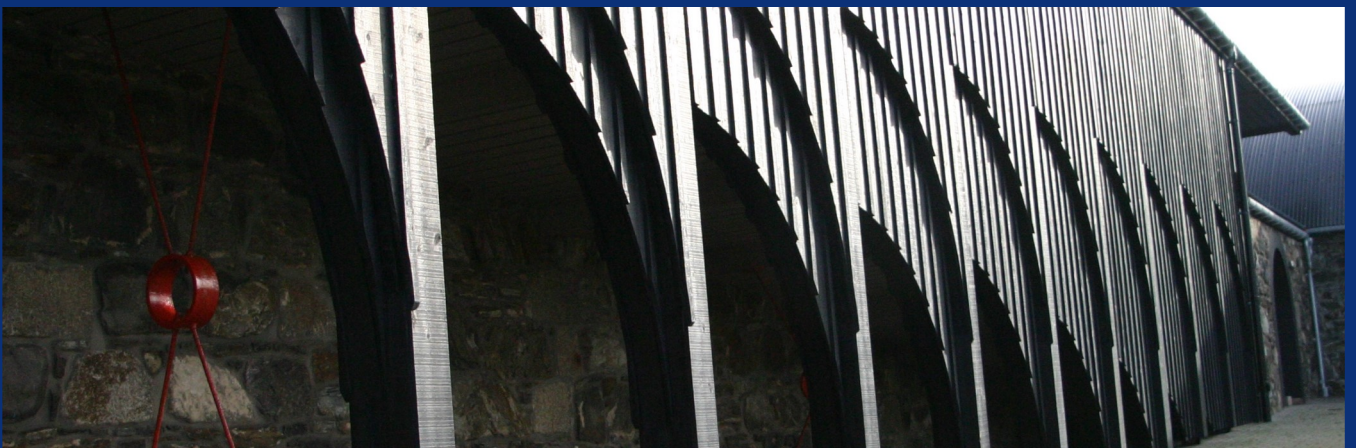


# **Primary School Visit Information Pack**





# **Contents**

**Introduction to  
this pack** **3**

**Practical  
Information for  
Your Visit** **4**

**Activities at the  
Museum** **5**

**Learning  
Outcomes** **6**

**Suggested  
Activities for the  
Classroom** **7**

**List of Resources  
for Further  
Information** **10**



# Introduction

This School Visit Pack has been developed by the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses to support teachers who are bringing their class for a visit to the museum.

This resource contains practical information for school trips. This includes a guide to our facilities, the activities that will take place on the day and the learning outcomes that a visit will provide, in accordance with the Curriculum for Excellence. We have also included some suggested activities for the classroom before and after your visit.

At the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses our purpose is to preserve, interpret and make accessible the industrial and maritime heritage of Scotland's lighthouses and the Northern Lighthouse Board. The Northern Lighthouse Board is the organisation that maintains all the marine navigation aids around Scotland and the Isle of Man.

The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses consists of two parts - our museum and our lighthouse.

Our purpose built museum contains several galleries housing a variety of lighthouse related objects that make up part of our accredited collection. On display are several artefacts that show what lighthouse keepers did and how lighthouses work.

Kinnaird Head Lighthouse is the first lighthouse in Scotland built by the Northern Lighthouse Board and was built into the structure of a 16th century castle. The lighthouse was first lit in 1787 and decommissioned in 1991, at which point the lighthouse keepers left. Visitors can climb right to the top of the lighthouse and see a demonstration of the lens mechanism inside. It is also possible to view the keeper's cottages where they lived with their families.

The cost for school groups is £2 per child and free for accompanying teachers/ helpers. Payment can be made by cash or cheque and will be made at the Museum Reception on the day of your trip. For details of the Historic Environment Scotland school travel subsidy look online at [www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/schools/school-visits-travel-subsidy](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/schools/school-visits-travel-subsidy)

We are open 10am - 5pm on Monday to Sunday during the summer (April to September) and Tuesday to Sunday during the winter (October to March). However we will do our best to be flexible with times for school visits. This is something we can discuss when you make your booking.

**To book a visit, or for further information, please call 01346 511022 and ask for Michael Strachan, our Collections Manager & Learning Officer, or email [learning@lighthousemuseum.org.uk](mailto:learning@lighthousemuseum.org.uk)**

# **Practical Information for Your Visit**

## **Numbers**

We can accommodate groups of up to 30 children per school visit. Numbers have to be limited due to space in the lens room on the lighthouse tour (maximum 15 children per tour), and space in the education room for the Make a Model Lighthouse activity.

If your group will be bigger than this, please tell the Learning and Access Officer and we will work out a way to accommodate you.

In addition to this, please let us know if any of the children have special requirements. The museum itself is fully accessible but Kinnaird Head Lighthouse is only accessible by a staircase and is therefore unsuitable for wheelchair users.

## **Risk Assessments**

We will do a risk assessment at the museum before your trip takes place. Please let us know in advance if you require a copy of this risk assessment.

## **Facilities**

There are two private Education Rooms on the lighthouse site in the Principal Keeper's cottage for the use of those on school trips.

One room is usually reserved as a space for the children to eat their lunch and leave their bags, while the other room is where the Make a Model Lighthouse Activity takes place.

There are visitor toilets in the main museum building, but none at the lighthouse site. However the old keeper's bathroom next to the Education Rooms is still in working order so can be used in an emergency.

Our museum shop has items suitable for children to purchase.

There is a car park outside the museum with space for coaches.

**Historic Environment Scotland can help with the cost of the transport needed to visit us. Check out their website**

**[www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/schools/school-visits-travel-subsidy](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/schools/school-visits-travel-subsidy) for further details.**

Teachers should be aware that Museum of Scottish Lighthouses will still remain open to members of the public on school trip days.



## **Activities at the Museum**

There are three different activities for you to choose from at the museum: Lighthouse Tour, Make a Model Lighthouse and Picture Hunt Quiz. Each activity takes roughly one hour. Please let us know if you have strict limitations on your time, or if any of the activities need adapted for your class. We are flexible as to the structure of the trip.

No more than 15 children can go on the lighthouse tour at one time, as there is limited space in the light room at the top of the lighthouse. This means your group may have to be split up to do the different activities at the same time.

The tour will always be led by a member of staff, but the other activities may have to be teacher led. This will be discussed when you book your visit.

### **Lighthouse Tour**

For the lighthouse tour the children will be taken around the lighthouse by a member of staff. There are 69 steps and a ladder to the lens room at the top, although the tour stops in other rooms on the way up. These rooms include the Paraffin Store, the Occasional Keeper's Quarters and the castle roof (weather permitting). The class then has to climb up a ladder to reach the Light Room at the top of the lighthouse. Here the guide will rotate the lens to show how the clockwork mechanism underneath works.

There will be lots of opportunities during the tour for children to ask and answer different questions.

### **Lighthouse Model Making (plus Keeper's Cottages)**

Lighthouse Model Making will take place in the education room in the Principal Keeper's Cottage. For this the children will be required to colour, cut out and glue a lighthouse shape, and then cut out a roof to stick on top. For younger children we will provide pre-cut templates. This means that the children have something to take home that will remind them of their visit and what they have learnt.

After this the children can look round the Keeper's Cottages. They can see inside the engine room which houses the engines that powered the foghorn. As well as that there are displays in the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Keeper's cottage and the front two rooms in the Principal Keeper's cottage.

### **Picture Hunt Quiz**

The children have a sheet of pictures of various objects to spot in our displays which they tick off as they go round the museum. The teacher will be provided with an answer sheet describing where the objects are.

# **Learning Outcomes**

A visit to our museum is a memorable learning experience and can help teachers to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence by meeting the four capacities that it sets out.

## **Successful learners**

At our museum pupils are given the chance to build upon the knowledge and skills they have learned in the classroom and adapt these for use in a different context.

## **Confident individuals**

Pupils will gain an understanding of their local history and cultural heritage which can help them to relate and feel connected to people from the past. By encouraging them to ask their own questions on our lighthouse tour and museum galleries, we are helping them to feel confident in themselves and their ability to communicate.

## **Responsible citizens**

Our museum will help pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it. The story of Scotland's lighthouses is an important part of this as it showcases Scottish engineering ingenuity and highlights a way of life (that of the keepers) that has now died out.

Furthermore by giving pupils an understanding of our local heritage we are encouraging them to take care of it in the future.

## **Effective contributors**

Pupils are encouraged to apply critical thinking in new contexts and communicate their findings in a different setting.

Furthermore a visit to our museum links to the Social Studies area of the curriculum. Involvement with the museum gives pupils the opportunity to:

- develop their understanding of the history, heritage and culture of Scotland, and an appreciation of their local and national heritage within the world
- broaden their understanding of the world by learning about human activities and achievements in the past and present
- learn how to locate, explore and link periods, people and events in time and place

## **Suggested Activities Before Your Visit**

### **Lighthouse Research**

Give pupils a lighthouse to research, either in groups or individually. They can find out different things about 'their' lighthouse, for example where it is, when it was built, when it was automated and which engineer designed it. During their visit the class can then look out for objects from 'their' lighthouses and either draw or take photographs of them.

List of Lighthouses:

- Isle of May (off the coast of Anstruther, Fife)
- Ailsa Craig (off the coast of South Ayrshire)
- Fair Isle South (Fair Isle Island, between Orkney and Shetland)
- Davaar (off Kintyre, Argyll and Bute)
- Bell Rock (off the coast of Arbroath)
- Neist Point (Isle of Skye)

See the further information page for a list of sources for the research project. If your class is doing this project, let us know in advance and we may be able to bring out extra objects for them to look at.

### **Design your own Lighthouse Crest**

The Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) looks after all the lighthouses in Scotland and the Isle of Mann. They were the 'bosses' of the lighthouse keepers. The motto on their crest 'In Salutem Omnium' meaning 'For the Safety of All' (see the NLB website for a picture of the crest). Your pupils can design their own lighthouse crest and motto. On their museum trip they can look out for NLB objects to draw or take photographs of.

### **The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch**

Ronda and David Armitage's series of Lighthouse Keeper books are a good starting point for introducing younger children to lighthouses. You can read these in class. Furthermore, lighthouse keepers liked to make up and tell stories to pass the time so your class could write, draw or act out their own story using the Lighthouse Keeper characters.

Let us know beforehand if you and your class have studied these books and we can work in references to Mr Grinling etc. into your tour.





## During Your Visit

Your trip to the museum will cover the following questions, both on the tour and by looking at the displays in the museum and lighthouse cottages:

- **How does the light in the lighthouse work?**
- **How does the foghorn work?**
- **What did the lighthouse keepers wear?**
- **What different jobs did they have to do around the lighthouse?**
- **Where did the keepers live?**
- **How many keepers worked at one lighthouse?**
- **What did the keepers do in their spare time?**

It might be useful for your class to have these questions (and any others of your own) in mind when visiting the museum so that they have things to look out for. The children are encouraged to ask lots of questions, particularly on the lighthouse tour.

## **Suggested Activities After Your Visit**

### **Diary Entry: A Day in the Life of a Lighthouse Keeper**

Get your pupils to imagine that they are lighthouse keepers, writing an entry in their diary after a hard day's work. They should think about

- How long have you been a lighthouse keeper?
- What jobs you were doing that day and did you like them or not.
- What are the other lighthouse keepers are like—are they friendly?
- Has anything special happened today? For example, a shipwreck, a storm, a visit from the Northern Lighthouse Board bosses.

### **Design and Write A Lighthouse Postcard**

Lighthouse keepers sent lighthouse postcards to each other and their other friends to keep in touch as they moved around a lot. Your class can draw a picture of a lighthouse for the front of their postcard. They can then pretend to be a lighthouse keeper, writing to a friend on the back. They should think about:

- What type of lighthouse they are now working in and what type they have moved from. A rock or a land station?
- Is it easy to make new friends? What are the other keepers like?
- What do you like about where you are living now and what do you miss from your old lighthouse?

### **Make Your Own Class Display**

Your class can make a display about their visit to the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses. They can include any photographs taken on the day and draw pictures of their favourite thing about their visit. This is a good way of recapping what they learned during their time at the museum. If you do a class display then we would love to see it - please send us a picture!





## Resources for Further Information

### Websites

Museum of Scottish Lighthouses website:

[www.lighthousemuseum.org.uk/](http://www.lighthousemuseum.org.uk/)

Northern Lighthouse Board website (particularly the Lighthouse Library section): [www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk)

Lighthouses R Us website (good for photographs):

[www.lighthousesrus.org/showSql.php?page=UK/Scotland](http://www.lighthousesrus.org/showSql.php?page=UK/Scotland)

Rampant Scotland website:

[www.rampantscotland.com/lighthouses/](http://www.rampantscotland.com/lighthouses/)

Bell Rock Lighthouse: <http://www.bellrock.org.uk/>

### Books

Allardyce/Hood, *At Scotland's Edge*, (Glasgow, 1986, reprinted 1996)

Armitage, Ronda and David, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*, (London, 1977). Other titles include *The Lighthouse Keeper's Rescue*, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Picnic*, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Surprise*, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Catastrophe*, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Breakfast* and *The Lighthouse Keeper's Cat*.

Ross Holland, F., *Lighthouses*, (Leicester 1995)

**For further information you can also contact the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses by calling us on 01346 511022 or emailing [learning@lighthousemuseum.org.uk](mailto:learning@lighthousemuseum.org.uk)**



