

Educational Visits

The activities detailed below can be adapted for KS1 and KS2.

Please contact our Exhibitions and Learning Officer Jemma.Tynan@sefton.gov.uk with any enquiries or bookings.

Volunteer Led Tours - Museum and Art Gallery

Approx 30 mins per gallery

£1 per pupil

Our skilled team of volunteers lead guided tours across the Museum and Art Gallery.

Museum - Between Land & Sea

Between Land and Sea is a museum full of the stories of the people who have lived and worked along the Sefton coast. In the first gallery take a closer look at the development of Southport as a health and tourist resort. In the second gallery discover notable events, key characters and the bustling industry of Sefton.

Museum – Discover Ancient Egypt

Step back in time with a tour of the display cases in our Egyptology Gallery, exploring themes of beauty, communication, everyday life, and ritual. Discover the fascinating story of Mrs Goodison, a wealthy Victorian collector from the North West captivated by ancient Egypt. The Atkinson proudly showcases her remarkable collection, offering a glimpse into this rich and timeless culture.

Current exhibitions – Please check our website for details.

The regularly changing exhibition programme presents work from our collection as well as contemporary art, family friendly and thematic exhibitions delivered in partnership with other cultural organisations.

Specialist Subject Activities

Approx 30 mins per activity

From £1 per pupil

Led by our curatorial and volunteer teams, these interactive workshops bring history to life with dressing up, craft activities and object handling. Explore themes from our Egyptology museum and local history museum, including the Mexico disaster, old Southport, World War 2 and toys. Please let us know if you have any specific themes you would like to explore.

Workshops

Maximum audience size: 30 pupils plus adults.

Price - delivered in school: £160 per session. Plus travel costs for schools outside of Sefton.

Price - delivered at The Atkinson: £140 per session

Special Offer: Purchase any two workshops at The Atkinson on one trip for £260

These engaging sessions are led by freelance specialists.

Discover Ancient Egypt with Egyptologist Claire Ollett

Approx 2 hours

Involves lots of practical exploration of the artefacts from the Mrs Goodison Collection to inspire curiosity and enthusiasm for the study of Ancient Egypt. Outreach sessions with Claire are available on request.

Anne Goodison – the Victorian Egyptologist

Approx 1 hour 30 mins.

During this interactive workshop, pupils will learn about Anne Goodison and take part in activities that will bring alive the story of Anne's adventures from Victorian England to Egypt.

Southport Then and Now

Approx 1.5 – 2 hours

During this workshop students develop performance, confidence and communication skills whilst learning about the history of Southport. This drama based workshop is full of physical activities that explore the various reasons why people visited Southport in the past - including the health benefits and the leisure activities such as the lido, theatres, flower show and to play golf.

The Mexico Disaster

Approx 1.5 – 2 hours

During this workshop students develop performance, confidence and communication skills whilst learning about this significant event in local history (as this workshop explores the loss of loved ones and a traumatic event, this may not be suitable for some children, depending on personal circumstances, but this can be discussed before the workshop is booked).

Frederick John Hooper

Approx 1.5 – 2 hours

During this workshop students develop their confidence and performance skills whilst learning how it might have felt to leave their family to go on an expedition to the South Pole. Through drama, creative writing and song, students will learn about local hero Frederick John Hooper and also explore what it takes to be an arctic explorer. The workshop is full of physical activities that require team work and aim to develop communication skills, all whilst comparing life as an explorer in 1886 with life in 2025.

Loan Boxes

£30 for 1 week / £80 for 3 weeks

Loan boxes include teacher activity packs and replica artefacts to spark curiosity and aid creative learning. Available loan boxes:

- Ancient Egypt
- Viking
- World War II
- Southport Local History
- Toys
- Archaeological Dig Box (this loan box can be added on to any hire for an additional £10)

Completing Arts Award or Artsmark

The Atkinson can help students and schools complete their Arts Award or Artsmark qualifications by creating bespoke sessions that work for you. Please get in touch.

Lunch Room

£10 cleaning fee, subject to availability and on request.

Self-Led Visits

You are welcome to explore The Atkinson independently as a group, however we ask that you please contact Jemma.Tynan@sefton.gov.uk in advance to let us know of your planned arrival date and time. Due to limited space in some areas of our building, groups who have not booked in advance may not be able to enter our museum and galleries. Self-led tours are free.