

The Outdoor Classroom

WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS FOR YOUR SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Workshops to provide essential backup to classroom teaching, make use of the wealth of natural resources within your grounds and encourage a sense of awe and wonder at the living world. We provide age appropriate workshops to meet specific learning objectives and we are highly qualified with expertise in environmental science and great experience working with young people.



SCHOOLS OUTREACH
OFFICERS
Laura Harvey and
Roz Wisniewski

The Joan Elliot
Visitor Centre at
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- We provide all equipment and expertise
- We can give advice regarding grant applications
- All activities are risk assessed.
- Science week

For further details and to book or discuss your requirements please contact us on 01621 862992 or email laurah@essexwt.org.uk

INDOOR WORKSHOPS

MINIBEASTS

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes a day

A Woodland in your Classroom

We bring in large habitat trays full of leaf litter and live woodland minibeasts. Use keys to identify them and learn about lifecycles, adaptation, food chains and webs.

Habitat Comparison

Survey the school grounds looking under logs, sweeping through long grass and shaking trees and bushes to discover the range of life in different habitats. Identify the creatures and compare the habitats to find out who lives where and why.

Habitat Creation

Are there ways to develop or improve habitats to attract more minibeasts to your school? We will help you draw up a plan of action.

SEASHORE SURVEY

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes a day

Indoor Seashore

Use our indoor seashore to help you compare this habitat to others in your school grounds

We will bring large habitat trays with tide line flotsam and jetsam. Children can explore this beach to find treasures of the shoreline. We will help them undertake research and piece together the clues to find out the mysterious lives of marine creatures.

Pollution – sewage and oil

As an extension to the seashore survey, you can select from two practical exercises. The first explores how sewage is treated before it is released into the sea. It includes making clay poos, macerating and filtering. The second activity explores the effect of oil on the sea and seabirds and methods of oil removal.

ECO SCHOOLS

A good kick start to your eco school status

KS1 KS2 KS3 - up to five classes in a day.

Activities to inspire and empower children to develop a more sustainable approach to life.

Rot and rubbish

Carry out a waste audit and look at reducing, reusing and recycling as ways to decrease the rubbish produced by your school.

Waterwise Game

A fun way to learn about the wasted water that pours down the drain and how we can change this.

Biodiversity Challenge

Survey your grounds for wildlife and make a management plan to improve biodiversity.

Find out about 'Eco Schools' visit

www.eco-schools.org.uk

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day.

Find out how our behaviour and choices have an environmental impact, locally and globally.

Egg Challenge

How eggstravagant are we when we buy a Kinder egg? Dissect one to find out where and how the ingredients are produced. Use cards to plot the global journey of these ingredients from producers to consumers. Pupils will discover for themselves the environmental impacts of this production process. Geography, PSHE and Citizenship

Wants and needs

To be loved, freedom, TV, own space.....

What do we really need for a good quality of life? Use cards and group discussions to explore our needs and how they contrast with others.

Emotional literacy, PSHE and Citizenship.

Energy footprints

Reveals the amount of energy we use in our daily lives!

How lightly do you tread on the earth?



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OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CREATION

DESIGN A WILDLIFE AREA

KS2 KS3 - up to three classes in a day

Have you got an area of land that would make a great outdoor classroom? We work with pupils to draw up a design, helping them plan for wildlife and school life and include a range of habitats. The end result is a plan that will create a fantastic resource for science and other areas of the curriculum. Grant advice is supplied with this project

CREATE A WILDLIFE AREA

Working with parents and children we can help to co-ordinate the creation of your wildlife area. The process involves teamwork and enables them to learn about plant requirements, careful use of tools and the ongoing care of the area.

WILDLIFE AREA RESCUE

Is your wildlife area overgrown and underused? We lead a team of children and parents to cut, clear and plant, recreating an inviting outdoor classroom and leave you with advice on future maintenance.

CREATE A NATURE TRAIL

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 – up to five classes in a day.

Explore the school grounds and develop a bespoke nature trail for other classes to follow. Create a map with all the natural features of the school grounds identified.

TRACKS TRAILS AND SIGNS

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes a day.

Spot the clues.

Feathers, bones, droppings and tracks....look for signs of animals in your school grounds. We can set up a trail for children to discover and learn about the animals that may have been visiting.

Signs of Spring/Summer/Autumn or Winter

Search your school grounds for signs of nature that give a clue to the season

LIVING WILLOW STRUCTURES

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 Usually 30 pupils

These sustainable structures make special features in school grounds and as pupils progress through the school they can nurture and watch them grow and develop.

A willow dome measuring 3-4m diameter will be large enough for a class and used as an outdoor classroom

Living willow tunnels can link two areas or stand alone. Choose the shape to create a snake, dragon or spiral. Willow sculptures – use willow to create works of art for the school grounds or develop some individual creations to decorate the classroom.

We work with pupils so they take ownership from the beginning, laying out the freshly cut willow rods then planting them and weaving and tying into the desired shape. We can help you consider the most suitable site for your living willow structure and we are also available after the day to help maintain it. Tunnel materials cost £25/m and dome materials cost £100.

This is a popular day so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL AREA

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes a day

Do you have a local wood, churchyard, river or seashore in walking distance? We can help you explore your local environment.

Minibeasts in the Churchyard

Uncover the creatures in living in the trees bushes and long grass of your local churchyard.

Life in the River

Down to the river with nets to dip into the mysterious waters of the river's edge. Use keys to identify the creatures you find.

Discover your Local Seashore

Explore the strand line of your local beach and dip into pools. Learn about the lives of these seashore creatures and plants.



ESSEX
Wildlife Trust

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WASTEAWAY DAYS

KS1, KS2, KS3 up to five classes a day

Slim your bin! - Reduce, Re-use and Recycle

Bin Bag Challenge

Search through a bin bag of (clean) rubbish and sort it into materials. What can be recycled, composted or reused?

Waste Audit

Carry out a class waste audit to find out how much your class throws away and draw up an action plan to reduce this.

Too much Packaging!

Identify the packaging in lunch boxes and explore the packaging from two different shopping trips. How can the packaging be reduced?

Compost Corner

Search garden compost to find out what happens to kitchen and garden waste and investigate natural recyclers in their habitat.

Recycled Paper

From wonderfully gooey paper pulp to beautifully decorated paper. Children will create new paper from old, highlighting the importance of this process in helping to reduce waste.

THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

POND DIPPING

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day

Dip your school pond and use keys to identify the creatures living there. Make observational drawings and use these to create an ID chart specifically for your pond. Find out how healthy your pond is using a biotic index and by looking at the surrounding vegetation, plants present in the pond and the clarity of the pond water. You can then use this information to draw up a plan to improve the biodiversity of your pond.

Pond Rescue

Does your pond need help to get back to health? We can source plants provide tools and with the help of children and parents have a working party to clear, plant and re-shape to get the pond back into tip-top condition.

BUSHCRAFT IN SCHOOL

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day

Identify the wildlife of your school and discover how it would have been used in the past to make tools, musical instruments and shelter for people.

Using simple tools such as potato peelers, ropes and hand drills and materials from nature select from the following activities:

- Making bird feeders
- Elder beads
- Adventure playground
- Dens
- Musical instruments
- Environmental art displays
- Christmas decorations

We can advise ways to develop bushcraft use of the grounds and if you were interested in pursuing this area, we could put you in touch with our Forest Schools officers

NATURE'S ART

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day

Use nature's art cupboard to create group or individual masterpieces

Sculpture

Use natural materials to create a dragon, bug, butterfly.....whatever your imagination allows!

Map sticks

An artistic record of a walk through the school grounds using natural materials and a stick! Can you read other map sticks to reveals their route?

Muddy faces

Bring the trees alive with mud faces to mould and decorate. What is their story?

Weaving

Use natural materials to create hanging weaves to decorate the school grounds.

Tree Dressing

Reuse objects and materials to create art, poems and wishes that can adorn a tree.

Kites

Create bird, fish and whale kites or wind socks to fly around the school grounds.



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WHAT'S GROWING IN YOUR GROUNDS

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day

Terrific trees

Meet the trees living alongside you in your school grounds.
Look at the great variety of leaf shapes and use them to identify trees
Create your own school tree trail.
Use story telling to learn about the nutrient cycle and transport systems in trees.
Collect and examine different types of tree seeds.
Find out what good homes trees make for creatures.

Seeds

Gather an autumn harvest from around your school grounds and find out about different types of seeds and seed dispersal

Fabulous Flowers

Find the flower treasures hiding in your school grounds. How many different flower shapes and colours are there?
Go on a flower trail to learn their secrets and understand their lifecycles.

Healthy Fruit and Veg

Plant an orchard with local variety fruit trees to provide a beautiful habitat and delicious fruit.

Plant and create an allotment area for children for children to plant and nurture.

BIRDS

KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day

Nest building

Work in teams to build different types of bird nests using different materials.

Design a bird

Look at bird adaptations and create a bird that is adapted to its habitat and food.

Bird food and bird boxes

Make bird food and bird boxes to hang in your school grounds.

Owl Pellets

Dissect owl pellets and uncover diet of owls and the wonders of small mammal skeletons.

Migration Game.

Find out which birds migrate for the winter, why they go and how they navigate.

EXPLORE YOUR SENSES

EYFS KS1 KS2 KS3 up to five classes in a day

Use your senses to explore the colour, touch, sound and smell of nature.

Camouflage caterpillars How many would you be able to find if you were a hungry bird? Discover the importance of colour in nature.

Call of the wild Listen to the calls of creatures and find out how these are used to communicate with each other.

Scent Trails Will your nose help you find the right path and discover where creatures have been?

Smelly Cocktails Create your own smelly cocktail using nature's store cupboard.

Pongy Plants Uncover the amazing variety of smelly plants. Why not design and create your own sensory garden?

Touchy Feely Games Put your fingertips to the test and try to discover different barks, leaves, twigs etc

Walking in the Trees Use mirrors to take a walk through the treetops.

BOOKINGS AND DETAILS

For further details and to book or discuss your requirements please contact us at the address on the front page

Direct dial: 01621 862992 (Office day Monday)

Mobile: 07533376783

Laura Harvey and Roz Wisniewski

Email: laurah@essexwt.org.uk

Website: www.essexwt.org.uk

- We provide all equipment and expertise
 - We can give advice regarding grant applications
 - All activities are risk assessed.
- Risk assessments available on request

We request a donation of
£200 per full day
£120 per half day
£50 per mini session or consultation plus travel expenses (max £40). This helps to fund Schools Outreach work and Essex Wildlife Trust's vital conservation work



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Teacher Training at your school

Essex Wildlife Trust Schools Outreach

Inset or mini staff meeting sessions

Maximise use of the school grounds as a valuable teaching resource. We provide a range of environmental education training to empower and inform staff.

School Grounds survey

Duration 2 hours

This practical workshop will give staff the confidence and inspiration to go out and use the grounds with pupils. We will work with staff to survey your school grounds to identify plants, animals and habitats in a clear concise form using keys and books. We can provide a list of species identified and can give advice about suitable literature and keys to assist staff and advice to improve the grounds.

Developing School Grounds

Duration 2 hours

The best school grounds are used regularly and are designed with the involvement of all staff. With staff we will briefly survey the grounds to identify the plants and habitats that are providing a valuable teaching and wildlife resource. With this knowledge in mind we can discuss the creation of further habitats that will improve the grounds for the benefits of wildlife and pupils. We will use maps to illustrate the important wildlife sites in your area and all improvements will specifically benefit your school and also the local wildlife to build on the Living Landscape of the area.

We can guide you through a range of habitat creations including pond, hedgerow, mini woodlands, orchards and wildflower meadows.

Develop play areas, dens and sensory gardens.

Discuss how to maximise the use of these areas within the curriculum.

Provide contacts, suppliers and possible grants providers.

Creative use of the School Grounds

One hour workshops

Art and bushcraft using natural materials

Uncover the potential of the outdoor classroom in your school grounds. Develop identification skills to identify plants and trees that will provide useful materials growing at your school using keys and books.

Learn how to use natural materials gathered from your school grounds for ephemeral art projects such as weaving, woodland crafts such as elder bead making and simple tool use.

Sample risk assessments will be provided.

Select from the following: minibeasts, trees and plants, pond dipping, birds.

Identify areas in your school grounds that provide a valuable habitat for wildlife. Use sampling techniques to collect from around the school grounds and identify using keys and books.

We will give you guides of good practice for investigation methods in grounds and suppliers for the equipment keys and books required.

We will provide advice to make improvements to the school grounds.

Discuss practicalities of using the grounds with groups of children.

Discuss health and safety issues.

We will provide sample risk assessments for each activity.

Teacher Training Bookings

E-mail laurah@essexwt.org.uk

We request a donation of £150 for a half day

£75 for a mini session plus travel expenses (max cost £40). This helps to fund the Schools Outreach work and Essex Wildlife Trust's vital conservation work.

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