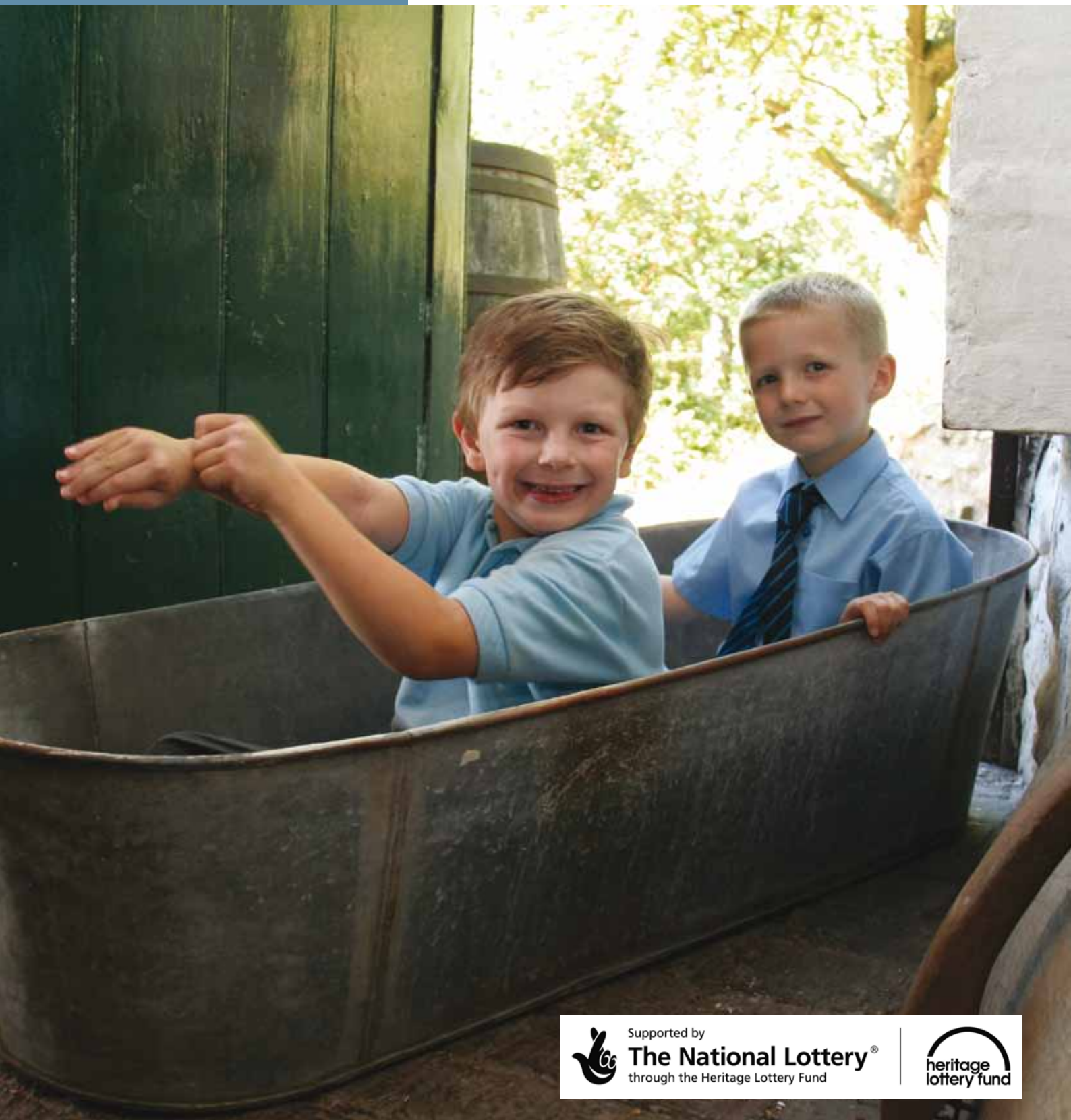


Education at

Avoncroft
Museum



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
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Where learning is fun . . . in Worcestershire

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Avoncroft is a 5-times winner of the
Sandford Award for heritage education



Welcome to Avoncroft

Founded almost 50 years ago in order to prevent the destruction of a mid-15th century house, Avoncroft Museum became England's first open-air museum.

The Museum is home to over 25 different historic buildings and structures which have been saved from destruction and painstakingly dismantled and moved from around the West Midland counties. These buildings are now set around a beautiful rural site with wildlife and open areas including a traditional orchard, wildflower meadow, pond and large picnic area.

At Avoncroft we believe that when children are having fun they learn without realising they are being taught. We work hard to stimulate the imagination of all those who visit and Avoncroft offers a unique opportunity for pupils of all ages to actively learn away from the classroom.

We are proud of our strong tradition of educational services which we have been delivering to all ages of students since the 1960s and we believe we demonstrate a dedicated ethos to 'getting it right'.



What we offer

We currently offer a wide range of teaching sessions covering historic periods from the Tudors to the Second World War. There are hands-on sessions based on construction, design, technology, science and nature.

Our sessions are regularly reviewed in the light of feedback from visiting teachers and all sessions support the National Curriculum. We aim to develop individual enquiry, communication and learning.

Teaching sessions

Tudor rich and poor
Tudor builder
Speed Shakespeare!

Victorian rich and poor
Victorian washday
Victorian school day
Victorian crime and punishment

Child of the 1940s
1940s – Air raids
1940s – Evacuation
1940s – Life in a prefab

Homes through the ages

Brickmaking
Wattle and daub
Timber framer

Playtime in the past
Three little pigs
Little red hen

Where the wild things are!
Apples – from orchard to juice
Wind, windmills and wheat



Sessions last for approximately 45 minutes and are designed for a maximum of 30 children per session. Sessions are delivered within the historic buildings or around the Museum's open-air site and use historical replica objects, exploration and hands on experiences to recreate the past or explore the present.

Tudor rich and poor

Key Stage 1 & 2

Here children explore the past using a variety of sources of evidence. We use the Merchant's House and the family that lived there as our starting point to investigate the life of Tudors, both rich and poor. Studying inventories, artefacts and the clothes of rich and poor Tudors we build a picture of Tudor life and uncover the attitudes held by the different classes in Tudor times. The children use quill pens to write their own inventory inside the Merchant's House.



Tudor builder

Key Stage 2 & 3

Children are guided in their investigations of the building materials and different construction methods traditionally used in Tudor times. They look at how buildings were specially designed for different purposes. The session encourages enquiry into the properties of building materials and why they were chosen and gives a practical opportunity to work on a large wattle and daub panel. With a consideration of both the rich and poor in Tudor times, we contrast the materials used in structures.



Speed Shakespeare!

Key Stage 2 & 3

Using the story of *Romeo and Juliet* and role play, this fun session introduces how the Tudors entertained themselves and what a visit to the theatre would have been like during the 16th and 17th centuries. It challenges children to explore what they already know about Shakespeare, Tudor manners and behaviour and allows them the opportunity of insulting each other as an Elizabethan, Capulet or Montague would have done.



Victorian



Victorian rich and poor

Key Stage 1 & 2

This session compares the lives of children from rich and poor families in Victorian times through the Victorian buildings at Avoncroft and the use of mystery objects which the different classes may have owned. By contrasting the lives of young boys working as chimney sweeps and girls in domestic service with their richer, educated counterparts, their modern descendants visiting the Museum will learn how wealth affected their ancestors' lifestyles and influenced what leisure time they had and how it was spent.



Victorian washday

Key Stage 1 & 2

Take a hands-on approach to a Victorian washday with children discovering how labour intensive and time consuming washing clothes really was in Victorian times! The children will experience the washing methods, learning about and using the tools and machines that the Victorians used.

This is a particularly popular session which generates regular and positive feedback from schools.

Victorian school day

Key Stage 1 & 2

"Good morning Sir / Ma'am"... the children march on the spot with shoulders back and chins up, before walking into the classroom - staged in the Bringsty Chapel, built in 1891. Children experience what it was like to be educated in a Victorian school lesson. The strict classroom regime continues while the pupils write on slates and learn copperplate handwriting. This session provides a realistic understanding of education in the Victorian era and references to the punishment book and the collection of a penny payment from each pupil conveys to modern-day children that school time may even have been harder in the past and that it was a privilege to go to school! Make sure you behave until the school bell rings and you are formally dismissed.

Victorian crime and punishment

Key Stage 1 & 2

We may take the existence of the police force for granted, but this 19th-century innovation changed lives for Victorians both for good and bad. Centred around the Museum's original Victorian cell block the children learn about punishments that were handed out to those found guilty of crimes that would be considered minor today. Hardship and poverty were no excuses for crime, and even children could be sentenced to severe corporal punishment or hard labour, while capital punishment or transportation awaited those convicted of more serious criminality. This may put ASBOs in a different light!





Child of the 1940s

Key Stage 1 & 2

This introductory session looks at life in wartime Britain and takes children on a journey from evacuation through to rationing. Topics explored include what life was like living in the Second World War and how bombing and air raid shelters, food rations, clothing coupons and separation from families became the normality of daily life in the 1940s.

These more in-depth sessions dig deeper into life in wartime.

1940s air raids

Key Stage 2

Using the Museum's authentic wartime Anderson shelter, this session stimulates the children to put themselves into the position of those who lived through the Blitz. Working in smaller groups they undertake three tasks – building and stocking a simple bomb shelter; considering what they would need for a night in the Anderson, and exploring the emotional impact of living with the threat of bombing or even being bombed out.



1940s evacuation

Key Stage 2

Forcible separation from family and home became the reality for thousands of children at the outbreak of the Second World War, albeit for their own protection. Here children explore why evacuation came about, what they may have been allowed to take and where and with whom they may have been re-housed. How did city kids feel when faced with an unfamiliar countryside and sometimes fewer amenities in villages than they were used to back home?



1940s life in a prefab

Key Stage 2

For 9 years after the Second World War rationing was a significant part of daily life for British families. This interactive experience looks at the homes of immediate post-war Britain and how the Dig for Victory campaign helped sustain the nation and encouraged home production. Children are required to dig up their own vegetables in the Prefab garden in a race to see who will be today's victors.



Homes through the ages

Key Stage 1, 2 & 3

Children enjoy an interactive guided tour of some of Avoncroft's buildings with a focus on different building techniques. The techniques and materials used in different periods of history are contrasted and we explore how the levels of comfort and sanitation have changed. This is compared to the rooms that children have in their own houses, to provide a personal context to which they can relate.



Brickmaking

Key Stage 1, 2 & 3

This is an opportunity to get really messy while learning about the traditional techniques of brickmaking. Children produce their own brick by hand, working with the raw materials to create the finished hand-made product. This helps them gain an understanding of how the raw materials are obtained and how children were once involved in the process, leading to an investigation of the concept of child labour.





Wattle and daub

Key Stage 1, 2 & 3

Children have great fun learning about this technique and the materials used as they get hands-on to create their own panel. This session helps children gain an understanding as to how and why this building technique was used. This knowledge is related to the buildings on site at Avoncroft and they can see authentic wattle and daub construction at the 15th-century Merchant's House, helping them to develop an enhanced understanding of this process.



Timber framer

Key Stage 1, 2 & 3

Children work together as a team to solve how to fit together the complex timber frame of a scaled-down Tudor building. During the process they learn the names of the different timbers and discover how the geometric shapes work to create a strong framework. The children are also encouraged to contrast this timber-frame technique with other building techniques on site.



Little stories



Little red hen

Pre-school, Reception & Key Stage 1

We narrate the children's story of the *Little Red Hen* as a framework for exploring the process of wheat production through to breadmaking. The children learn about harvesting wheat and how the threshing barn was specially designed for the purpose of separating grain from straw. Children then consider how the windmill was used and how it contributes to the traditional breadmaking process.



Three little pigs

Pre-school, Reception & Key Stage 1

Based on the classic fairy tale of the *Three Little Pigs*, the children have fun making a simple puppet of the wolf and pig. They hear the story of the three pigs, which helps the group to investigate the different materials and construction techniques of three Avoncroft buildings made using straw and sticks, wood and bricks. This session can be adapted to suit the learning requirements of very young children through to more detailed study for Key Stage 1 through exploring changes to methods of construction and how the properties of various materials are best used.

Where the wild things are!

Key Stage 1, 2 & 3

Explore Avoncroft's wilder side and be inspired and amazed by nature. This session is adapted seasonally, but will usually include a hands-on session exploring the miniature or microscopic plant, bug or organism life to be found in the rural environment. We use the farm pond for pond-dipping, the woodpiles and orchard for mini-beast hunting or the Museum's mature wildflower meadow and wooded areas to explore fauna and flora in a fun way to open the young eyes to what surrounds them but often goes unseen.

Apples from orchard to juice

Key Stage 1, 2 & 3

This exciting new cross-curricular session takes the children around our traditional fruit orchard to learn about the trees, the habitat for wildlife and the growing lifecycle of the apple. Children take part in making a bark rubbing and collecting an apple tree leaf to compare with a visual guide to differently-shaped leaves from other common trees. Moving on to the late-18th century Perry Mill they consider what can be made from apples and the group learn about the perry press - how it works and from what different materials the parts of it are made. In conclusion, the children enjoy crushing apples and placing the pulp in an apple press, then turning the handle to make their own juice.



Wind, windmills & wheat

Key Stage 1 & 2

Supporting work in several areas of the curriculum, including history and design & technology, the children are introduced to the concept of windpower and how this power can be harnessed. Including a tour of Avoncroft's rescued 19th-century post-mill from Warwickshire, this session will help children understand more about the natural force of the wind. With a work sheet to complete and a toy windmill to help show the power of wind in its simplest form, the session will also include a discussion about flour and how it is made using a windmill.



Theme days at Avoncroft

Our full-day 'Theme Days' can be adapted to a wide range of different ages and key stages to help you really get the most out of a visit from Avoncroft. Visiting groups have an introductory session then split for a carousel system of four different hands-on activities and conclude with a final plenary session.

These are ideal for whole-school study topics and can be adapted for your particular needs in discussion with the Education staff at Avoncroft.



Tudors

Experience different aspects of life in Tudor times using Avoncroft's historic buildings.

An exploration of housing, building methods, the lives of the rich and poor and Tudor entertainment and manners.



Victorians

The day explores different aspects of Victorian life from a day at school to life in prison. Children take part in daily domestic work and explore the life of working children and their more well-off counterparts. How was real life for a Victorian compared to *Lark Rise to Candleford*!



1940s

The 1940s in Britain was a decade dominated by the reality of war. Our Theme Day examines life on the Home Front and how daily life was disrupted by bombings, air raids, evacuations and the need to rebuild Britain in the years that followed. This Theme Day aims to engage the children with both the practicalities of war and the emotional impact of fear, loss and separation which many experienced.



Building construction

Investigate a wide range of building types and construction methods while surrounded by historic buildings and structures dating from the 14th century to the 21st century. This Theme Day looks at timber-framed buildings, their wattle and daub infill, the development of brick making and building as well as an exploration of building types. With lots of hands-on opportunities to get a bit messy and try working with traditional materials, students will love this exploration of the historic built environment.

Reception theme day

An exploration for younger children of the buildings and site at Avoncroft using the medium of fairy stories and nursery rhymes to investigate building types, growing and processing corn and different types of children's toys.

Avoncroft – Where the wild things are!

Adaptable to a wide range of ages and study topics during this day students become Nature Detectives using Avoncroft's rural site. They will explore, identify and draw pond life, hunt for mini-beasts and learn to think like a bug predator; study the diversity and types of trees and wildflowers and take part in a creative session using found natural objects from around the site to produce a piece of outdoor art.



OOKL



OOKL

A new way of LOOKING

Avoncroft Museum has joined the likes of Kew Gardens and the National Maritime Museum by investing in the latest 'OOKL' technology. OOKL is an exciting step forward in enhancing the learning experience for school children who visit us.

The OOKL is a hand-held device onto which the user can record images, sounds and text to create personal memories, resulting in a richer and more engaging on-site experience. The content is automatically uploaded to the OOKL website where each school is given their own secure web space, accessed via a password.

The OOKL (an anagram of look) allows children to look at things in a different way, enjoying a more interactive experience when they visit the Museum. They photograph, record and select objects of personal interest, storing them on the OOKL for future investigation and development in school and capture further information about the items they select.

Back in the classroom children can work with the information they have collected and also access historical information pre-loaded by Avoncroft. From this, they can create galleries of pictures, develop projects, publish and share on-line stories of their visit and even export from OOKL to generate PowerPoint presentations.

The OOKL is simple to use and is suitable for children from age 6 years upwards. It is an interactive learning system which helps children develop course work whilst improving their IT skills.



“It’s the best mobile learning service I have worked with”.

Professor Mike Sharples - The University of Birmingham

Learning for older students and adults

We are able to provide educational sessions and visits for those studying Tourism and Leisure, Heritage Management and other GCSE, A level and Degree level courses. We can offer student placements for 18-year olds and over to those studying relevant courses and wishing to pursue careers in a related field. For more informal learning for older students we can offer themed guided walks and in-depth tours provided by knowledgeable volunteers and staff members looking at the buildings, collections and specific aspects of the Museum. We have educational programmes suitable for youth groups, cubs, scouts or other organisations.

For adults we provide a number of adult learning courses and experience days. These include our popular one or two day beginner blacksmithing courses in which you learn the art of blacksmithing in our historic forge and make a piece of decorative metalwork to take home.



Christmas past

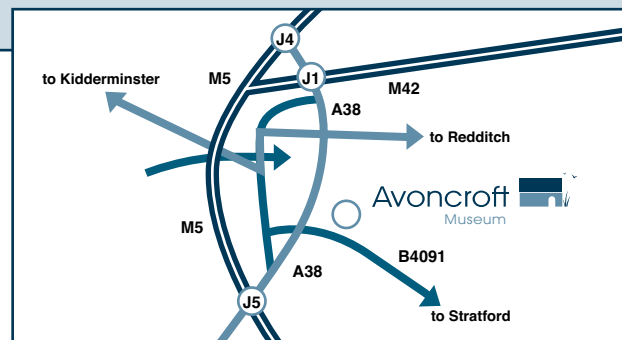
This changing session is available in December each year and looks at how Christmas was celebrated in the past. Ideal for an end of term treat, the children visit three of our period buildings, the Merchant's House, Toll House and Prefab which are dressed for the Christmas celebrations appropriate to the period. Explore how celebrations have changed and what a Tudor, Victorian or 1940s child might have received at Christmas and what food and entertainment would have marked the festive season. The session includes a hands-on activity of making a traditional decoration for them to take home for their own Christmas.



Booking Your Visit

With teaching time already requiring lots of planning, we aim to make bringing your group on a school trip to Avoncroft as easy as possible:

- Decide on the theme days, teaching sessions, OoKl handhelds or other activities you wish to book.
- Decide on a suitable date for your visit, with alternatives in case your first choice is not available.
- Decide how many children, teachers and other adults will be coming (special needs assistants who provide one-to-one pupil support are admitted free of charge).
- Call Avoncroft on 01527 831363 / 831886 (our schools bookings officer is available to take bookings 9.30am to 1.30pm daily and the office is open Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 5.00 pm for general enquiries).
- Make a provisional booking by phone – provisional bookings are held for 48 hours. This is the time to let us know the age of your group, the subject they are studying and if they have any special requirements.
- We will send you a booking form along with your invitation for a free pre-visit for two adults. Payment is required in advance of your visit (not on the day) and an invoice for the visit and teaching sessions will be sent to you at this point.
- Return the form and your visit will be confirmed when we receive it (we do not send written confirmation).



Location

Situated next to the A38 within minutes of the M5 (Junction 5) and M42 (Junction 1), we are easily accessible from any part of the country.

Avoncroft is open for school and educational visits throughout the year. As an open-air site we occasionally have to cancel visits if severe weather makes the site inaccessible or dangerous. We will always endeavour to make alternative arrangements, inform you with as much notice as possible and will reschedule your visit for no extra cost.

Keeping Safe

We know that safety on your visit is important to you, and take every measure we can to make our environment as safe as possible for your visit. All our activities are fully risk assessed. If you would like a copy of the risk assessment for any of our activities, please contact the Museum and we will be happy to provide it. Your free planning visit is available for two adults to come and assess the site for any additional risk assessments that you are required to prepare before your visit. We can provide a pro-forma risk assessment that can be adapted to your group's age and any special needs or self-led activities. All of our staff and volunteers on site are CRB checked. There is usually a qualified first-aider on site.

If you need any additional information please contact us via email or call and we will be more than happy to answer your questions.

There's so much to see and do at Avoncroft

The National Telephone Kiosk Collection

Avoncroft holds the National Collection of historic telephone kiosks – there are working phone boxes from the 1920s to the present day, including police, RAC and AA roadside boxes. This interactive exhibit is great fun as children can phone each other, learning how to operate the handsets as they do so. A rare experience for the generations who don't remember life before mobile phones and texting!



Orchards, meadows and wildlife

You are welcome to visit our mature wildflower meadow which is abundant with colourful wildflowers in the summer months and is a natural home for bees, butterflies, and wildlife. The Museum's traditional orchard has historic varieties of apple and pear trees while the whole site is home to rabbits, hedgehogs, foxes, woodpeckers, moorhens and mallards and a visitor destination for a wide variety of birds, animals and insects. We can't guarantee you'll see them all!



Windmill

Take the opportunity to climb up into our windmill and see the machinery which traditionally turned grain into flour. Our windmill is interpreted by our trained volunteers who will explain it to your group so please let us know beforehand if you wish to visit it and we will book a volunteer. Please note you may wish to risk assess this as a separate activity.

Craftsmen at work

The local metalworking industries can be demonstrated by our resident blacksmith. Please ask about booking a demonstration in our Black Country chainshop or Bromsgrove nailshop.



Miniature railway

Adjacent to the site is the Bromsgrove Model Engineers' miniature ride-on railway. This is available for school visits on Tuesdays in the summer months if you wish to include a ride on your visit. As it is run by an independent society a small separate charge is made per child and you should check in advance that the trains will be running.

Children's play area

The Museum has a small children's play area with activity and climbing equipment which you are welcome to use. Not suitable for older groups.

Lunch facilities

The Museum's Edwardian tea room is a lovely space to relax and enjoy a tea or coffee and home-made cakes and meals. We can prepare nutritional and balanced packed lunches for your visit – please ask for details. An outdoor picnic area is provided with tables and benches close to the Museum entrance for your use if the weather is suitable or on cold and wet days an indoor lunch room is provided.

The Museum shop

Avoncroft's shop provides a great range of books, gifts and pocket-money priced souvenirs to provide a memento for children to take home so they will be reminded of their visit. The shop also stocks replica items and educational resources for use in classroom sessions. For those not able to visit a gift bag service is available.



Getting around for visitors with disabilities

Most of the site is accessible to people with mobility difficulties; however, if anyone in your group is disabled or has other special needs please inform us before your visit so that we can adapt sessions or change rooms to meet these requirements.

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At Avoncroft we offer schools:

- Easy booking
- Experienced teaching staff
- Free exploration and pre-planning visit for two adults
- Free coach parking
- Free entrance and refreshment voucher for coach driver
- Free volunteer interpreters for key buildings (requires pre-booking)
- Free use of lunch room and bag storage area
- Risk assessments for all teaching sessions
- Pro-forma site risk assessment form adaptable to your group

Photography by: Karen Kilbride and www.3line.co.uk