



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust



# Wilder Schools

Working with schools to enable children to experience and connect to nature and to empower them to take action for nature and climate where they live, learn and play

# What is Wilder Schools?

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**Wilder Schools is a new approach to working with schools.**

## **Our Wilder Schools approach**

We work with schools in three ways:

### **Engagement Officer-led visits to our learning reserves and centres**

Schools choose 3 x one hour sessions to build a full day of outdoor learning led by our experienced Engagement Officers at one of our learning reserves or centres

### **Self-led visits to our learning reserves and centres**

Schools book a self-led visit to one of our learning reserves or centres, download resources, collect equipment and use our stunning sites to bring outdoor learning to life

### **Team Wilder Schools**

Staff and children in Team Wilder schools are working with our Engagement Officers on longer term projects to embed nature in the curriculum and take action for nature and climate in the school grounds.



# Team Wilder Schools

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## **A project-based approach**

**Focusing on key priority areas in the county, we are working with schools to bring about nature's recovery.**

## **How it works**

In each Team Wilder school, we work with staff and children to identify how their school grounds can become a better space for nature, as well as how best to support them integrating nature and outdoor spaces into their school ethos and everyday life.

This can happen in a variety of ways, usually starting with a whole-school assembly and a staff meeting. After this, each step is tailored to the individual school's journey, including creating an action plan with staff and children, undertaking baseline surveys of the school grounds with children, facilitating outdoor learning sessions with children, delivering training to staff, providing advice and support on organising a fundraising event and enabling school grounds improvement projects ranging from leaving wild patches to creating a wildlife gardens. Every Team Wilder school is different!



## Team Wilder Schools

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### **Year 1 – An example programme**

Work with one year group (usually Year 4 or above) three days per term.  
The school commits to one member of staff undertaking accredited training e.g. Leader in Outdoor Learning (Level 2) and up to twelve staff participating in a one day CPD.

### **Term 1 – Discovery and Planning**

#### **Day 1: Habitats and baseline**

Attend a staff meeting to introduce staff to the benefits of outdoor learning  
Team Wilder Schools whole-school assembly  
Mini BioBlitz in school grounds

#### **Day 2: Project planning and research**

Developing outline projects with specific actions for school grounds

#### **Day 3: School grounds project development**

Building support within the school community and with stakeholders  
Develop fundraising ideas



# Year 1

## Term 2 – Making Space for Nature

### Day 4: Raising awareness

Whole school assembly: members of year group present project ideas and promote fundraising event

Fundraising event

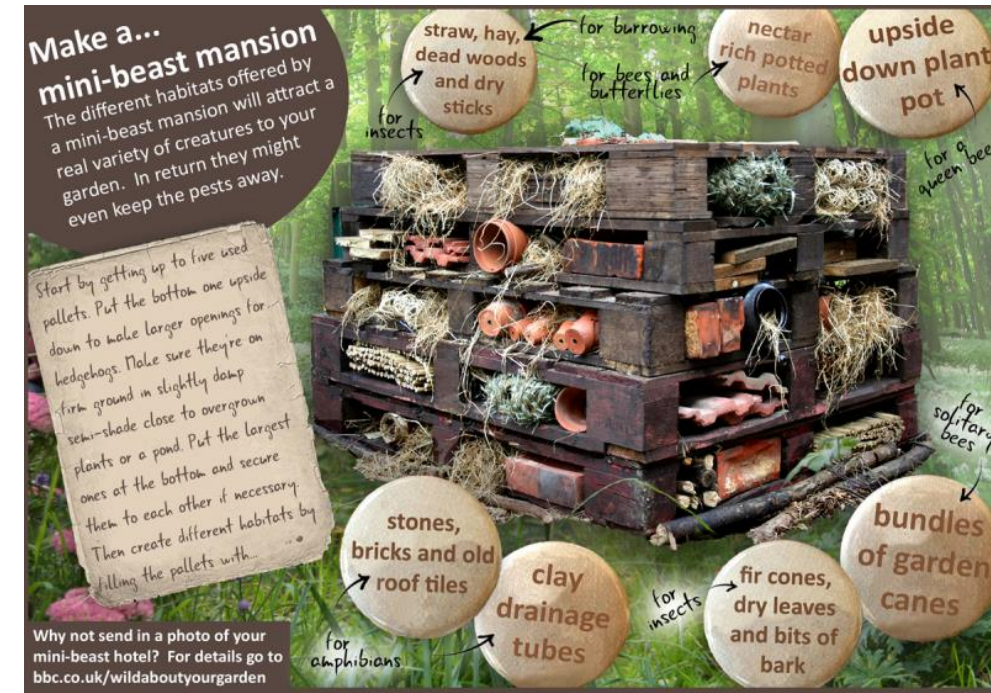
Promoting community action day

### Day 5

Community action day (weekend) to make practical improvements to school grounds

### Day 6

Continual Professional Development day for staff.



## Year 1

### Term 3 – Using the school grounds

#### Day 7: Identification and monitoring skills

Developing further understanding of species and learning monitoring skills and techniques.

#### Day 8: Monitoring and learning in the school grounds

Team taught sessions on invertebrates or plants

#### Day 9: Celebration assembly

Team taught sessions  
Evaluation and exit interview

**Additional day: Suffolk Wildlife Trust led visit to a nature reserve to improve species identification skills.**



## **Year 2 – Join Wilder Schools network to access free training and webinars**

Termly meetings to support school staff in setting and meeting outdoor learning targets

## **Year 3 – Review**

Termly meetings to review outdoor learning and gains for nature

Sharing success with other schools

