

Education Policy

Background

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is an environmental charity with an established reputation for delivery of quality educational and fieldwork opportunities built on many years experience.

The focus of this policy is on education in the widest sense, covering formal and informal education for children and adults. It relates mainly to the provision of the programmes for schools, informal activities such as Watch and holiday clubs and adult courses, but it also extends to a much wider audience through Trust local groups, publications, media and partnership links and conservation opportunities.

Introduction

The Trust aims to provide learning opportunities to introduce people of all ages, ability, culture and background to wildlife, to increase their understanding of the natural world and to influence their daily choices and actions.

Much of this educational work involves field work and other outdoor activities which will take place at Smite, on the Trust reserves and in the community. The whole Trust is committed to the national Living Landscapes approach, emphasising landscape-scale conservation, which will be incorporated into education work wherever appropriate.

Policy

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust will:

- engage a wide audience in education about wildlife and conservation;
- link formal education provision for school age children to the national curriculum;
- offer opportunities for experience and study of wildlife and habitats for individuals, families and groups of any age, ability, culture and background.
- offer opportunities for training, continued learning, personal and professional development;
- place emphasis on memorable and inspirational learning experiences;
- promote understanding and a sense of responsibility towards the environment;
- maintain and enhance its status in Worcestershire as a key provider of environmental education, with emphasis on field work and outdoor experience;
- offer a safe, high quality learning experience, working to best practice, delivered by competent, trained and experienced staff;
- manage educational activities to ensure they have minimal impact on the environment;
- provide access to locally relevant information through an appropriate range of media;
- complement and co-operate with partners, colleagues and other education providers.

Outcomes

The outcomes of all educational activities provided by WWT for children and adults (beyond the immediate aims of each course or activity) should be that:

- they are better informed about wildlife and the natural world;
- they better understand the work of WWT and the need for landscape scale conservation;
- they will make positive changes to their behaviour as a result;
- they better understand that nature matters;
- they better understand the benefits of experiences in the natural world to human health and wellbeing.

Accountability and monitoring

The Communications Manager and/or the Education Officer will report to Council on a regular basis.

Feedback will be requested from schools and all who participate in formal and informal education provision to enable effective review.

Sites used for field work will be monitored to ensure their use is sustainable.

Circulation and review

This policy will be circulated to all Trustees and staff. It will be made available on the Trust's website.

This policy will be reviewed at least every five years as part of the Trust's rolling policy review programme.

Approved by Council April 10th 2017