

CREATING
WILDER
PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMITTEES



Give your pupils the opportunity to investigate first-hand and take direct action on how their school transforms its wastes of space.

WASTE — OF SPACE —

In Spring, 2021, the Trust launched a new public appeal to help identify the unloved scraps of land in our towns and their school grounds that could do much more for pupils and nature. Access to greenspace and connection to nature has many proven benefits to a child's physical and mental development.

Many of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's schools have space on their grounds that could be better used - they're a waste of space. We're here to help teachers and students come up with new ways to use this space and transform them into havens for wildlife.

Once you and your pupils have identified some areas in your school that are a "waste of space", create a Wilder Schools Committee to discuss better ways of using these spaces.

Find out more hiwwt.org.uk/waste-space

Getting started

A Wilder Schools Committee is a small group of selected pupils who regularly get together to discuss what changes they'd like to make to the school grounds, sustainability credentials of the school, or outdoor learning opportunities. The selected pupils can come from existing groups such as an eco-group, school council or a particular class, or children can nominate themselves to join the committee.



Health and safety considerations

Please adapt our activities to adhere to the most recent government guidelines and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Covid-19. Actions suggested in this toolkit are suggestions only and should be modified in a way that suits your school best. Committees can be held within bubbles or over video calls.

Get your headteacher on board

Support from your headteacher or governors will be essential for any changes to your waste of space that your committee wishes to make. You can write to your headteacher and the governors at any point in the committee process; use your own judgement to find the best time to approach them.

- Creating a written plan or drawing of the changes you'd like to see.
- Hosting an assembly or information afternoon to share your plans with other pupils and get their opinions and ideas.
- Measuring how the changes you make are making a difference to wildlife. You may use our survey pack to help you.

Set up your meetings...

The committee should meet up regularly (once a month is great). It is up to you and your pupils how you structure the meetings, but you might like to consider:

- Assigning roles to participants - you could have a note taker, a meeting chair, chief photographer, or artist.

... and take action!

If you want to raise money for your projects, consider organising a fundraising activity such as a bake sale or finding sponsors. If you need to do some practical work such as planting wildflower seeds or setting up recycle bins, you can set aside time in your regular meetings to do so and invite parents and friends to join in.



We can help

- We'll provide the staff member or volunteer leading the group with support to set up your committee and keep it running via phone calls and emails.
- We'll arrange an initial visit from a member of our engagement team to get your group started.
- We'll follow up with 2 visits from our engagement team per year to support your group - you can use these visits for help with the meetings, a practical activity on site or training in communications, public engagement or wildlife conservation.
- The school can sign up to become a Wilder School and the staff member leading your group can become a Wilder Schools leader and gain access to free training and networking with other educational setting-based staff and volunteers. Email us for more information.
- You're invited to a yearly get-together with other committees to share what you've been up to and to celebrate your achievements.

Is this free?

Yes, it's free to set up and you'll receive free follow-up support. If you'd like to help the Trust, here are some ways to do so:

- We're a charity so we'd really appreciate it if you would like to raise funds for us. Go to: hiwwt.org.uk/fundraise-wildlife to find out how.
- Your school can become a member of the Trust for £120 a year. Your membership includes a quarterly Wildlife Watch magazine to give you ideas for engaging your students in nature and the opportunity to book our engagement team for an extra visit (either with your committee or with another class within the school).
- We also offer a whole range of paid-for services, including training for teachers, school grounds advice and outreach education activities. You can find out more about these here hiwwt.org.uk/Schools-groups.

**This all sounds great;
how do we get started?**

Send Wilder@hiwwt.org.uk an email to set up an initial meeting with our engagement team.

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