** The Beamish Board School is located in The Pit Village. To reach the school either take the tram to Home Farm tram stop and then walk down the hill to the Pit Village or use the access route from the Main Entrance. A member of staff should be at The School entrance to greet you.
- **Arriving on Time:** If your group has the first lesson booked (10.30 start) it is advisable to walk straight down to The School. Please ensure you arrive at The School on time. In the event of a late arrival every effort will be made to accommodate the full time of the activity, however, due to other bookings this may not be possible.
- **Storage:** Once inside the School the pupils will be shown where to store their bags and coats.
- **Toilets:** There is a toilet in the School, but it is advisable that pupils visit the toilets before coming to the School. The nearest are in the Lamp Cabin or beside the Band Hall in the Pit Village.
- **Access:** An accessible bus is available to take anyone with access needs into the Pit Village. The School is accessible for wheelchairs and has no stairs which need climbing.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** Pupils will not need any of their own equipment for the activity. If you would like to undertake the activity in period costume here are some suggestions for items children could wear (a list can be found on the Beamish website <http://www.beamish.org.uk/resources>). Many of these items

can be obtained from relatives or charity shops. If children are dressed up, please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather.

Boys:

white shirt
dark trousers
waistcoat
cap
muffler
dark shoes
plain jumper

Girls:

white blouse
dark skirt
dark dress
pinafore
apron
shawl
mop cap
dark shoes

Outline of Activity: The activity involves pupils experiencing a traditional lesson of reading, writing, arithmetic and drill. Children will sit in rows and use slates and pencils or pen and ink depending on their age. They will be expected to work in silence and generally behave as though they were Victorian pupils although a degree of flexibility will be employed. Any punishment will be discussed but **not** shown. At the end of the session you will be asked to escort your pupils out of The School to continue your visit.

Objectives of Activity:

- To understand and experience first hand what it was like to go to school in the Victorian period.
- To explore the similarities and differences between school now and school in the Victorian period.

Background to Activity:

- Information about school leaving age and opportunities for further study/sorts of lessons and the structure of these/difference between girls and boys lessons.
- Information about discipline.

Ideas for Pre and Post Visit:

- **Pre:**
 - Activities to explore what school is like now and predict what school was like in the Victorian period (or use what the class has learnt so far) to create a drawing or creative writing.

Post:

- If the above activity is used then a comparison could be drawn between expectations and the experience of the session.
- Creative writing about the experience – students could write a description of a lesson from their own point of view as a modern child and also from the point of view of a Victorian school child.

Contact Us: If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Telephone Simon Woolley on 0191 370 4011 or email education@beamish.org.uk.



Hazard Identification Sheet - Victorian Lesson
Location: School Room, Pit Village

Potential Hazard	Who is particularly at risk	Context of hazard and steps to be taken by accompanying adults to prevent accidents	Risk of accident/dangerous occurrence High/medium/low	If high or medium what additional precautions or measures need to be taken to reduce risk to low
Slips and trips on uneven or slippery surfaces	Children and Adults	The ground around the school is uneven and so care must be taken when walking to and from the school. Accompanying adults should advise their groups to take care and children should be advised to wear suitable footwear for the visit. As the school door is left open there may be some water on the floor in the case of bad weather. Beamish staff will monitor the conditions of the floor and take steps to ensure that warnings are placed anywhere potentially hazardous.	Low	
Tripping over step into school	Children and Adults	There is a small step up to the school which groups must step up in order to enter the school. Groups will be warned of the step before entering the school.	Low	
Dust/smoke from fire	Children and Adults	There is likely to be a coal fire burning in the school and therefore there could be smoke or dust from the fire in the schoolroom. Supervising adults should ensure that Beamish staff are informed of any asthmatics in the group and that these have their inhalers/ medication with them. Beamish staff will endeavour to keep the classroom as ventilated as possible.	Low	

Chalk dust.	Children and Adults	Chalk is used during the session therefore there is the possibility that there will be some chalk dust in the air. Beamish staff should be informed by accompanying adults of any asthmatic children or children with allergies. Supervising adults should ensure that any asthmatic children have their inhalers/medication with them and that they are seated away from the blackboard.	Medium	Beamish staff should be informed of any asthmatics in the group and these should all have their inhalers etc. with them.
Burns from fire	Children and Adults	There may be a coal fire lit in the schoolroom which could cause burns if children go too close to it. A fire guard will always be in place and Beamish staff will warn the group not to go too close to the fire. Supervising adults should watch the children under their care closely to ensure that they do not go too close to the fire.	Low	
Equipment - dip pens and ink	Children and Adults	All equipment used will be age appropriate and carefully monitored to ensure it is safe. Children's use of the dip pens should be monitored to avoid scratches with the nibs. Beamish staff will model correct use of the pens. The ink used is washable.	Low	

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