

SRPS Education Policy

The Scottish Railway Preservation Society will continue to develop education services to: -

- promote the understanding of the history of the railway industry in Scotland, both in terms of its contribution to engineering, and its social and economic impact on the people of Scotland.
- ensure that the collections are accessible to the widest possible public.
- support and attract visits to the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway by different educational groups and individuals interested in personal lifelong learning.
- encourage the participation of communities throughout Scotland and in particular the local community in the operation of the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway and other Society activities.

Education services have been and will continue to be developed around six key strands.

1. Scheduled passenger services and mainline excursions

The Society operates a scheduled passenger train service between Bo'ness, Kinneil Halt and Birkhill Fireclay Mine, using items from the Collection in a manner which is responsible and as authentic as possible, to give members of the public a genuine sense of travel in a by-gone age. It also operates a series of mainline excursions for the public, using both steam and diesel traction, along scenic routes and to historic destinations throughout the United Kingdom, using passenger rolling stock now almost entirely replaced by diesel and electric multiple units. A customised route description given to each passenger, and stewards knowledgeable in railway matters, make these excursions more than a day trip by rail.

2. Access to the collection, interpretation and exhibitions

The Society aims to display and interpret as much as is practical of its Collection of wheeled vehicles, railway equipment and small artefacts. This will be achieved through time by the construction of exhibition halls, special exhibitions, and indoor and outdoor displays, subject to the availability of capital funding.

3. Outreach, community and life-long learning

Communities throughout Scotland are involved in a proactive, relevant and distinct way, through the extensive use of volunteers in professional, managerial, skill-based and visitor services roles. It also organises a series of winter lectures, held in a number of locations throughout Central Scotland, and publishes a quarterly journal "Blastpipe". The Society arranges lectures to affinity groups such as the Women's Guild and Rotary Clubs. It has also established and will maintain partnerships with external organisations through which to promote the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway as a resource for learning and teaching (including The Heritage Railway Association, The National Museum of Scotland and the National Railway Museum at York).

4. Programmes for schools, colleges and universities

This work includes offering an annual programme of events for schools, offering a professionally developed teachers' education pack based on the Scottish Education Department's National Guidelines for Environmental Studies 5 –14. The Society is continuing to establish and maintain links with colleges and universities, including those associated with tourism and building engineering skills.

5. Family programmes

The Society has created a programme of events specifically designed to attract families, and in particular those with pre-school age children. This includes activities that encourage parents to look positively on the railways as having an effective role in modern times as a means of transport.

6. The Virtual Museum

The Society seeks to exploit the Internet to the full to publish and publicise its work, its Collection, its educational resource packs, academic papers and research through its website www.srps.org.uk on a global basis. The website also provides links to other railway museum, heritage railway, rail travel and tourism related websites. Other forms of information technology such as multimedia exhibitions and CD ROM's will be used where demonstration through direct observation is impractical for practical of safety reasons.

For more information please contact: -

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