



Access Policy Statement

The Newtown Textile Museum (NTM) believes that all people and sectors of the community have a fundamental right to engage with, use and enjoy the building and collection that it holds.

We recognise that there are physical barriers to access to, and within the museum. However NTM is committed to continuing to search for ways to improve this as resources allow, both to the building and to the collection, exhibitions and events, for our volunteers and our visitors.

We will work to increase sustainable access to our collection as far as is possible within the limits of collection care and volunteer staffing levels. This will include developing more digital presentations and the promotion of our activities using accessible means of communication.

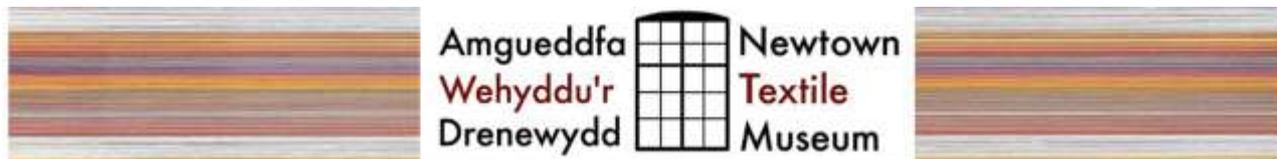
NTM will adhere to all national and international statutes of law, including specifically in relation to access, but not exclusively the Equality Act 2010, Freedom of Information Act 2000, General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679, and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

To eliminate and reduce barriers and ensure equality of access NTM is aware that it needs to consider the following forms of accessibility:

- Physical – to enable people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum and to take into account the needs of the elderly and of people caring for young people.
- Sensory – to enable visitors with impaired vision or hearing to enjoy the museum's building and collections.
- Intellectual – to recognize that people have different learning styles and to provide interpretation in a range of learning styles if possible and to aim to ensure people with learning difficulties can engage with and enjoy the museum and the collections.
- Cultural – to consider the needs of people for whom Welsh or English is not a first language.
- Attitudinal / Emotional – to ensure the museum environment and museum staff are welcoming to visitors from all sections of the community.

Financial – we will aim to minimise financial barriers to the use of sites and the collections wherever possible. Entry is currently free, but there may be a charge for events.

These issues are being addressed as time and resources allow.



The Building

The museum is housed in a converted 19th century woollen factory on four floors and has no lift. This means that access to the building for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility is restricted. There is level entry to the museum from the rear of the building which enables three of the museum's rooms to be accessed. There is an audio-visual display in one of these rooms covering various aspects of the museum's areas of interest in Welsh and English.

The upper floors of the Museum are accessible up a broad modern staircase and there are chairs available at every level.

The museum's toilet at ground level is wheelchair accessible.

Collections

The museum is working towards providing varied means of access to the collections, including displays, an inter-active virtual tour, AV presentations, activities, events, and the use of handling collections.

Learning

Local primary schools are bringing their pupils to visit the museum for a tour mainly structured by their teachers. The museum hopes to develop a wider education programme to provide learning opportunities for different audiences and levels of ability, tailored to the needs of specific groups. This will be delivered both in-house and as outreach and includes providing speakers to local community groups.

Visitor services

Front of house volunteers will assist and welcome all visitors. The comfort of visitors is also considered by providing seating in galleries. The museum aims to provide appropriate signage to suit a range of audiences,

Communication

The museum will promote its activities and events using a wide range of accessible means of communication. We will adopt best practice guidance for interpretation including exhibition texts and interactives.

Reviewing the policy

This Access Policy will be reviewed as indicated to ensure that it is in line with national guidelines and standards.

Review: Sept 2019