



*Pictures by our Artist in Residence—Richard Stead*

# TEACHERS' INFORMATION PACK



## THE MIDDLETON RAILWAY

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Registered Company No.1165589, Registered Charity No.230387, Accredited Museum No.RD2114.

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for considering having an educational visit to Middleton Railway; the world's first commercially successful railway.

Middleton Railway is a site of regional, national and international importance. It represents one of the world's key locations in the origins and development of railways and locomotive transport, and can claim to be the oldest working railway in the world, having run trains every year since 1758.

### **A brief history:**

- By an Act of Parliament dated 9th June 1758, Charles Brandling gained permission to lay down a wagonway to facilitate the supply of coal to Leeds from his Middleton mine. The line was at first worked by horses.
- The first commercially successful steam locomotives in the world operated at Middleton Railway from 1812. These colliery locomotives played a vital role in transporting the coal which helped to turn Leeds into a thriving industrial city at the hub of the Industrial Revolution.
- Key figures in Britain's industrial and economic history worked with or at the Middleton Railway, including John Blenkinsop, Matthew Murray, and James Kitson. George Stephenson later used what he had learned about developments in locomotion in Leeds to invent his own engines.
- From 1830, the railway also played a vital early role in supporting the development of the Leeds locomotive building industry.
- In 1960, Middleton Railway became the first standard gauge heritage railway to be run exclusively by volunteers and in 2005 received lottery funding to develop the Railway and facilities to reflect the highly important status of this unique industrial heritage site.

A school visit to Middleton Railway is therefore an invaluable educational experience. It can form part of a study on any number of curriculum themes: -

- The Industrial Revolution
- The Victorians
- Scientific development
- The development of Leeds as a City
- Economic Change
- The development of railways and locomotives

In addition to the educational benefits of a visit to the Middleton Railway we can offer a fun experience for children of all ages with a ride on a train and classroom facilities. The train stops at Park Halt where you can arrange your own visit to the park. Please note this is not included in our Educational package.



## **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

Our packs of educational resources have been produced for students studying Early Years and Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. They cover objectives from the National Curriculum in History, Science, Literacy and Numeracy. At each Key Stage there are a range of differentiated worksheets suited to different ages and abilities. Teachers should choose the appropriate worksheets and tasks based on their knowledge of the levels at which their own students are working. Worksheets can be selected when visiting the railway on a pre-visit and can be made into a workbook or used as individual sheets.

### **Who is Bert?**

- The character of Bert is found in the entrance hall of the Engine House
- Bert was an 11 year old boy who helped to look after a steam engine that pulled coal wagons down to Leeds in 1880
- His story is told in a book entitled 'Bert's Tales of Middleton' which can be purchased in our shop
- Bert's Trail can be followed on the children's information boards in the Engine House, (accompanied by our differentiated question sheets, if required).

## **A TYPICAL SCHOOL VISIT**

Middleton Railway invites schools to take part in a visit to our site during which students may be divided into equal groups and move around the site in a variety of activities.

### **Arrival and Introduction (approx. 5 minutes)**

One of the Middleton Railway's volunteers will briefly welcome the group and highlight health and safety rules whilst visiting the site. All toilet facilities and fire emergency procedures will be explained. Middleton Railway volunteers are available throughout your visit to help, so please ask if you need any assistance or questions answered.

### **A visit would usually include: -**

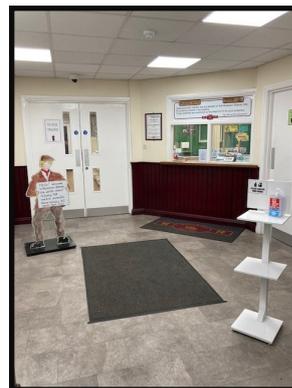
- An introduction, including a safety briefing, by a Middleton Railway volunteer
- A teacher led classroom session using our worksheets with support from Middleton volunteers
- A guided tour of the Engine House museum
- Story time and/or a question and answer session
- At least one train ride, but usually two, during which children can complete the Railway's I Spy or Quiz sheets.



## LOCATIONS AT MIDDLETON RAILWAY

### The Engine House

The Engine House was completed in 2005, its façade being based on the office complex of the nearby Hunslet Engine Company. It comprises of a café, shop and display hall, where a number of static and working locomotives are housed on the ground floor and classroom space upstairs. Also upstairs is the new mezzanine area built in late 2020 and early 2021, which is not in use at the present time. Our volunteers are working on new displays for this area and we hope to have this completed in the near future.



### Shop and Café area

The café area is where the children will be able to eat the packed lunches they have brought. Hot drinks are provided free of charge for the adults. The shop has a variety of inexpensive souvenir gifts to purchase on the day as well as toys, books and DVDs. We offer Schools a souvenir gift pack at a special price of £2.50 each.





## Display Hall

Teachers can use our curriculum linked worksheets (or their own) and Bert's Information Boards to help their students to study a variety of tasks related to the railway's history, its work and the locomotives that are displayed in the hall.

Exhibits in the Display Hall allow students to further explore:

- *how coal was transported*
- *how a steam engine boiler works*
- *models of the earliest locomotives*

Various zones in the Display Hall can be used for activities such as drawing and/or research.

Students will have the opportunity to climb on board selected engines to interactively experience what it was like to stand on the footplate of a locomotive as a driver or a fireman.





## **The Classroom**

The classroom is upstairs in the Engine House. It contains the media aids you might require for a classroom-based experience during your visit. This room was refurbished in 2021 as part of a Government Department funded grant to enhance our learning development.

Students can, with their teachers, study a variety of tasks relating to the Railway's history using our curriculum linked worksheets, or by the school bringing their own work.

The Railway's worksheets can be made available on a large screen with our IT equipment and used in conjunction with individual sheets or workbooks.



## **The Mezzanine Area**

As previously mentioned, this is a newly constructed area, which we hope will be in use in the near future.





## **The Platform and Trains**

The Guard, or Education Team member, will direct the group to the train, which will depart from the platform directly outside the rear of the Display Hall.

The train on which students travel will be pulled either by a steam or diesel locomotive. Students can enjoy the experience of travelling up the line to Middleton Park, taking in the surrounding locations on the way. The coaches have been made to resemble some examples of coaches used at other colliery railways that miners would have used to travel to work at the colliery. A typical return journey on the train takes 25 minutes. Before and after the journey, students have the opportunity to talk to with the guard, driver and other volunteers involved in working the train. The guard will be easily recognisable by his uniform.

Students can complete our I-Spy activity or quiz sheet whilst on the platform and during the train ride. Bert's Display Hall Trail can also be completed on the platform.





## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Support**

During their time at Middleton Railway, teachers can be assured that the volunteers will work closely with them to help provide a stimulating, interesting and fun learning experience.

### **Safeguarding**

Leaders of the Middleton Railway Education Team are DBS-checked.

### **Risk Assessment**

The Middleton Railway Risk Assessment can be downloaded from our website [www.middletonrailway.org.uk/school\\_visits/risk assessment](http://www.middletonrailway.org.uk/school_visits/risk_assessment).

### **Cost of a Visit**

The basic cost for a day at the railway is £275.00 if the train is hauled by a steam locomotive or £125 if the train is hauled by a diesel locomotive. We do not charge for accompanying adults.

### **Education Day Availability**

We operate school days on Wednesdays in Leeds City Council term time between Easter and the end of October.



We also run Santa Specials exclusively for schools and school nurseries during the first week of December. Details can be found on the schools section of our website.



## PRE-VISIT INFORMATION/SUGGESTIONS

Prior to your visit to the Middleton Railway, it would be useful for your students to have some background knowledge of the areas/topics covered in the educational resources. In particular, they would benefit from knowing about:

- The importance of the site to the development of railways
- The general history and working of steam locomotives
- An overview of the history of the Industrial Revolution, so that they can place the railway's contribution into context

A pre-visit by one or more of the school's teachers is strongly recommended so they can familiarise themselves with the facilities available. It will also allow teachers to view and select appropriate worksheets relevant to the levels at which their students are working.

In order to make the most of the experience offered by an activity day at the Middleton Railway, a few suggestions are: -

**Clothing** – It is recommended that students wear warm, waterproof clothes and sturdy footwear as some of the activities take place outside.

**Lunch** – There is space in the café for children to eat the packed lunch they have brought. Hot drinks are available free of charge for the adults. Lunch can also be taken to Middleton Park. There are options for visiting Middleton Park but these are independent to our Education Day Package/Train ride and are not included in our risk assessment. If your children would like a souvenir of the railway we can put together a small souvenir pack at a special price of £2.50 each.

**Parking** – Coach and car parking available on site which enables the children to leave and rejoin their transport.

**Toilet facilities** - Toilet facilities are located in the entrance to the Engine House and accessible to all including baby change facilities. Please note there are no toilets on the train or on either platform.



## **FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

In the event that the fire alarm sounds, visitors to the Engine House need to be aware of the following information to enable a quick evacuation of the building.

### **Conference Room – First Floor**

The Conference Room is designated as a **30-minute fire refuge**

**There are two evacuation routes:**

- If there is smoke in the staircase please **close the door and remain in the room** until either a Middleton Railway volunteer or the Fire Brigade arrives
- **DO NOT** use the lift
- If safe to do so use the staircase. On arriving at the ground floor leave the building immediately either by the emergency exit (push door) on the left of the staircase or by the front door
- **OR** exit via the mezzanine floor, down stairs to the Display Hall

### **Mezzanine Floor – First Floor**

**There are two evacuation routes:**

- Down the stairs to the Display Hall
- If there is smoke on the stairs please exit through the door to the Conference room
- **DO NOT** use the lift
- The Conference Room is designated as a **30-minute fire refuge**
- If there is smoke in the staircase please **close the door and remain in the room** until either a Middleton Railway volunteer or the Fire Brigade arrives
- **DO NOT** use the lift
- If safe to do so use the staircase. On arriving at the ground floor leave the building immediately either by the emergency exit (push door) on the left of the staircase or by the front door

### **Display Hall / Shop**

**There are 3 evacuation routes:**

- Through the front entrance door
- Through the rear door of the Display Hall leading to the platform

A Middleton Railway volunteer will direct you so please listen carefully and follow any instructions given. Please take care to avoid moving traffic on site.

### **Fire Assembly Points**

- Platform – please assemble on the platform and await further instructions
- Outside Main Gates – please turn right out of the main gates and assemble by the railway line and await further instructions



## Acknowledgements

Copyright of the Key Stage worksheets belong variously to our Education Consultants and the Middleton Railway Trust Limited.

Copyright images in the 96 worksheets are reproduced with permission from Leeds Library and Information Service – ([www.leodis.org](http://www.leodis.org)).

Images of Charles Brandling copyright Indianapolis Museum of Art, gift of Mrs Thomas Chandler Werbe in memory of her husband.



*Picture by our Artist in Residence—Richard Stead*

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## BOOKING FORM

<b><u>School Name and Address:</u></b>		
<b><u>Contact Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone Number</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail address</u></b>
<b><u>Date of Proposed Visit:</u></b>	<b><u>Arrival time</u></b>	<b><u>Departure time</u></b>
<b><u>Type of Visit:</u></b> (please tick to confirm your requirements) <b>Educational Package</b> ..... <b>Train Ride only</b> .....		
<b><u>Preferred type of locomotive for the train ride:</u></b> (please tick to confirm your preference)  <b>Steam</b> ..... <b>Diesel</b> .....		
<b><u>Number and Age of Children:</u></b> School Year.....Number of Children..... School Year.....Number of Children..... <i>Please also confirm if wheelchair access to the train is required or another facility needed for the welfare of any student.</i>		
<b><u>Photographs:</u></b> Occasionally we like to take photographs which can be used in future publicity material. Please indicate whether we have your permission to do this.  <div style="text-align: right;">           Yes..... No.....         </div>		



## SCHOOL VISIT EVALUATION FORM

The overall quality of the visit was:	Excellent Good Average Poor
Would you bring a school group to visit us again? If 'no' could you please advise us why?	Yes / No
Where did you find out about us?	Middleton Railway Website Recommendation Mailed Advertising Other (please state)
Does our website give enough information about our Education Packages? If No could you please advise us why?	Yes / No
Overall, was your visit good value for money? If 'no' could you please advise us why?	Yes / No

The Middleton Railway Education Committee is keen to develop activities which are of interest to schools in the provision of the curriculum. Please give details of any particular areas which would be of interest to you.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Please email a copy of the completed form to [education@middletonrailway.org.uk](mailto:education@middletonrailway.org.uk).