



## *British Deaf History Society*

2nd Floor, Empire Court

30-40 Museum Street

Warrington

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### **POLICY STATEMENT ON EDUCATIONAL USE OF ARCHIVES**

#### **AIMS**

The British Deaf History Society (BDHS), with its commitment to lifelong learning and community involvement, and its own Service Plan, aims to:

- Help develop the Society's cultural services to provide learning opportunities relating to Deaf History across all age groups
- Improve the quality of learning through increased access to archives
- Promote the distinctiveness and the diverse heritage of deaf communities

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The BDHS's main objectives to meet these aims will be:

- To provide advice and guidance on the provision of documents for educational use, including in the context of the National Curriculum
- To work co-operatively with other local and national archive organisations
- To devise and implement suitable activities for its members and the public, either by itself or through partnerships
- To enhance access to sources by all means
- To participate in the creation of a widely-based research facility on deaf issues
- To raise the BDHS's public profile by all appropriate means
- To promote the study and awareness of Deaf people, Deaf communities, Sign Language and its history by working with other local history groups and national organisations
- To develop the Deaf Museum and Archive, including its Library, as an educational resource
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The ways in which the BDHS will put these objectives into practice may include:

- Attending conferences, seminars and other events on various research skills and use of resources
- Holding an annual conference and other workshops/seminars
- Co-operation and support Local History Forums and Archaeological and Historical Societies
- Acting as a source of advice and information to Deaf people, Deaf communities and the wider public
- Liaison with other organisations in putting on events e.g. Local History Fairs
- Development of leaflets and publications for teachers, students and researchers
- Provision of lectures and study visits on a pro-active basis
- Responding to requests for advice by telephone, post and in person
- Development of an Archive web site and inclusion of educational material
- Participation in the National Grid for Learning
- Establishment of links with universities with links with deafness, and other bodies such as colleges and schools, and deaf organisations and local societies to promote interchange of information, identify sources for research, offer facilities for activities and encourage publication of results
- Establishment of the Deaf Museum and Archive as a dedicated space for educational use
- Establishment of a genuine research Library within the Deaf Museum for educational and research purposes
- Identification of staff and volunteer resources to carry out these objectives

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Statistics are routinely kept of visits to the Deaf Museum and Research Library for the educational use to ensure appropriate priorities are being pursued, and to comply with Arts Council monitoring requirements

To ensure the quality of the service is maintained, evaluation of activities is made through questionnaires and the recording of personal comments.

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure it still meets the priorities of the Board of Trustees and the needs of our customers.



May 2017

(Signed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees)