

Swanage Railway Company

Trustee Director (Heritage Education and Learning) - Role Description

Role Overview

The Trustee Director for Heritage Education and Learning will provide strategic oversight and guidance to ensure Swanage Railway fulfils its charitable purpose through education, interpretation, and public engagement. This Trustee will champion the Railway's role as an educational resource for schools, families, and lifelong learners, ensuring that heritage, history, and engineering are shared in ways that inspire and inform diverse audiences.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic oversight of the Railway's education, interpretation, and lifelong learning activities.
- Support the development of an Education and Learning Strategy that connects heritage with schools, colleges, families, and community groups.
- Champion accessibility and inclusivity in learning, ensuring resources are engaging for a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
- Advise on partnerships with schools, universities, museums, and community organisations to expand educational reach.
- Ensure interpretation across the Railway (exhibits, displays, digital content, guided tours) reflects historical accuracy and enhances visitor experience.
- Oversee compliance with educational, safeguarding, and accessibility standards relevant to learning activities.
- Promote opportunities for volunteers and staff to contribute to learning initiatives, acting as ambassadors for the Railway's educational mission.
- Support applications for external funding and grants that develop educational programmes and resources.

Person Specification

- Professional experience in education, museums/heritage interpretation, or community engagement.
- Knowledge of national curriculum priorities, lifelong learning, and the role of heritage in education.
- Understanding of safeguarding, accessibility, and inclusiveness in educational provision.
- Strategic vision with the ability to guide programmes that increase participation and impact.

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, able to inspire partners, volunteers, and learners.
- Commitment to the charitable values and educational purpose of Swanage Railway.

Working Conditions

- This is a voluntary, non-executive Trustee position.
- Attendance at regular Board meetings is expected, with participation in relevant sub-committees providing oversight as required.
- Site visits to stations, museums, educational events, and learning activities are encouraged to maintain engagement with teams, volunteers, and audiences.
- Trustees are expected to uphold the highest standards of governance, provide effective oversight, and act as ambassadors for Swanage Railway.