
Case Study: Heritage Schools in Surrey with Good Shepherd Trust schools

A delivery partnership between Surrey Heritage, Surrey Museums Partnership and Heritage Schools

Creating the partnership between Surrey Heritage, Surrey Museums Partnership and Heritage Schools

In 2023, Historic England took the Heritage Schools programme into Surrey by working in collaboration with Surrey County Council's Surrey Heritage (the county archives service) and Surrey Museums Partnership (representing the county's 43 museums and galleries).

Since 2012, Surrey Heritage and Surrey Museums Partnership (SMP) have run a countywide cultural schools' programme called *Learning On My Doorstep*. This supports Surrey schools to embed locally-based teaching resources, knowledge and experiences across the curriculum, and CPD for how teachers can use them in their teaching, so that teachers do not have to rely on generic resources which have no local connection. *Learning On My Doorstep* mainly works with 18 museums and galleries, Surrey Archaeology, Surrey Arts and Surrey Libraries to further increase the opportunities for building local heritage across the full breadth of the curriculum.

In 2022, both the Heritage Schools Local Heritage Education Manager (LHEM) and Surrey Museums Partnership were invited to speak at a History teachers' networking event, organised by The Weald Primary School, Dorking – a Good Shepherd Trust school. It was here that both organisations realised the potential to work together to bring the Heritage Schools programme into Surrey, with Good Shepherd Trust.

Good Shepherd Trust schools become Heritage Schools

The Good Shepherd Trust¹¹ (GST) comprises 23 primary and secondary schools across Surrey and Hampshire. 11 of the Surrey GST schools are taking part in the Heritage Schools programme. Although Surrey is often perceived as an affluent county, there are many significant areas of deprivation. As GST schools work in geographic hubs, the work of Heritage Schools in Surrey would reach those areas of deprivation through their catchment areas, increasing children's access to local cultural opportunities.

¹¹ <https://www.goodshepherdtrust.org.uk/>



Curriculum planning with the LHEM, Surrey Heritage & Surrey Museums Partnership

In 2023, the LHEM, the Museum Engagement Officer for Surrey Museums Partnership and the Heritage Learning & Communities Officer for Surrey Heritage delivered two CPD days for the participating schools. On the first day, teachers found out what local heritage resources and opportunities are available within the county and how the Heritage Schools programme works. On the second day, Surrey Heritage staff and the LHEM helped teachers with their curriculum planning to incorporate more local heritage links, and plan realistic timeframes for their schools to achieve the Heritage Schools Award. Of the 11 schools which attended the training days, 9 are now accredited Heritage Schools and the others are working towards it. To achieve the Award, a school submits a selection of evidence to Historic England which demonstrates the ways in which it is providing children with quality local heritage engagement across the school curriculum with different year groups, and support for staff development.

Cultural Marketplace

One example of staff development was a Cultural Marketplace event hosted by St. Mark & All Saints Primary in Godalming in February 2024 for the four schools¹² in its GST Central Hub (one infant, three primary and one secondary). The Marketplace was organised by Surrey Heritage and SMP as an effective way for school staff to meet multiple cultural organisations under one roof. Nine Surrey museums and galleries¹³ took part and each group of teachers (by year group) was given a 10-minute session

¹² St Mark & All Saints CofE Primary, Godalming; Queen Eleanor's CofE Junior School, Guildford; St Mary's CofE Primary, Chiddingfold; Christ's College, Guildford.

¹³ Chertsey Museum; Elmbridge Museum; Godalming Museum; Guildford Castle, Gallery and Museum; Haslemere Educational Museum; The Lightbox; Rural Life Living Museum; Surrey Heritage; Watts Gallery Artists' Village.

with each one. This allowed time for museums to explain what they offer regarding visits, workshops and local resources, and for teachers to ask questions linked to their planning. Teachers are always surprised by what is available, for example, some teachers were not aware that the Rural Life Living Museum about country life could offer art sessions as well as history-based ones.



Cultural partners and teachers at the Cultural Marketplace

The museums and the teachers who attended the marketplace said how beneficial it was to have time to talk about what the museums offer, and what teachers would like to gain from museum visits either on site or as outreach visits to the schools. Some of the teachers commented:

"Very well run, lots of information. Good to have the time to hear of what's on offer"

"A super opportunity to inspire the teaching teams about learning options out there"

"What an amazing idea, possibly one of the best uses of INSET I can think of"

Impact of Surrey Heritage, Surrey Museums Partnership and Heritage Schools working together

"We are used to working successfully with schools and our cultural partners, but it has been so good to work with Historic England to take what we do to another level. We know children are benefitting [from learning about local heritage] and teachers are more confident [in using it], but to see schools receiving Heritage

Schools Awards is really exciting for us – it's that extra bit of kudos for a school to be recognised for building on what they already do so well, and for Surrey Heritage and SMP supporting them to reach that point" - Museum Engagement Officer

Historic England's Heritage Schools funding has covered the cost of the Surrey Heritage and SMP staff time and resources to prepare and deliver CPD days and the Cultural Marketplace, as well as provide support for schools as they prepare and submit evidence to achieve the Heritage Schools Award. It has covered the cost of backfill for teachers to attend the CPD days, and for the preparation of new learning resources.

"The Heritage Schools project has given us time – time with the teachers that allow us to explain all those connections, and give them the time to get it into their planning. Teachers are time-poor, but having this funding to have the CPD days together created an opportunity when they can talk to their colleagues with us available to troubleshoot the bits they're unsure about" - Heritage Learning & Communities Officer

The resources which Surrey Heritage and Heritage Schools provide are complementary to each other, rather than competing against each other, which has made this a strong partnership:

"It has been a really good way of complementing the work we do already. We have found that rather than crossing over or competing, we have been able to offer a more in-depth service" - Heritage Learning & Communities Officer

The partnership with Heritage Schools has enabled Surrey Heritage and SMP to work with a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in a new way. Previously, they have built relations with individual schools across the county, but this has enabled more effective engagement across a group who are already communicating with each other. This was strengthened by The Weald Primary School in Dorking who were strong advocates of Heritage Schools having received support for their localised curriculum, and who championed the initiative amongst other Good Shepherd Trust schools

Following the success with the Good Shepherd Trust schools, Historic England is supporting Surrey Heritage and SMP to develop Heritage Schools in Surrey with another MAT in the coming academic year. This will include infants and secondary schools, which tend to be less involved with local heritage than primary schools. Surrey Heritage and SMP already work with a few secondary schools, and working with this MAT will enable them to further develop their skills and resources for working with Reception and Key Stage 1 children.

"It's great to go into this new group with a model which we know has worked successfully" – Museum Engagement Officer

Surrey Heritage staff mentioned how valuable the second CPD day was in particular for allowing them to have plenty of discussion time with teachers about their curriculum planning. They could suggest the many ways in which local heritage could be incorporated into different History topics, and into other curriculum subjects.

Surrey Heritage has found that more teachers from across the county are coming to them to seek advice about local heritage. Teachers have often wanted to build more local heritage into their curriculum, but haven't known how to, or they haven't had the time or the confidence. OFSTED's focus on local heritage has also encouraged teachers to contact Surrey Heritage for support. This has given opportunities for Surrey Heritage to promote the *Heritage Schools in Surrey* learning resources to schools beyond the Good Shepherd Trust group. Surrey Heritage staff consider that these schools would be able to provide sufficient evidence, with the support of Surrey Heritage, to achieve the Heritage Schools Award themselves.

Impact on museums participating in the Cultural Marketplace

For this case study, interviews were carried out with Guildford Heritage Services, Elmbridge Museum and the Rural Life Living Museum near Farnham.

The schools which attended the Cultural Marketplace are quite close to Guildford, but they are outside Elmbridge Museum's normal catchment area, and the Rural Life Museum is in a very rural location. Some of the schools already had links with the museums, making visits and borrowing resource boxes, for example. The Cultural Marketplace resulted in further take-up of the museums' services by new schools. Some of these services are paid-for, so this provides increased income for the museums.

Elmbridge Museum is an outreach museum – it does not have a museum building, but takes its collections and activities to schools and other community venues, so it benefits the museum to make new contacts with schools. It has a membership scheme which schools can join to receive CPD, outreach sessions and loan boxes.

The museum staff welcomed the opportunities at the Marketplace to talk directly to teachers about what their venues can offer:

"The most important thing about it is that proper human connection ... to have a dedicated time to talk about how we can help them, all the wonderful fun things we can do to engage their children with their local community" - Rural Life Living Museum

The Access, Education & Engagement Officer at Guildford Museum commented that as a secondary school had attended the Cultural Marketplace, it had opened up opportunities for more work placements for Key Stage 3 and 4 students interested in careers in Heritage.

The museums interviewed for this case study are all keen to take part in future Cultural Marketplaces because of the good connections created with the schools.

Impacts on teachers and the participating schools

For this case study, interviews were carried out with The Weald Primary School, St Mary's Primary Chiddingfold, St Mark & All Saints Godalming, St Paul's Primary Addlestone and Ottershaw Junior School.

The teachers were all very enthusiastic about the CPD, resources and support they had received from Historic England's Heritage Schools in Surrey programme with Surrey Heritage and Surrey Museums Partnership:

"That's what was great about the [CPD] sessions. There was so much we didn't know existed" – St Paul's Primary

"They have given us a lot of resources and they are a place we know we can go to if we need any further support with curriculum planning" - St Mark & All Saints

The History Lead for the Good Shepherd Trust commented on how valuable the curriculum planning day was, because it gave the teachers dedicated time to create new plans in the company of colleagues from other GST schools and the Surrey Heritage and SMP staff, so that they could generate new ideas together. For example, Ottershaw Junior School had considered dropping the Great Fire of London from their curriculum as it was not directly relevant to the pupils, but found that John Evelyn, a Surrey diarist and contemporary of Samuel Pepys, had also written an account. They were able to compare Evelyn's and Pepys' accounts, and Evelyn's and Wren's proposals for rebuilding London after the Fire, providing a local angle on a significant event.

Schools use the Heritage Schools and Surrey Heritage resources for other subjects in addition to History, and to connect the local with national and international history:

"It grows wings. The more we try and increase that local knowledge, the more children find out and it inspires them" – The Weald Primary School

St Paul's Primary has found that using local heritage has given the school a stronger place in the community through working with local heritage venues and historians,

and some of the parents have commented about how much they appreciate their children learning about local connections.

The Surrey Heritage and SMP staff have supported the schools in preparing their evidence to achieve the Heritage Schools Award, advising on the type and quantity of evidence required. Many of the schools found, during the curriculum planning training day, that they were already covering a lot of local heritage and the advice given helped them to fine-tune their curricula and gave them confidence to apply for the Heritage Schools Award.

Impacts on pupils of Heritage Schools

Teachers said that learning about local heritage had had a positive impact on pupils' engagement and enthusiasm for learning:

"They get really engaged, learning about what is relevant to them. A lot of History we learn is quite abstract, especially for the younger years, and sometimes it's harder for them to put it into context. They've loved learning about where they live and where they're from. They are definitely more focused, willing to learn and willing to try their best" - St Mark & All Saints



Year 5 and 6 pupils from The Weald Primary visiting the Spike, Guildford

Now that teachers are more aware of the range of heritage places which can support their pupils' learning, some schools are visiting places which they had not gone to before, such as The Weald Primary visiting the Spike, the Vagrants and Casual Ward at Guildford Workhouse, as part of their enquiry question "How can Science help the vulnerable?"



St Mary's Chiddingfold Heritage Week exhibition, attended by families & local residents

Pupils in all the schools have learned new skills as well as new knowledge, as a result of the teachers attending the Heritage Schools in Surrey CPD sessions. For example, using censuses gives pupils experience of using primary sources:

"They can start to read some of the words on the census forms and it's really powerful for them. They say they feel like real Historians" - Ottershaw Juniors

Teachers said that the schools' heritage projects have helped pupils to feel that they belong in the locality. For example, St Mary's Primary, Chiddingfold, held a whole-school Heritage Week (inspired by the Heritage Schools CPD) which involved families and many other members of the community, and the pupils visited historic buildings in the village.

Summary

This partnership is enabling Surrey Heritage and Surrey Museums Partnership to work with Heritage Schools and embed the initiative in a new county. It is enabling Surrey's cultural organisations to work with a group of Good Shepherd Trust schools in a way that has built strong relationships and a greater depth of local heritage across those schools' curricula. Nine of the eleven participating schools have now achieved the Heritage Schools Award, and the remaining schools are working towards theirs. Teachers have increased skills and confidence in using local heritage in their curriculum and schools are making more visits to, and using resources provided by the county's museums and galleries. All of this ultimately provides Surrey's children with a greater understanding, sense of place and pride about the county in which they live.