



# Welcome to the Workhouse

## Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

**Preparing for Your Visit:** It is strongly recommended that supervising staff arrange a pre-visit to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Complimentary tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments. A Hazard Identification Sheet is also provided in order to help you with your risk assessment.

### **Practicalities:**

- **Where to go and how to get there:** Welcome to the Workhouse begins in The Chapel. To get there either take the tram from the Main Entrance in the direction of The Town, get off at the Home Farm stop and walk down into The Pit Village, use the access route from the entrance or the woodland walk from Pockerley. Once in The Pit Village, make your way to The Chapel (next to The School), where you will be met by a member of staff.
- **Arriving on Time:** Please ensure you arrive at The Chapel on time. If you are booked on the first session it is advisable to walk straight to The Pit Village. 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.
- **What to Bring/Where:** Pupils will need appropriate clothing. Beamish is an open air museum and the weather may be inclement.
- **Toilets:** The nearest toilets are in The Lamp Cabin, next to the mine.
- **Health and Safety Information:** A Hazard Identification Sheet is attached to advise you of any possible risks or hazards.
- **Access:** An Access bus is available and can take any members of your group with access needs into The Pit Village. There are steps up to The Chapel and to some of the other buildings, however, the groups can be arranged to suit any access

needs. If there is anyone in your group with access, needs please contact the Bookings Officer on [bookings@beamish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@beamish.org.uk) or telephone on 0191 370 4026 and they will be able to advise you.

**Objectives of Activity:**

- Links to the National Curriculum - The Industrial Revolution; The 1913 Liberal Reforms
- To use the setting of a workhouse (The Chapel in The Pit Village) to immerse the students in the Life and Times of Pauper children at the beginning of the 20th century.
- To develop the students capacity to identify with and empathise with children suffering the hardships of the The Workhouse.
- To enable the students to explore the notion of Childhood through the times by comparing and contrasting their experiences with that of the Workhouse children

**Outline of Activity:**

The students will assemble in the Chapel and be addressed by the Workhouse Master (welcomed) establishing the rules-expectations, etc. (**NOTE:** Beamish staff will not accompany the groups so accompanying staff will need to play an active role in supervising the groups).

The students will be divided into two groups based on gender if possible, as it would have happened at the time, and separated to perform menial tasks, replicating the drudgery of the Workhouse e.g. girls cleaning in the Pit Cottage and the boys unpicking ropes and cleaning the Chapel.

The students will re-assemble in the Chapel to have an adapted-shortened Victorian lesson. The students will then say Grace and be offered the opportunity to sample pre-prepared gruel. The activity will conclude with a plenary session to review what the students have experienced and learnt.

**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](mailto:education@beamish.org.uk).



**Hazard Identification Sheet – Welcome to the Workhouse**  
**Location: The Chapel**

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
Traffic	Participants crossing roads	There is a road that runs through the pit village. The girls will be crossing the road to get to and from the pit cottage. There are buses, cars, vans and horses that use this road. Accompanying adults should supervise crossing this road, and warn students of the dangers. There is a site wide speed limit of 12 mph, and vehicle movements will be kept to a minimum.	Low	
Uneven surfaces	Participants	The roads, paths and insides of buildings have uneven surfaces such as flag stones, and rugs. These areas can often be dimly lit. Students should be warned to move about carefully.	Low	
Mangle	Participants working in pit cottage	In the pit cottage there is a mangle, which the students may or may not use. If misused this can lead to crushing injuries. Supervising adults must make sure that the students use this with care.	Medium	Beamish Staff will ensure that one member of staff/accompanying adult will be present at the mangle.

Fire	Participants working in the pit cottage.	In the pit cottage a fire may be lit in the kitchen. This can emit smoke, which may be a danger to those with asthma. There will be a fire guard and a member of staff present. Accompanying adults should ensure those with respiratory problems have their medication with them.	Low	
Object handling.	Participants, adults, other visitors	The students will handle objects and non-chemical cleaning equipment. If misused this could lead to injury. Accompanying adults should ensure that students behave in a sensible manner.	Low	
Gruel	Participants tasting gruel on request	The students will have an opportunity to taste gruel. This has oats in it. Any students with allergies to this should not taste it, and should have medication at hand.	Low	

**Date Reviewed:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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