A Manifesto for Learning

'I do not want art for a few, any more than education for a few, or freedom for a few.'

William Morris, *The Decorative Arts*

This Manifesto for Learning is informed and inspired by the values and ethos of William Morris, his family, and their life at Kelmscott Manor. Morris's radical ideas about art, education, the environment, and society are as relevant to our twenty-first-century world as when he first spoke and wrote about them over one hundred years ago. With Morris, we are invited to see the world differently, to become makers and experimenters, to be challenged in our thinking, and to strive for change.

In this Manifesto, we seek to follow in Morris's own footsteps by setting out what we believe all learning experiences should be and committing to enacting these principles in the planning, development, and delivery of all we do at Kelmscott Manor.

1. Curious

Like Morris, we believe in being curious about the past, about ourselves, and about the world around us. We embrace and encourage curiosity and attitudes of enquiry in all our learning experiences, which opens the door to discovery and the cultivation of a feeling of wonder.

2. Creative

As pioneers of the Arts and Crafts movement, Morris and his family were skilled artists, designers, and makers who passionately believed in the importance of creativity in people's lives. We share in that belief and encourage creativity using our minds and our bodies and through fearless making and experimenting.

3. Playful

Morris had a curious, experimental, and playful attitude to art and daily life. He encouraged playfulness in his daughters, Jenny and May, for whom Kelmscott Manor was a holiday playground in childhood. We foster learning that is adventurous, playful, and deeply imaginative, recognising the important role of play, creativity, and the imagination in enabling well-being and developing the potential for future creativity.

4. Shared

Morris worked collaboratively with family and friends throughout his life to create great art and was committed to the idea of fellowship, taking joy in sharing. We believe in the value of working, discovering, and creating together, of sharing different ideas and perspectives, and celebrating collaborative endeavours. We actively involve our audiences in the making and shaping of our learning programmes.

5. Inclusive

Like Morris, we have a democratic and inclusive vision. We welcome everyone to our museum, recognise the inherent value and importance of each person, respect individual needs, and work to remove barriers to participation. Like Morris, we believe that art, education, and freedom are for everyone.

6. Inspirational

Kelmscott Manor was a place of endless inspiration for Morris and his family, and we continue to affirm the imaginative and inspirational power of this place and the stories that reside here. We believe that inspiration and learning go hand in hand, and we work to facilitate inspiring and enriching learning experiences for all.

7. Experiential

We use real objects and the unique environment of Kelmscott Manor to animate learning through hands-on, multi-sensory, and authentic experiences, which uncover the past, explore the present, and look to the future.

8. Open-ended

Throughout his life, Morris continued to discover, to experiment, and to learn new skills. We believe in the limitless capacity of our learners for creativity, discovery, and development. Our hope is that every participant in our learning experiences will encounter a new idea, interest, art form, or skill to continue exploring beyond the Manor gates.

9. Nature-connected

Morris had a deep love for the natural world and passionately believed in its preservation. In Kelmscott Manor, he found a place that gave tangible form to his ideas of living and working in harmony with nature. We strive to honour Morris's vision and our own hopes for the world through sustainable practice, by fostering personal connections to nature, and by actively responding to the Climate Crisis in our learning experiences.

10. Radical

Morris believed that his art and ideas might make the world a better place. He challenged contemporary thinking through his campaigning and political activism, and he was inspired by Kelmscott Manor to dream of a better, more equal, world. We believe in the right to dream – for ourselves, our societies, and our world. We encourage our learners to dream transformational dreams and to be active citizens and we are committed to taking positive action with our communities to make a difference.