

Wensleydale Railway



EYFS/KS1/KS2
Educational Visits for Schools
2026



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What's on Offer

The award-winning Wensleydale Railway Education programme has been running since 2015, immersing pupils in the history of rural railway life. Our 'Step Back in Time' visits, available to pupils from Reception to KS2, provide opportunities to learn in an authentic period setting. The two restored stations invite pupils to explore and learn what life would have been like through tactile, hands-on curriculum-linked activities.

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.

We have received excellent feedback from visitors to date, and we are delighted to be able to offer this outstanding programme again this year!

Teacher Feedback:

"The visit was very appropriate for our topic/areas of the curriculum that we were covering. The children and adults really enjoyed the day."

"We had an excellent day and the children loved their time. It brought our learning to life."

'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, before a creative afternoon.

Scruton

- 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 Society
- Then & Now
- Local History

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

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.

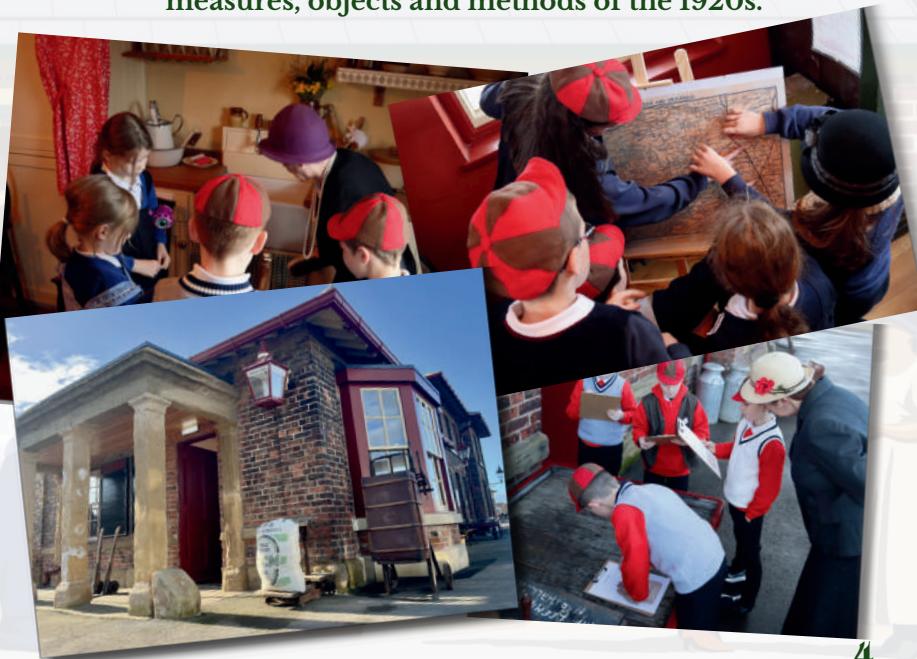
Through work with artefacts and photographs your pupils will engage in problem-solving, storytelling and role play to immerse themselves in the history of rural railway life over 100 years ago.



Leeming Bar Station

With its Parcels Office and Station Master's residence featuring a Washroom, Parlour, and Kitchen, Leeming Bar Station provides a wealth of opportunities for your pupils to discover how the railways worked, and domestic life in early 20th century Britain.

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

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.



Lost Luggage

LOAN BOXES ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FOR SCHOOLS THAT BOOK ONE OF OUR EDUCATIONAL VISITS.



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.

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.

Our Boxes

- EYFS/KS1 - Emily Plews' Trip to the Seaside
- KS2 - The Station Master's Big Day

Please note there is a charge incurred for any damage caused to our Loan Boxes.

Your Visit

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 and we will try our best to accommodate. Half-day visits can also be arranged.

Below is an example of a full-day visit timetable for a 'Step back in Time' visit. The timings are approximate and can be adjusted.

| 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 |

Facilities

Toilets are available at both Leeming Bar and Scruton Stations, including accessible toilets at Leeming Bar, and hand washing facilities at both sites. Picnic benches are available on the platform at both stations but are weather dependent. In case of rain, an undercover eating area can be made available. Ample coach parking is available for both pickup and drop-off.

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. 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.

A risk assessment for the visit is 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@wensleydalerrailway.com

Costings

PRICES FOR EDUCATION VISITS ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS:

Standard 'Step Back in Time' visit: £200

Standard 'Evacuate!' visit: £220

Please note that bespoke visits may require an adjustment to cost - get in touch with us for further details.

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.



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

schools@wensleydalerailway.com

Or contact us via telephone at: 01677 425805 and ask to speak to a member of our Education team.

We look forward to hearing from you.

