

TAKE THE



SCHOOL PLEDGE

Connecting to nature and learning outdoors are valuable assets to an educational setting. Not only does outdoor learning give children and young adults an appreciation for the natural environment, but being outdoors also aids physical and mental wellbeing. Taking the Wilder Schools pledge will help focus and direct your school to make your outdoor spaces benefit both wildlife and people. Any educational centre can take the Wilder Schools pledge.

How to take the pledge:

Step 1: Look at the pledge on the following page and highlight at least one idea from each section that you already do, or you'd like to work towards (there's also space to add your own ideas). Print the pledge out and display it somewhere for everyone to see what you're doing. If you've already started your wilder journey, skip to Step 4.

Step 2: Make a plan for how to achieve your goals (we can help you with this).

Step 3: Use the Wilder Schools survey pack to find out what wildlife is living on your school grounds already, and to measure your sustainability credentials.

Step 4: Share your plans with us. We'd love to hear about your journey from the start! You can send us a photo of your pledge completed or write to us with more detail about what you're planning.

Step 5: Tell us what you've achieved. You can write us a blog, send us a video or a photo presentation - be as creative as you like. Conduct your survey a second time after you've taken your actions, to see if you've made improvements for wildlife.

Step 6: Once we've seen evidence of what you've achieved, we'll send you a "We're part of a Wilder Hampshire" or "We're part of a Wilder Wight" plaque to display proudly in your building or on your grounds and we'll give you access to our Team Wilder branding to use to advertise that you've become a Wilder School.

We, _____ **pledge to:**

(name of school)

**Engage at least 1 in 4 of our pupils
with nature:**

- ☐ Run 1 lesson a week outside for each year group
- ☐ Set up a gardening / allotment club
- ☐ Plant a seed with every pupil and watch it grow
- ☐ Create a wildlife after-school club
- ☐ Include nature writing in our English lessons
- ☐ Run assemblies on nature, sustainability and environmental protection
- ☐ Book outdoor education training for our staff and volunteers
- ☐ Encourage our pupils to access the wilder areas of our grounds during breaks and lunchtime
- ☐ Teach a range of subjects outside (the Trust believes all subjects can be taught outdoors!)
- ☐ Create a quiet space on-site for pupils and staff
- ☐ Introduce binoculars, outdoor microscopes and cameras to lessons to provide pupils with a different view of nature
- ☐ Set up a Wilder Schools committee
- ☐ Host a citizens' assembly with our pupils and local wildlife experts
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

Create more space for nature:

- ☐ Grow a wildflower meadow
- ☐ Dig a pond
- ☐ Plant trees
- ☐ Grow vegetables
- ☐ Put up bird boxes
- ☐ Build a bug hotel
- ☐ Make homes for other wildlife (amphibians, reptiles, mammals)
- ☐ Add a green roof to our building, or to an outbuilding (e.g. a shed)
- ☐ Plant pollinator-friendly planting around the school
- ☐ Leave areas of grass to grow long
- ☐ Create a volunteer group to help with managing our site for wildlife
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

**Reduce our impact on the wider
environment:**

- ☐ Introduce recycling
- ☐ Create a composting area
- ☐ Set up a walk- or cycle-to-school scheme
- ☐ Reduce the use of single use plastic in our canteen
- ☐ Encourage the houses and businesses on our street to become wilder too.
- ☐
- ☐



Together we will create a wilder Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Signed by: _____

Celebrating your achievements:

We're looking for schools who demonstrate a real commitment to becoming Wilder and can evidence an impact on their pupils and an increase in wildlife on site. By completing the Wilder Schools pledge, you'll qualify for nomination for our annual Wilder Schools award. We can't wait to see what you get up to!

Go one step further:

- Become a Wilder Schools Leader. School staff and volunteers can sign up to become a Wilder Schools leader and get access to free training and meet-ups for ideas sharing and advice. Find out more at: hiwwt.org.uk/become-wilder-champion.
- Set up a Wilder Schools committee. We can help you guide your pupils to collaborate with the school to create Wilder spaces, increase sustainability or improve outdoor learning. We offer planning workshops, practical advice and training for your pupils. See our Wilder Primary Schools Committee and Wilder Secondary Schools Committee guides.
- Host a Citizens' Assembly. See our toolkit on how to organise a range of experts to share their knowledge with your pupils and initiate a debate on the key issues of environmental protection and sustainability.

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