



Surrey
Wildlife Trust

Nextdoor Nature Project

School Community Partnership Guide



Project Introduction

With evidence of a climate and nature crisis becoming clearer every day, Nextdoor Nature aims to bring communities together to help wildlife flourish where people live and work!

Every one of us can make a difference to bring back nature and tackle climate change by taking small actions that add up to big changes.

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Nextdoor Nature has launched nationally and will provide people with the advice and support they need to help nature on their doorstep.

At Surrey Wildlife Trust, the Nextdoor Nature Project aims to support communities in creating wildlife friendly green spaces within their local areas.

We're asking communities and schools within Guildford (Stoke and Westborough) and Woking (Sheerwater and Maybury) to get in touch to take action for nature.

We want to hear what you have to say and how you want to restore nature within your communities' green spaces.



School Community Partnership Overview

Recruitment

- Programme detailed on Surrey Wildlife Trust website.
- Expression of interest from the School Leadership Team.
- A letter of support will be required from the Headteacher.
- Memorandum of Understanding.

Phase 1:

- Introductory assembly to outline the Project's aims and intentions.
- Listening exercises conducted with both students and members of staff to determine how they want nature to be developed within their community.
- Staff and students will be supported to plan and research how they can impact nature within their local communities and at home.
- Staff and students will be supported to carry out a planned project in the local community.
- A nominated teacher may be trained as Leader in Outdoor Learning.
- Staff and SLT will be supported in embedding nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity.
- Fundraising support will be provided where needed.
- Schools may be referred to our Wilder Schools Programmes to undertake school grounds improvements.

Phase 2: Supported/Independent

- Schools will move into a network of school staff and community groups to support each other in their ongoing action for nature.
- Community and education networks will collaborate to develop and share skills.
- Schools will work with Surrey Wildlife Trust to record and celebrate successes.
- Ongoing support will be provided to enable future independent action for nature.
- Wilder Communities events and Wilder Surrey Awards will celebrate successes.

Phase 3: Independent

- Natural spaces to be maintained within the communities.
- Schools will continue to embed nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity and will create awareness amongst staff and students of biodiversity issues.
- Schools will use the skills learnt during sessions to continue to take action for nature.
- There is an aspiration that school will continue to support their local communities.

Monitoring Biodiversity Outcomes: ArcGIS

- The release of a quarterly Nextdoor Nature newsletter.
- Network events and resources.
- Use of Storymaps to record ongoing progress and outcomes.
- Team wilder map.
- Wilder Communities webinars.

Programme Breakdown

The programme outlined below will be guided by Surrey Wildlife Trust's Nextdoor Nature Community Officer in conjunction with the school. The expected outcomes and impacts of the project are outlined later in this document.

Project Duration

The Nextdoor Nature Project will run until June 2024. The amount of time spent with each school will vary depending on the specific needs of each group. The programme has been subdivided to demonstrate the level of support each school will receive at each stage of the Project. Schools are expected to continue to embed nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity following the completion of the project. We also ask that Schools remain a part of the Nature Network.

Project Objectives

- Students will be empowered to take action for nature within their local communities.
- Students will develop their project planning and debating skills.
- Students will learn to express their own opinions to create change within their local areas.
- Students and staff will have an increased knowledge of existing wildlife.
- Schools will join a Nature Network and will connect with other communities.

Partnership Stipulations

- An initial meeting will be held with the school's Senior Leadership Team to discuss the expectations of the project.
- Schools should identify at least one member of staff who will help run the student focus groups/ listening exercises.
- The designated member of staff should lead and attend each session.
- A member of Surrey Wildlife Trust will support and attend sessions where needed.
- Visits from Surrey Wildlife Trust will be more frequent towards the start of the Project.
- Schools should continue to embed nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity following the completion of the Nextdoor Nature Project.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust can provide relevant training to students and staff based on the project which is being undertaken.
- Listening exercises, meetings and trainings can either take place during or outside of school hours.
- The Project's aim is not school grounds improvement. Surrey Wildlife Trust will support and encourage schools to restore nature within their local communities.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust will support schools through training. Schools may utilise this training to undertake their own school grounds improvement.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust will encourage schools to connect and collaborate with local community groups.

A Guide to Phase 1

Phase 1 is the supported phase of the partnership. Schools will benefit from the ongoing support of a Surrey Wildlife Trust Community Officer during this phase. Surrey Wildlife Trust will be available to offer support and advice and will help to guide schools in their transition into becoming part of the wider green community.

1. Surrey Wildlife Trust will hold an initial meeting with the school's Senior Leadership Team to discuss the expectations of the project and how Surrey Wildlife Trust can support the school in embedding nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity.
2. Surrey Wildlife Trust to host an assembly introducing the Project. The assembly will outline the Project's aims and intentions. The assembly may be hosted in collaboration with Surrey Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder Education Officers. Student will be encouraged to attend the initial listening exercise/ focus group.
3. Surrey Wildlife Trust will host a 'listening exercise' – this will be an opportunity for the Community Officer to listen to the ideas and opinions held by both students and staff regarding their local green spaces. The initial listening exercise will be a great opportunity for us to ascertain any barriers the school community may have when accessing the local space around them. It is our job to empower and enable people to realise their vision for nature and wildlife within the community.
4. The Community Officer will work with the Senior Leadership Team to embed nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity. The Community Officer will plan any necessary staff training opportunities in relation to the delivery of the content.
5. If a local community has been identified which the school would like to collaborate with, students and staff will be supported in creating a roject Action Plan. The Community Officer can offer relevant tips and advice.
6. Surrey Wildlife Trust can support schools in connecting with and collaborating with community groups. Schools may wish to support an ongoing nature project within their community.
7. Schools may wish to run extra-curricular activities which link to the embedding of nature into the curriculum. The Community Officer can support these activities and can offer resources to help facilitate them. Activities should predominantly be run by school staff.
8. The intention of Phase 1 is to support schools in embedding nature into the curriculum and to educate teachers and future generations in the importance of protecting and developing nature. Additionally, as part of the Nextdoor Nature Project, we would like to find out what change students and staff would like to see within the green spaces within their communities.

A Guide to Phase 2

Phase 2 is the supported/independent phase of the partnership. Surrey Wildlife Trust can continue to provide advice and support where necessary. The purpose of this phase is to enable schools to gradually transition into independent environmentally conscious groups.

1. Schools will move into a network of school staff and community groups. Surrey Wildlife Trust will connect schools with other community groups to enable them to continue to take action for nature.
2. Schools will share skills and expertise with other community groups, continuing to develop their own knowledge of nature, enabling future generations to look after nature within their communities
3. Schools will have the tools to work with different community groups to develop their local green spaces for nature.
4. Schools will feedback their ongoing progress to Surrey Wildlife Trust in celebration of their successes. Progress will be recorded on Surrey Wildlife Trust social media platforms and the Surrey Wildlife Trust website. Progress updates will also be recorded in the Nextdoor Nature newsletter.
5. Schools will be invited to attend Wilder Communities events and apply for the Wilder Surrey Awards to celebrate successes.

A Guide to Phase 3

Phase 3 is the independent phase of the partnership. Schools are expected to continue to sustain any changes made to the curriculum during the Project. Schools are expected to maintain contact with Nature Networks and actively take action for nature within their communities.

1. Schools to continue to develop and maintain the natural green spaces within their local communities, independently or in conjunction with the landowner.
2. Schools to continue to embed nature into the curriculum wherever the opportunity and to create awareness amongst staff and students of biodiversity issues.
3. Schools will share the skills and knowledge learned throughout their partnership with the Trust, continuing to strive towards a greener future.

Outcomes and Impacts

Biodiversity Outcomes

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat. Our goal is to empower and enable people to increase biodiversity within their local communities.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects undertaken within the community. increase biodiversity within urban areas. Students and staff to increase biodiversity within their own homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitats in local areas are under improved management. Enhanced biodiversity within local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increased understanding of nature leads to ongoing action for nature amongst the school community.

School Community Outcomes

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding of nature and its value. Connections made with local community groups. Increased willingness to take action for nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The schools will join a Nature Network Independent delivery of nature based sessions. Independent community contact and involvement in community projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLT to continue to embed nature into the curriculum as a priority. Continuation of projects within the community. Promotion of the importance of nature across communities.

Student and Staff Outcomes

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The embedding of nature into the curriculum empowers staff and students to protect nature. Staff feel confident in delivering lessons which educate youth about the natural world. Students feel confident in expressing their opinions and ideas for their local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and students help nature at home. Students and staff feel empowered to create change within the world. Increased action for nature amongst the school community. Increased knowledge of existing wildlife and its value amongst students and staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and student understand how they can make a difference to nature daily. Staff and students actively help to develop and maintain nature. Students and staff feel confident in guiding others to take action for nature.