



the line for all seasons

Footplate Experience Courses & Disability

Bookings for all courses are invited from any person over the age of 18 years. However conditions apply to persons with limited mobility or those with severe memory loss or learning difficulties.

For the safety and comfort of course participants, they need to be reasonably fit with good eye sight and hearing and the full use of both hands. To climb into and out of a locomotive cab safely, they should be capable of climbing a six foot vertical ladder with widely spaced rungs unaided. The locomotive gives a hard ride and the footplate is hot and noisy with coal dust and ash blowing about. Persons with heart, respiratory or back problems may find the course difficult and are advised to seek medical advice before booking a course.

Applicants will be expected to understand the safety procedures on and about the locomotive, which will be given to them at the start of the course, and to retain that information and be able to react positively to it during the course. As a guideline, in cases where there is doubt as to a person's ability to meet this criteria, the holding of a current driving licence or similar qualification will tend to satisfy this requirement.

Applications from persons with learning difficulties are acceptable providing the person for whom the course is made meets the above criteria and can safely undertake footplate work without a helper or carer being in attendance. Safety constraints limits the number of persons on the footplate to not more than four. Thus helpers or carers cannot be accommodated on the footplate when the locomotive is moving.

Your booking will be taken as an assurance that the person for whom the booking is made fulfils the above safety criteria. To avoid disappointment on the day, please be as accurate as possible in your assessment of the applicant's suitability to safely undertake the course.

The Severn Valley Railway retains the right to refuse entry to a course of any persons where it is considered their inclusion on a course might be detrimental to their own or other people's safety.