



Schools Program

Age Range

The work is best for school children aged between 8 and 14 years of age.

Number of Children per Hour

We can have two classes (50 to 60 students) attend the work in an hour. If available, 75 or 90 minutes would be better.

The children will experience the work in groups of three or four. This works far better than individuals participating as collectively the students feel safe to make decisions for their resident in a group. The group collaboratively tells the story and can then share it afterwards when they look online.

Note – it is not possible to have general public participating at the same session at which the schools program is operating.

Process

Step 1 – Once all the children have arrived, as a group they are given an introduction to the work and the process they will go through in participating. They are told what is happening on the layout through the PA system and the camera showing the layout in close up on the video screen.

Step 2 - The students are split into groups of three or four and we have two or three iPads for the groups to undertake the career test. The questions are modified so as to suit a group of children.

Step 3 - Once the group has been allocated a character, we start to settle the residents in the town. As the children wait to get on, they complete an activity sheet which asks them questions about their resident and the job they do. They can also look online at the newspaper to see what their resident has been up to. When a group comes to the railway layout and we start to settle the resident in the town, some of this interaction will be conducted over the microphone so the children waiting to get onto the layout can hear what is happening. Their resident is animated as a puppet in front of the camera with the students watching on.

Step 4 - The students then go and sit at the 'Newspaper Editors Desk' with the stories editor, and tell their story to him/her.

Step 5 - The children continue to watch and listen to the other residents being settled in the town and look on the newspaper for further stories.

Step 6 - The groups of children continue to follow their residents online and can comment on their stories using the website at any time. This can continue after they leave the venue, as they can follow their character online at any time.