Get in the zone

Introducing a unique, interactive learning space to inspire the next generation

Free for all schools and colleges
Manchester Airport first opened in 1938 and has grown to become the third largest in the UK, welcoming nearly 30m passengers through its doors every year.

There are now flights from Manchester to more than 220 destinations around the world, ranging from Barcelona to Beijing and San Francisco to Singapore.

The airport supports around 25,000 jobs on its site and delivers an economic benefit to the regional economy of £2.35 billion a year.

As we look to the future, we are investing more than £1bn in transforming Manchester Airport’s facilities, unlocking the potential of our two runways. The exciting Airport City project next to the main airport campus aims to attract internationally focused businesses operating in a range of fields to the region. This will require an ever expanding workforce, armed with the right skills and attitude to help deliver an excellent customer experience.

Many of our CSR projects are designed to highlight opportunities and share expertise and skills with the workforce of tomorrow and fit our theme of ‘education into employment’.

In line with the ambitions of the wider region, we are committed to playing a leading role in bridging the gap between the world of work and schools/colleges.

In January, to enhance our education programme, we introduce AeroZone and hope that this will inspire young people from across the North West.

Welcome to AeroZone

AeroZone is a unique, interactive learning space to inspire the next generation.

From firefighters to shopkeepers, security officers to engineers and everything in between – students visiting AeroZone will discover that there is a career at the Airport for everyone.

By exploring the world beyond the classroom and immersing themselves in our hands-on, realistic work zones, students will explore a variety of careers on offer in the dynamic world of aviation and beyond.

Our AeroZone is a free resource for schools and colleges across the North West.

Aims and Objectives

Through tailored interactive experiences, linked to the curriculum, AeroZone provides a blend of reality, learning and fun. Activities are designed to get pupils thinking about their aspirations for the future and empower them to plan their route.

For older students, more structured sessions will equip them with the employability and life skills required for the next stage of their journey.
Bring your classroom learning to the UK’s Global Gateway of the North.

Why AeroZone?
Bring careers learning to life; our purpose built learning space, bespoke programmes and interactions with a range of Airport employees will inspire your learners and create lasting memories.

By 2020 all schools and colleges must be following the Government’s career strategy, otherwise known as the Gatsby Benchmarks*. AeroZone will help you:

• Provide real-life authentic experiences of the world of work.
• Link school subjects to the world of work.
• Raise aspirations and broaden horizons to enable students to reach their full potential and not limit possibilities for future aspirations.
• Support the education to work transition and provide students with the skills, pathways and progression routes in the local labour market.
• Career insights and networking opportunities with our colleagues.

Specialist Events
In addition to the AeroZone programme, we also run a variety of specialist events throughout the year, to enhance further learning.

• 16+ STEM, Technology, Customer Service, Hospitality & Catering Masterclasses.
• Job shadowing
• Colleague interviews
• National celebration days
• Enterprise competitions – Dragons’ Den and The Apprentice.

AeroZone activities are designed to highlight different career pathways for even our youngest visitors. In addition, they support the following curriculum areas:

Maths
Bringing maths to life. Solve problems by applying mathematics to a variety of mathematical problems.

Science
Forces and motion, weather, x-rays, materials, understand the uses and implications of Science in today’s world and the future.

English
Develop spoken language and vocabulary, convey ideas confidently and participate in the artistic practise of drama.

Computing
Recognise common uses of information technology beyond school.

History
Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality and World War 2.

Geography
Locational and place knowledge and the use of world maps.

This is a great way to bring education to life for all ages.

As a major employer in the North West, AeroZone will support careers education and help schools and colleges meet Gatsby 2,4,5,6 and 8.
A unique, interactive learning space for tomorrow’s workforce.

01. History
- Explore our 81 year past from WWII to present
- Investigate historic artefacts
- Discover the airport of the future by learning about our £1bn Transformation Programme

03. The Careers Lounge
- Our flexible break out space for a variety of learning sessions
- Explore our careers wall to learn about Airport jobs and how to access them
- Meet the experts for exclusive Q&A session’s

06. Retail
- Use the scanner, tills and baskets to role-play being a customer, cashier or shelf stacker
- Put on a uniform, grab a delivery and start sorting and stocking
- Explore the buying process and customer analysis
- Practise your customer service and sales technique
- Man our currency exchange desk

07. The Cabin
- Choose a uniform and take on the role of cabin crew, pilot or passenger
- Take to the aisles with your trolley and serve your passengers
- Complete a pre-flight safety demonstration, emergency or announcement call

04. Check in
- Try your hand at the Passenger Service Agent role, completing boarding cards, weighing bags and checking passports
- Practise your customer service and communication skills
- Make passenger announcements over the tannoy
- Test your multi-tasking skills by monitoring delays and managing the departure board

05. Security
- Discover the science behind your summer holiday
- Identify prohibited items using our x-ray machine
- Grab a hand-held scanner to search your friends
- Discover what you can and can’t take in your hand luggage

08. Cockpit
- Plan your route, considering the weather
- Take to the skies in our flight simulator

All sessions in our 8 immersive zones will be enhanced by other challenges depending on the age group of our visitors.
Early years & KS1
(ages 3 - 7)
• Immerse your students into the working world and let them explore and role play over 20 Jobs at Manchester Airport, including pilot, shopkeeper, engineer, check in desk agent and many more.
• A variety of play-based learning activities will enhance each experience. Along with an opportunity to dress up, create and handle a variety of aviation resources.
• A guest speaker (subject to availability) will pay a visit, to speak to the students about their role and allow students to express their curiosity in a Q&A.

KS2
(ages 7 - 11)
• Immerse your students into the working world and let them explore and role play over 20 Jobs at Manchester Airport, including pilot, shopkeeper, engineer, check in desk agent and many more.
• A variety of focused challenges and activities will further emphasise a deeper understanding of each job role and the skills required. A focus will also be on non-academic skills including financial awareness, by paying students 'Aero coins' for each role that they successfully complete.
• A guest speaker (subject to availability) will also pay a visit, to speak to the students about their role and allow them to express their curiosity in a Q&A.

Sample of activities

Help them understand the exciting opportunities that are open to them as they grow up.
World of Work Day

- The day will start with a journey of self-awareness. Students will be encouraged to document an understanding of themselves, their interests, strengths and weaknesses. A visit to our careers lounge will highlight the many opportunities available on our 200 acre site.

- Students will then get a realistic taster of the world of work. Provided with a bank card, students will be set off to complete a variety of job roles, in our 8 zones, to earn their wage. They will overcome obstacles along the way, in the form of challenges, which will further emphasise a deeper understanding of each job role and the academic and life skills required.

- To conclude, students will reflect on their earlier work, applying their skills to the jobs that they have discovered during their time with us. Post visit activities will be provided, to continue their journey when you return to school.

Get Hired

- The day will start with a journey of self awareness. Students will be encouraged to document an understanding of themselves, their interests, strengths and weaknesses.

- An exploration of our careers lounge will highlight a variety of information about the many jobs on our 200 acre site. Students will be encouraged to select a handful of jobs to explore in more detail through our interactive technology.

- No student is too old for some traditional role play. With or without a role play hat or uniform, students will enjoy a hands-on experience of a selection of Airport roles from Airfield Operations to Duty Free Managers.

- In the afternoon a visit from HR will enhance the visit and highlight routes into work at the Airport. Specialist advice will be given, from CV writing, routes into work, to interview techniques. Then comes the test, students will have the chance to apply for one of the jobs that they have experienced. Will they “get hired”?

“Use teamwork and problem solving skills to overcome real life challenges.”
AeroZone welcomes all uniformed groups.

AeroZone will partner with any groups of young people, out of the core school day and in the holidays, subject to availability. Our trained staff will work with you and personalise your AeroZone experience to your groups aims and needs. To discuss this further, please get in touch with us.

Activities may include:

- Visiting an aviation place of interest
- Learning the phonetic alphabet, how to fly an aircraft and so much more in the flight simulator
- Learning about different types of aircraft and their parts
- The Science of flight
- Aircraft marshalling experience
- Airport security experience
- Learning about the history of flight
- Meeting airport colleagues

Delve into the history of aviation and discover a whole new world.

Created for schools, with schools.

We have worked in conjunction with a variety of education professionals to develop AeroZone activities that will deliver what they told us they wanted from an Airport education centre.

Create meaningful experiences and life long memories

Nursery Manager

Something that we cannot do in the classroom

Class Teacher

To meet people who work in the industry

Head Teacher

Opportunity to get up close and personal to Airport roles

Class Teacher

Allow students to recognise working environments and raising aspirations

Employer Engagement Manager

Interactive and lots to do

Pupil

Encourage creative thinking and problem solving

Scout Leader
Your visit to AeroZone must be pre-booked at least two weeks in advance via our website. manchesterairport.co.uk/aerozone

Once your booking has been confirmed you will have exclusive use of the AeroZone, which holds up to 30 students.

Opening times
Primary school visits: Mon – Fri, 9:30am – 14:30pm
Secondary / post 16 school visits: Monday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am – 15:00pm
Other groups: please call us to discuss.

Accessibility
Everybody can enjoy their AeroZone experience! Wheelchair access is available via a lift and an accessible toilet. If you have any special requirements, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Getting here
AeroZone is based at Manchester Airport Ground Transport Interchange, which has regular train, tram, bus and coach services. More information can be found on our website manchesterairport.co.uk/getting-to-and-from/ We recommend, where possible, to utilise one of these services. If arriving by coach, please let us know in advance.

Book your free visit to AeroZone today!
manchesterairport.co.uk/aerozone

Meet the team

Joanna Jackson
Primary Education Lead

Julie Walker
Secondary / Further Education Lead

FAQ’s

Q. How many people can the AeroZone hold?
A. A maximum of 30 students

Q. What is the child: staff ratio?
A. We advise schools to review their own safeguarding policy. However, there must be at least 2 members of staff accompanying the group of students.

Q. How long can we spend at AeroZone?
A. As long as you want! Your school will have exclusive use of the AeroZone from 9:30am – 3pm

Q. Can I do a pre-visit and risk assessment?
A. Yes! This must be arranged in advance with the AeroZone team. We advise that you visit us prior to your visit, to get to know the space and materials. We can also discuss pre/post visit materials to enhance your classroom sessions.

Q. Will someone show us around on the day?
A. AeroZone is a teacher led facility, enhanced in parts by Airport staff. An AeroZone member of staff will be at hand throughout your session, if you require any support.

Q. Can we have lunch at the AeroZone?
A. You are welcome to eat your packed lunches in the AeroZone. Lunchbox storage and water facilities are available. Please note, there is no outdoor space for playtime due to the busy Airport site.

Q. Can I cancel or reschedule our visit?
A. Cancellations / reschedule must be discussed at least two weeks prior with a member of the AeroZone team by emailing man.aerozone@manairport.co.uk or calling 0161 489 2030

Q. Do you do any school outreach?
A. We currently do school outreach in the Wythenshawe and Knutsford areas. Keep your eyes peeled for future projects in new areas. We do have a variety of pre and post activities to enhance your school lessons.
A new experiential way for the next generation to learn.