



Wensleydale Railway

Educational Visits for Schools

2025



Scruton Station



Leeming Bar Station



Project Background

The award-winning Wensleydale Railway Education programme has been running since 2015, immersing pupils in the history of rural railway life. The two authentically restored railway stations invite pupils to explore and learn what life would have been like through tactile, hands-on curriculum-linked activities. Scruton Station, set to the Edwardian period, is one of the best examples of a small wayside station in the country and features a Signal cabin, a Ticket Office and Ladies Waiting Room. Leeming Bar Station moves through time to the 1920's, a time of great change for railways. This larger station was a village hub to it's community, with a Parcels Office and Tickets Office, as well as the Station Master's parlour and kitchen to explore. Both Stations have been restored thanks to the generous support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a Railway Heritage Grant, with an emphasis on using traditional materials and techniques with a painstaking attention to detail. We have received excellent feedback from visitors to date, and we are delighted to be able to offer this outstanding programme again this year!

Whats On Offer

Our award-winning programme, now in its ninth year of running, offers schools the opportunity to explore and experience what life was like on a rural line in the past, through interactive storytelling and a series of curriculum-linked activities. The 'Step Back in Time' visits, which are available to pupils from Reception to KS2, provide multiple opportunities for hands-on, learning in an authentic period setting. Bespoke visits can be readily devised depending on the needs of the individual school – please see pages 7 & 8 for further information. Our 'Lost Luggage' Loan Box Programme can be used as a brilliant addition to station visits or used independently and allows pupils to explore the lives of local people in the past through enquiry-based learning and exploration.

'Step Back in Time' Programme

Our 'Step Back in Time' experience is available either as a full day visit to both stations, or a half day visit to one chosen station, depending on your school's focus. They begin the same way, with a short train ride to your chosen station. Groups will be met by costumed team and introduced to the idea of stepping back in time. On arrival, pupils and staff will be given period costumes, and will then step off the train into a bygone era. Pupils will then engage in a series of interactive, curriculum-linked activities, facilitated by our team

We can adapt the educational content of our visits - please get in touch to discuss a visit that fits your group's needs.

Possible Aspects of Your Visit

Scruton

The Victorian/Edwardian Period

People Who Lived & Worked on the Line

Life in a Rural Station

Then & Now

Local History

Leeming Bar

1920s Domestic Life

Local Industry

The Railway's Impact on Local Life

Then & Now

Local History

In the afternoon pupils will have the opportunity to travel further on the line to take part in a creative afternoon, based around railway heritage activities.

Scruton Station

Visits let pupils explore the Station through enquiry based activities. Here, they will learn about the history of Scruton through a short interactive play, revealing the lives of the real people that lived and worked at the Station.

Activities are built on national curriculum objectives which enable your pupils to develop their skills of discovery, interaction and collaboration. Through work with artefacts and photographs your pupils will engage in problem-solving, storytelling and role play to immerse themselves in the history of rural railway life over 100 years ago.



Leeming Bar Station

With its Parcels Office and Station Master's residences, Leeming Bar Station provides a wealth of opportunities for your pupils to use their enquiry skills to find out more about how the railways worked and the impact that they had on life in early 20th century Britain.

Much like at Scruton Station, your pupils will investigate how the railways influenced the local community by facilitating the movement of people and goods for socialising and working. Through compare and contrast, your pupils will engage in hands-on activities and games involving the imperial measures, objects and methods of the 1920s.




'Evacuate!' Programme

Following a successful launch in 2024, we are continuing to offer our WWII Evacuation visits programme.

Your immersive evacuee experience begins with a train ride to the rural Station at Scruton, where your group will be "marched" to the local village hall to meet our team of WWII characters and begin their wartime activities. At the village hall, your pupils will spend the day learning about the lives of evacuees through a range of hands-on games, puzzles and activities. Your pupils will delve into the demands of evacuee documentation, learn about the curious world of rationing, raise their spirits with a wartime singing session, and craft their way to safety with their own makeshift gas mask.



What can we do for you?



As part of our education programme, we can adjust and adapt our offers to create a bespoke visit that best suits the learning needs of your group.

Are you most interested in the history of domestic life? Or are you wanting a visit that is particularly focused around arts and crafts? Maybe even a visit without a train ride? We're eager to ensure that your visit best reflects your learning goals, so please get in touch with us at

schools@wensleydalerrailway.com

to discuss how you would like your visit to look.

Please note: bespoke visits may require an adjustment to the cost – get in touch with us for further details



Lost Luggage - Loan Boxes

Our 'Lost Luggage' Loan Box programme provides schools with an opportunity to learn about the history of the railway and the local area through a carefully curated collection of objects, activities and curriculum-focused lesson plans.

'Lost Luggage' allows pupils to explore the life of real people from Leeming Bar in the 1920s. The Loan Boxes provide a hands-on multi-sensory learning experience that teachers can use in the classroom. The boxes can also be used in conjunction with schools' own lesson plans. Along with a variety of themed objects, the boxes also include a digital bank of activities, resources and PowerPoint presentations.

Please note that these Loan Boxes are available free of charge for schools that book one of our educational visits.

KS1 - Emily Plews' Trip to the Seaside

Inside Emily's luggage pupils will find an array of toys and games from one hundred years ago. They will learn about how the railways allowed normal families to travel further than ever before and how they spent their leisure time. Hope you've packed your bucket and spade!



KS2 - The Station Master's Big Day



Mr. Newton has a busy day at the Station. He has a very important visitor at Leeming Bar. Through this loan box pupils will learn about the Station Master's responsibilities and how a train station operated in the 1920s. This box looks at map reading, creative writing, and maths-based timetable skills.

Your Visit Availability and Timings

Visits can be facilitated with a maximum number of 30 EYFS-KS1 pupils or a maximum number of 36 KS2 pupils. **If your group size exceeds these numbers, please contact us to discuss alternative arrangements.**

Please get in touch to request a date for your visit - we will try our best to accomodate.

Half-day visits can be arranged. Please contact us via email to arrange this.

Below is an example of a full-day visit timetable for a 'Step back in Time' visit:

Event	Timing
Group arrives at starting station	09:30
Train departs for morning station	09:45
Arrive at morning station	10:00
Morning activities	10:00-12:00
Lunch	12:15
Train departs for afternoon station	12:45
Afternoon activities	13:00-14:30
Group departs for school	14:30

Please note: the above timings are approximate. Timetable can be adjusted to the needs of your school group.

Facilities

Toilets are available at both Leeming Bar and Scruton Stations, including additional needs toilets at Leeming Bar, and hand washing facilities at both sites. Picnic benches are available on the platform at both stations but are weather dependant. In case of rain, an undercover eating area can be made available. Ample coach parking is available at both Leeming Bar and Bedale stations.

Access

All platforms and buildings are accessible by wheelchair. Trains have ramped access for wheelchair users. Please advise us at the time of booking if there is anyone with additional requirements in your group.



Safeguarding

Visits will be delivered by the Heritage Education Team, overseen by our employees who are DBS-checked by North Yorkshire County Council. Please see staffing requirements below.

Risk Management

A Risk Management Summary and risk assessment for the visit are available upon request. We encourage Teachers to conduct a free pre-visit where they can undertake their own risk assessment. Please contact us at

schools@wensleydalerailway.com



Staffing

We ask you to bring a ratio of one responsible adult for every five pupils for Reception/Under 5s classes and a ratio of one adult to six pupils in Years 1 to 6. The Heritage Education Team will be on hand at the stations to facilitate the visit and there will be a minimum of one team member supporting each group activity.

Costings

Prices for education visits are listed as follows:

Standard 'Step Back in Time' visit: £200

Standard 'Evacuate!' visit: £220

Prices for Loan Box hire are listed as follows:

Two-week hire per Loan Box: £20

Additional hire: £5 per week.

A complimentary two-week hire of one loan box is offered to all schools who book a Station visit.

Booking

If you would like to arrange a booking, or would like to know more, then please get in touch with us at:

schools@wensleydalerrailway.com

Or contact us via telephone at: **01677 425805**
and ask to speak to our Community Engagement Officer.

We look forward to hearing from you.

