



Surrey
Wildlife Trust

Wilder Schools Programme

surreywildlifetrust.org

2024/5

Is your school ready to go wild?

This exciting programme is delivered by Surrey Wildlife Trust's (SWT) Team Wilder Education & Engagement Officers in conjunction with your school.

Our aim is to enhance biodiversity and bioabundance across the county whilst helping children develop a lasting connection with nature to ensure nature is valued and protected into the future.

We will work with the staff to demonstrate the proven benefits of taking regular sessions outside whether it be for curriculum linked learning or health and wellbeing. We recognise the huge time pressures on schools and teachers; we therefore aim to introduce staff to simple, effective ways to reap the health and educational benefits of the outdoors.

For the wider community our aim is to help families connect with their local wild spaces and benefit from spending more time together in nature. We encourage action for nature both at home and/or in their local green spaces and our goal is for a community that advocates for nature.



● How long does the programme last?

The Project will run for 3 years in total with high support from Surrey Wildlife Trust in the first year. The programme has been subdivided to show how we will work with a cohort of students, the teaching staff, and the wider school community. Teachers are encouraged to remain part of our free Nature Network over the longer term. Time commitments for students are broken down below but total around 4.5 days.

● How much will it cost?

The programme is valued at around £20,000 over the three years. However successful schools selected onto the programme will receive the programme free of charge except for a compulsory charge for the selected cohort to take part in a school trip to our educational nature reserve in the autumn term to kick start the programme.

This is offered at the reduced rate of £10 per child with accompanying adults free. Coach costs are additional. An additional charge is made in year 2 of the programme for a bespoke outdoor learning INSET session charged at £800 full day or £500 half day for up to 20 teachers. If the school decides to book onto our optional accredited training course for Forest Schools or Leader of Outdoor Learning then charges are made for these.

A memorandum of understanding will be set up between the school and SWT to reflect a commitment to this and delivering the outlined programme.

● What is involved?

Activities for Pupils in Selected Year group (KS1 and above)

Aim: Children will develop a connection with nature and feel empowered to take action for nature at school, at home and in their future lives. Attitudes to learning will be improved and health and wellbeing enhanced.

Suitable for groups of between 30-90 students.



Term 1: Discovery & Planning

(1 full day, 2 half days per class)

Pre Session: Assessment of current knowledge of school grounds through a simple drawing exercise.

● Day 1: Nature connection, habitats

(First half term -September/October)

A visit to our educational nature reserve - a chance for students to explore habitats in their prime during the autumn and understand the features that help wildlife thrive, providing the groundwork for the project at school.

This session will be linked to the curriculum to support the year group's learning at school but will also focus on fun, hands on experiences that help them on their journey to nature connection. This session is offered at a reduced rate to our project schools.

Curriculum links: Science and Geography, PHSE.

● Day 2: Assessment of school grounds

(October/November)

Using skills learnt at our reserve, we will help the children explore and map habitats within the school and look for areas that could be enhanced for nature.

The session will start with a game and time to explore the grounds looking for signs of wildlife. N.B KS1 will look at the grounds from an animal's point of view e.g food water and shelter requirements for a hedgehog / frog/ blackbird etc. KS2 and above will complete a school grounds audit worksheet and map habitats.

The session will end with a brainstorm of what is needed in the school grounds and where it could go. SWT will prepare a summary of this for the class.

Curriculum links: Science and Geography, PHSE, maths.

● Day 3: Project preparation

(November/December)

SWT staff will use this time to work to develop the project, researching feasibility and costs and submit proposal to Head Teacher and grounds team for approval.

Students: We ask the school to use this time to independently complete the following in class:

- Campaign – Write to SLT, create posters to promote project around schools or prepare video for parents
- Present proposed project to wider school community in January
- Brainstorm fundraising ideas to purchase materials (plants/ seeds/ pond liners etc) for project. Could include sponsored events, dress up days, cake sales, clothes swaps etc.

Curriculum links: literacy, art and science.

Class Teacher: We ask that the teacher finalises the script for the assembly and sets a date for January when SWT can return for Day 4. The Trust are happy to provide natural images if needed.



Term 2: Making Space for Nature

(2 half days per class with optional extras)

● Day 4: Raising Awareness

(January)

- Assembly and fundraising event (students)
- Launch of Action for Nature competition (SWT)

Following the assembly the students will continue on their journey of nature connection, getting outside to explore and notice nature in winter.

We will also spend time introducing the group to the concept of citizen science projects by involving them in the RSPB Big School Grounds Bird Count.

Curriculum links: literacy, PHSE, science.

● Day 5: Action Day

(February/ March)

Depending on the proposed project this could be a larger WEEKEND/ half term holiday event that enlists the help of parents or a series of smaller scale projects that are undertaken by the students during Term 2.

Items may include one or some of the following:

- Build raised beds for pollinator friendly plants
- Clear turf for meadow & sow
- Create signs for designated no mow areas
- Plant hedgerow/orchard trees
- Dig or install small pond
- Install water butt
- Clear scrub
- Sow seed for greenhouse and/or indoor germination
- Homes for wildlife e.g. bird houses/ feeders, minibeast log piles etc.

Curriculum links: science, DT, PHSE.



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**The children have
had so much fun
creating a meadow
- we need to do this
more often!**

Miss Mumford, Powell Corderoy School

Term 3: Recording & Monitoring

(3 half days per class)

● Day 6: Recording actions & nature connection

(April/May)

We will spend more time outside connecting with nature (noticing changes in spring) through a series of simple games and activities.

Students learn how to record their actions for nature on geographical information systems (GIS) and understand how we can form landscape scale connections for nature and how small actions can have a big impact and help form green corridors across the county.

After recording actions at school they will be encouraged to enter actions they may have taken at home or in their community.

The cohort of students can spread their knowledge and skills to the wider school, encouraging others to take action and record actions:

- No mow areas
- Bucket ponds
- Tree planting
- Bird feeding
- Hedgehog holes
- Litter picks
- Writing letters to council etc.

Curriculum Links: PHSE, Science
Geography, Literacy.

● Day 7: Monitoring Success

(June)

Session to include:

- Interactive game and investigation to see how grounds are improving for plants & invertebrates
- Gathering evidence of success through species counts, videos, photos etc. for final assembly

Curriculum links: maths, science, literacy, art.
SWT will deliver a management plan for the areas enhanced by the project.

● Day 8: Celebration assembly, student celebration & evaluation of students knowledge

(July)

Session to include:

- Celebration Assembly
- Survey of participants to evaluate project successes
- Outdoor nature connection event (noticing nature in summer)

Additional Item: A delegation of students and teachers will be invited to a celebration event at Nower Wood in late June to share barriers they have overcome and celebrate collective success.



Programme for Teachers

● Year 1

Aim: To increase confidence across the school staff to take learning outside. All staff are encouraged to sign up to the free Nature Network for access to newsletters, training events, webinars and advice.

Staff Meetings (no charge):

- **Term 1:** Introduce whole staff to benefits of outdoor learning. Determine specific barriers and form a plan to help them spend more time in nature
- **Term 2:** Connecting with nature I - ideas to use with class to connect with nature and benefit health and wellbeing
- **Term 3:** Connecting with nature II – ideas to develop nature connection

Charges for the following optional items:

- Bespoke INSET day: £500 half day or £800 full day for up to 20 teachers
- Attendance of nominated staff on appropriate accredited course e.g. Forest School Training L1 (£250) L2 £540 L3 £1150), Leader of Outdoor Learning (£360) (Spring term)

● Year 2

One compulsory half or full day INSET on how to deliver more learning outside.

- Bespoke outdoor learning INSET: £500 half day £800 full day (current pricing at time of writing 2023, subject to review)

Aim: to continue the nature connection journey.

Staff Meetings:

- **Term 1:** Sharing outdoor learning experiences / barriers
- **Term 3:** Review – noticing changes in attitudes to learning

● Year 3

Staff meetings:

Allocate sessions to share progress, ideas, best practice and problem solving.



Activities for the whole School Community

● Year 1

Assemblies:

- **Term 1:** Introduction to SWT and Action for Nature - SWT staff
- **Term 2:** School grounds project – project cohort
- **Term 2:** Launch of Action for nature challenge
- **Term 3:** Celebrating Success – SWT/Pupils

Fundraising:

- **Term 2:** Whole School Event e.g. MUFTI / bake sale / toy sale etc. Target £500
- **Grants:** SWT to send information on appropriate grant funding

Action:

- **Term 1:** Regular comms from SWT to parents via newsletter, events and school activities
- Making of pledges to take action at home.
- **Term 2:** Regular comms from SWT and launch of Action for Nature challenge at home/ local community
- **Term 3:** Recording actions on GIS. Identifying winners
- **Community event:** Nature connection in local greenspace (arranged by SWT)
- **Joint Actions for SWT/School**
- School to record any improvements in attitude (of students) to learning as evidence of success
- SWT to create management plan for project area
- School to assist with the dissemination of messages and recording of actions for nature
- Form (provided by SWT) for parents/students to record how the school has helped spread the message into their communities
- School to allocate staff/parents to bring delegation of students to Celebration Event at Nower Wood inc. prize giving
- SWT to issue Wilder schools award and certificate





Surrey
Wildlife Trust

About us

Surrey Wildlife Trust is a wildlife charity and is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the UK

With the invaluable support of volunteers and members we care for over 6,500ha of land for wildlife in Surrey. We also work with other organisations and landowners to protect and connect wildlife sites across the county and inspire local communities and young people to care for wildlife where they live.

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