

NEWTOWN TEXTILE MUSEUM ACCESS POLICY

The Newtown Textile Museum (NTM) is committed to, and believes that, all people and sectors of the community have a fundamental right to engage with, use and enjoy the collection it holds.

We recognise that there are potential barriers in access to, and within, the museum. However, the aim is to provide the widest possible access to the museum, its collections and services so that all sections of the community can enjoy the museum.

The aim is to build accessibility into everything that is done to develop and improve the museum. The commitment is long term, and the intention is to make continuous improvements as resources permit. The commitment to accessibility extends to volunteers as well as visitors.

NTM will adhere to all national and international statutes of law, specifically in relation to access, but not exclusively the *Equality Act 2010*, *Freedom of Information Act 2000* and *Data Protection Act 2018*. We will work towards national standards and best practice guidelines in providing access to our building, collection and digital presence.

To eliminate barriers and ensure equality of access the museum will consider the following forms of accessibility:

- Physical – to enable people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum and to take into account the needs of the elderly and of people caring for young people.
- Sensory – to build into all aspects of our activities a wide range of

different sensory experiences.

- Intellectual – to recognize that people have different learning styles and to provide interpretation taking into account people's varied needs and preferred learning styles.
- Cultural – to consider the needs of people for whom Welsh or English is not a first language, and to recognise a wide range of cultural differences.
- Attitudinal / Emotional – to ensure that all visitors feel welcomed and valued.
- Financial – to take into account that ability to pay can be a barrier to access.

How the Newtown Textile Museum is working towards delivering this policy

The Building

The museum is housed in a Grade 2 listed building, which is a converted 19th century woollen factory. This currently limits our ability to provide equal access to the building and facilities for all visitors, although this is constantly under review given improvements in modern lift technology and funding possibilities.

Wheelchair users and those who find it difficult to use stairs can enter using step-free access at the rear of the building which leads through to the reception area and some displays on the ground floor. A touch screen has further information and a virtual tour of the museum is being planned.

Collections

The museum will provide varied means of access to the collections, including displays, interactive virtual tours, digital displays, activities, publications, events, and handling collections to widen access.

Learning

The museum is working towards providing learning opportunities for different audiences and levels of ability and will tailor the programme to the needs of specific groups. This service is in the process of development.

Visitor services

Volunteers assist and welcome all visitors. Seating is provided in the upper floor galleries. The museum has a wheelchair accessible toilet at ground level. The museum aims to provide appropriate signage to suit a range of audiences, including a range of sensory formats and languages.

Communication

The museum will promote its activities and events using a wide range of accessible means of communication. We will consult with our audiences and community groups to ensure we meet their expectations in this regard.

The Museum is working on large print versions of information around the Museum which will be available in Welsh and English. Our website provides detailed Accessibility information for visitors on the Your Visit page.

Reviewing the policy

This Access Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is in line with national guidelines and standards

Next review: *To be agreed*

Revised SMR and JL 8.3.22