



John Wesley
The Museum of Methodism
& John Wesley's House

Collections Care and Conservation Policy, 2019

Date for review: 2024

Purpose of this Policy: Caring for collections is a fundamental duty for all museums.

The Collections Care and Conservation Policy of The Museum of Methodism and John Wesley's House combines both preventative and remedial conservation to ensure the long-term health and survival of the Museum's collections. It links with the Museum's Collections Care and Conservation Plan, the Museum's Forward Plan, the Collections Development Policy and the Museum's Access and Environmental Sustainability Policy Statements.

Definitions:

Preventative conservation - This covers the measures necessary to slow down or minimise deterioration of objects.

Remedial conservation - This involves a treatment to an object to bring it to a more acceptable condition in order to stabilise it or enhance some aspect of its cultural value.

We will care for the collections and aim to provide the best conditions for the preservation of all objects in our care by:

1. Providing the best environmental conditions for all objects (including specialist collections) within the resources available, where necessary in such a way that a reasonable compromise between accessibility by the public and staff and the long-term preservation of the objects is reached.
2. Providing safe storage and display conditions which meet preservation and conservation standards and requirements so objects are always protected and secure.
3. Monitoring environmental conditions in the Museum and store on a regular basis by the Curator, to include checking temperature, relative humidity and light levels (for objects on display) and also monitoring for dust, dirt and insect pests.
4. Ensuring the Curator and designated staff (where appropriate) have the necessary training and experience, to ensure best practice when handling and caring for objects.
5. Seeking regular advice from a conservator or professional in the field on the museum's collections care activities (within the resources available), especially for special conservation projects or where the Curator may lack expertise.
6. Ensuring that once a need for remedial work is identified this is carried out by a trained and accredited conservator, or under his/her supervision, or with their advice.
7. Taking care that any contracted conservators providing services or advice are included in the Institute of Conservation's 'Conservation Register'.
8. Documenting conservation measures undertaken for all objects in the museums' collection.
9. Disseminating the Collections Care and Conservation Policy to all museum volunteers as part of their induction handbook, and others by request and/or as appropriate by the Curator.
10. Keeping the museum workforce and volunteers updated of any significant changes to the Collections Care and Conservation Policy, either at stewards' meetings and/or advising them in person or through written communication, as appropriate.