

CREATING WILDER

SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Give your students the opportunity to get first-hand experience in investigating and taking direct action on how their school engages itself and the students with nature.



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 students 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 students 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 students 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 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.

Setting up your meetings

You should meet regularly (once a month is great but meet more frequently if you can). How you structure your meetings is up to you, but you might like to consider:

- Assigning different roles – you could choose to do this based on the particular passions or talents of the people who make up your committee. Roles could include:
 - Committee chair
 - Committee secretary
 - Social media officer
 - Photographer
 - Event co-ordinator
 - Marketing and promotions officer
 - Science Officer
- Planning the changes you'd like to see and present these plans creatively. You could create a written report, a video or photography exhibition.
- Outlining your plans to the decision makers and gaining relevant permissions to make changes.

- Organising fundraising activities to raise money for your plans or for the Wildlife Trust.
- Hosting an assembly or information afternoon to share your plans with other students and get their ideas.
- Running events to engage other students with nature and environmental conservation
- Engaging with the greater community - parents, local residents, students from other schools - about environmental issues that you're passionate about.
- Using your regular meeting to do some practical work to make your plans a reality - for example, planting wildflower seeds or setting up a composting or recycling scheme.
- Measuring how your changes are making a difference to wildlife and the environment. Use our survey pack to help you.



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 staff member leading your group, if you have one, can become a Wilder Schools leader and gain access to free training and networking with other educational setting-based staff and volunteers.
- 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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Isle of Wight
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