



Grange Court Learning Policy

About Us

Grange Court is owned by the community through LARC Development Trust, a registered charity. Our charitable objectives are:

1. To further or benefit the residents of Leominster and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.
2. The preservation of buildings or sites of historical or architectural importance, in particular but not exclusively the building known as Grange Court, for the public benefit and to advance the education of the public in the history of the building and its surroundings.
3. Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.

Our mission statement is to take Leominster's past into the future and our values are:

- The well-being of the community is fundamental to our purpose
- We are committed to enabling the continuity and dynamic of heritage and tradition in our community
- We are committed to working in partnership with our community, being open and accessible in all that we do
- We aim to offer a fun, friendly experience and environment in all our activities
- We can be trusted to be honest, open and accountable to the people of Leominster and all our users
- Working together we will make things happen for Leominster
- We believe vision must use creativity and imagination to provide innovation, quality and excellence that will empower people in Leominster creating prosperity for all.

Learning at Grange Court

Grange Court was built by John Abel in 1633 as Leominster's market house. It originally stood at the top of Broad Street and held the town's twice weekly butter market selling butter, fruit, eggs and chickens. In the mid-Nineteenth Century, its location in Leominster town centre was proving a traffic hazard so the decision was made to dismantle the building and store it pending a decision on its future. As a result it lay in parts in a builders' yard in Etnam Street until 1859 when, then owned by John Arkwright, it was rebuilt on the new town park and transformed into a family home. Grange Court remained a private property until 1939 when Leominster Borough Council made a Compulsory Purchase to stop it from being moved from Leominster altogether. It remained under council ownership until the asset was transferred to LARC Development Trust for £1 in June 2013.

Grange Court opened to the public on July 1st 2013 after a £3million project to transform the building from council offices into a community, enterprise and heritage hub. Grange Court has a fascinating history, which is now told through hands-on, interactive displays and a unique Tablet Tour.

A strong focus for Grange Court is to work with local schools to deliver a high-quality learning programme which is both in keeping with the National Curriculum and a fun day out of the classroom for children.

Learning and workshops at Grange Court are carried out by the Heritage Development Worker with assistance from a team of volunteers. The staff and volunteers at Grange Court are all DBS checked.

Costs

LARC Development Trust currently has a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which enables us to supplement group learning. Therefore, for 2014/2015 the workshop fee will be **£3 per head** without a flat annual rate.

As Grange Court grows and develops, and as our HLF grant funding tapers off, costs may increase. However, over the next year we will work with local schools closely to make sure that learning at Grange Court is of high quality, value for money, and a valuable local history resource.

There is no charge to look around Grange Court as a group or to have a guided tour, however we do accept donations to ensure the building can remain open and free to enter. It is still important to book beforehand to ensure no other groups are expected and there are enough volunteers to assist.

Aims and Objectives

1. To further or benefit the residents of Leominster and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.
 - a. To deliver high quality learning at Grange Court through a variety of formal and informal events, workshops, and activities.
 - b. To provide a safe and comfortable space for groups to use the resources at Grange Court for learning.
 - c. To work with local schools and community groups to ensure that learning can be accessed by everyone irrespective of age and ability.
 - d. To carry out and update lesson plans, seek feedback and request evaluations to ensure that the quality of the service offered is upheld.

Workshops

Formal workshops can be tailored to suit the needs of the individual group and last between 30 minutes to an hour. Listed below are workshop examples for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3.

Key Stage 1 – Then and Now

This workshop looks at Grange Court as a significant historical place in Leominster, focussing on its role as a family home. The workshop encourages children to look closely at the building to see what it is made of and the carvings to get a sense of how unique this building is. We then look at pictures of the families that lived here and discuss similarities and differences in family roles, fashion, schools, and how the house itself is different from homes today.

This session comes with worksheets to complete back at school.

Key Stage 2 – Market Practices

This session looks at the role of Grange Court as the market house in Leominster and its significance within the town. The workshop looks at the significance of the market to Leominster's economy, how quality of produce was controlled and some of the ways in which traders would cheat their customers!

This could be used as the local history study.

Key Stage 3 – The Corporation

The Corporation were the group that ran Leominster, much like the town council today. This session looks at the similarities and differences between the Corporation and the Town and County Councils. It talks about issues of responsibility, fairness and democracy, and the group can debate some real council decisions – would you make a different choice?

This workshop crosses history and citizenship.

All workshops can be extended by adding a tour around the building using the tablets (which can be self-guided using a quiz trail or guided by staff and volunteers), a guided tour with one of our learning volunteers, storytelling sessions, arts and crafts.

If you would like to enquire about a session, or to chat about your group's individual needs, contact Polly Robinson via polly@grangecourt.org or 01568 737980.