

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter

Why take part?

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) wanted to develop further links with Exeter's Deaf Academy and produce something to specifically support families of Deaf children that visit the museum. The museum had already produced two British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted films for adults. One explored key museum objects whilst the other introduced the museum, however neither were especially child friendly.

Who took part?

Ten children, aged from 7 to 17 years old from the Deaf Academy which is situated within walking distance of RAMM.

What did they do?

First, the children visited the museum to choose and draw their favourite objects from RAMM's displays and familiarise themselves with the galleries where the filming would take place. Back at school, they created scrapbooks and prepared their commentaries. On Takeover Day, they filmed each other explaining their choices in BSL in RAMM's galleries.

How did they spend their time on the day?

The children worked as:

- Film Makers and Heritage Interpreters

They worked with a professional film maker who developed excellent rapport with the children, supporting them to use the equipment and to create the film themselves. Two BSL interpreters enabled communication between the children, the film maker and RAMM staff. Other museum visitors were very interested in watching the filming which was carried out in public galleries all over RAMM.

What happened next?

The film maker spent a day at the school with the children and supported them to edit their work. The children and staff at the Academy then added subtitles and audio in their own editing suite – something they have existing skills in doing. Making the film took a long time and was quite a challenging process, but the end result was well worth it and students were very enthusiastic throughout the process and valued taking part in the film. RAMM and the Academy celebrated filming completion with tea and buns and launched the film during Deaf Awareness Week in May – it is now posted on [YouTube](#) to make it as accessible as possible.

As a result of this project and participating in Takeover Day, RAMM has started to build a strong and positive relationship with the Academy and they are already planning to work together on another project as part of a city-wide festival.

'If we had not invited the young people from Exeter's Deaf Academy, we would never have known exactly what most intrigued them and caught their attention about RAMM's collections – and the film wouldn't have the authenticity that it does. Also we have strengthened our relationship with the Academy, which is a longer term goal as we have much to offer Deaf children and young people.' Learning and Skills Officer, Royal Albert Memorial Museum