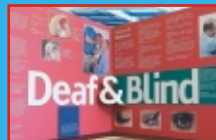


The Deafblind Experience



DEAFBLIND UK'S EDUCATION PROGRAMMES ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AND COMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM THROUGH KEY STAGES 1 - 4:

- PSHE
- Citizenship
- Communication
- Biology
- History
- Design & Architecture

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These subjects are brought to life through activity-based learning, co-ordinated at Deafblind UK's headquarters, the National Centre for Deafblindness, in Peterborough.

Above all, Deafblind UK's Education Programmes aim to give students an unforgettable insight into deafblindness, while encouraging a positive attitude and inclusive approach to all disabilities. They also give them an opportunity to understand people with disabilities whilst recognising and valuing their differences.



www.deafblind.org.uk



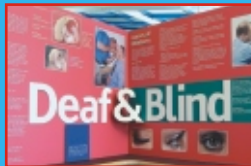
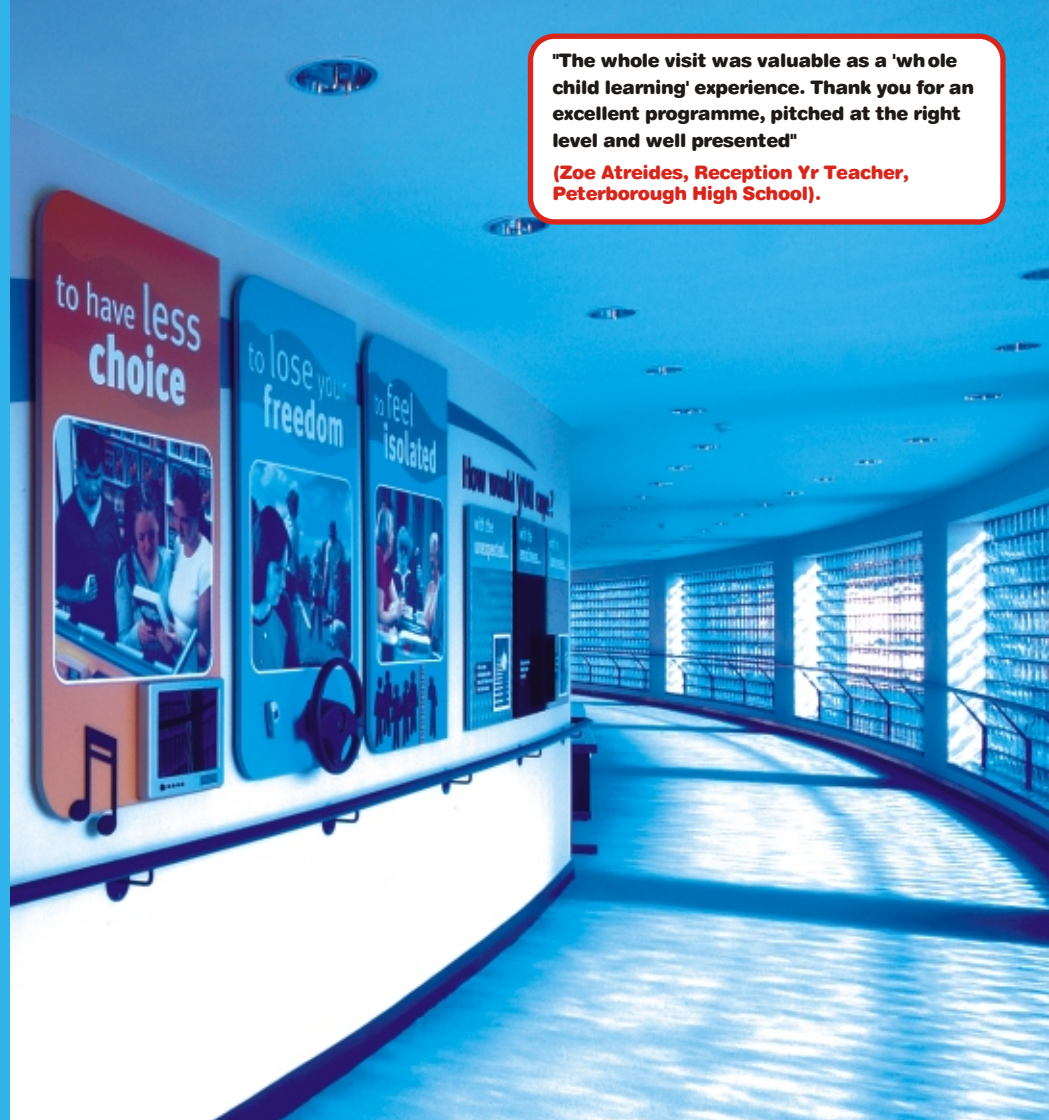
Tailor-made Visits

Visits are tailor-made according to each group's needs and interests. We have catered for students of all ages and abilities, from reception year through to 'A' Level students, including those with learning difficulties and/or challenging behaviour.

At the beginning of each visit, an introductory talk by a member of Deafblind UK staff ensures that students gain a solid understanding of deafblindness and how this unique disability can affect a person's experience of the world.

"The whole visit was valuable as a 'whole child learning' experience. Thank you for an excellent programme, pitched at the right level and well presented"

(Zoe Atreides, Reception Yr Teacher, Peterborough High School).



The National Centre for Deafblindness provides the perfect learning environment for students to experience deafblindness through a broad range of activities which include:



Getting Around:

Students learn the skills of how to guide a deafblind person. Wearing eye masks and ear defenders, they will be plunged into a dark and silent world and will have to put their trust in someone else to guide them safely. Using touch alone, they will also spend time trying to find their way around the National Centre by means of Deafblind UK's unique tactile location guide. This experience really highlights the mobility challenges faced by deafblind people on a daily basis.

Talking to a Deafblind Person:

Students learn how to talk to a deafblind person using only touch. Deafblind manual (fingerspelling) is a method of communication used by people with no sight or hearing. It enables deafblind people to be told about what's happening in the world around them and to have conversations with their friends and family.

'Our visit to the Deafblind Centre was fantastic because it told us a lot about deafblind people. I didn't realise deafblind people felt so lonely because not many people know how to talk to them'

(Yr 5 student, St Botolphs C of E Primary School, Peterborough)





Reading Braille or Moon:

Braille and Moon are two different types of tactile communication used by deafblind people. In this module students get to grips with the basics of reading Braille and Moon and learn how to produce it.

The words Deafblind UK are written below:

Braille:



Moon:



In the Kitchen:

Wearing eye masks and ear defenders to simulate deafblindness, students will experience the challenges deafblind people face every day. They will have great fun trying to perform simple everyday tasks such as making a cup of tea or buttering a slice of bread in our simulation kitchen. This exercise really brings home how much we rely on our sight and hearing during everyday life.



Feeling Art:

Students explore the really creative tactile works of art on display around the National Centre for Deafblindness. Art is almost always something enjoyed through sight and this exercise explores how it can be made accessible to deafblind people.



Heritage Exhibition

The Heritage Exhibition provides the perfect environment for students to explore a broad spectrum of topics related to deafblindness, complementing additional areas of the Curriculum, including:

- **History** - a 'timeline' highlights events of significance, giving an overview of the history of deafblindness.

- **Technology** - examples of breakthrough inventions which have improved the lives of deafblind people. These include communication equipment and Braille machines and adaptations of everyday items like Braille scrabble and tactile dice.

- **Sociology** - a display area focuses on specific topics, including social responses to deafblindness, inspirational deafblind people, communication breakthroughs, access to education, a global perspective and a section exploring leisure, community and identity.



'I learnt what it would be like to be deafblind and how to do sign language. I liked talking to the deafblind lady'

(Yr 4 student, Houghton-On-The-Hill Primary School, Leicester).

Unlike many exhibitions, where artefacts are closed away behind glass, Deafblind UK's Heritage Exhibition is a real 'hands-on' experience. Throughout their visit, students will be encouraged to try out inventions to enhance their understanding of the subject matter and make the visit a memorable one.

'I thought the programme was fantastic. It would definitely appeal to youth agencies and clubs, as well as schools'

(TJ Trambadia, Senior Youth Worker, Peterborough Association of Detached Youth Workers.)



'The activities were very well delivered and the impact of the visit far exceeded our expectations. Talking to a deafblind person and learning to overcome previously unknown barriers in communication and understanding was an extremely valuable experience for all of us. We will definitely be coming back with another group of youngsters'

(Matt Rash, PSHE Teacher, Ely Pupil Referral Unit).



'bringing learning to life!'

'Thank you for a great day, everything about the visit was first class. It was educational, interesting, funny (in places) and thought provoking'

(Neil Carter, Yr 10 Teacher Support, St John Fisher RC Secondary School, Peterborough).



Contact us!

The schoolchildren and students of today are the people who will form and help to influence the attitudes of tomorrow. By increasing their awareness of disability issues at a young age, our Education Programmes aim to pave the way for a brighter, more accessible future for disabled people everywhere.

If you would like more information about Deafblind UK's unique and innovative Education Programmes, please contact a member of the education team on (01733) 358100 or email us at education@deafblind.org.uk.



Visit our website at www.deafblind.org.uk

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