



West Boldon Lodge
Education Business Communities



Environmental Education Programmes for Schools & Young People

Contents

About West Boldon Lodge	1
-------------------------	---

Curriculum Programmes

Life Cycles	2
Waste and Recycling	3
Energy, Climate and Sustainability	3
Plants	3
Outdoor Living and Fire	3
Minibeasts, Habitats and Classification	4
Seasons	4

Enrichment Programmes

Easter	5
Santa's Winter Woodland	5
Bushcraft	5
Forest School and Beach School	6
Youth Activities and Awards	7

School Support

School Grounds Development	8
Family & Community Learning in Schools	9
Staff Training and CPD	9



West Boldon Lodge

West Boldon Lodge is part of the National Grid Environmental Education Centre Network and is managed by Groundwork South Tyneside and Newcastle. The Lodge is renowned for high quality delivery of engaging and informative outdoor and environmental education activities to a range of visitors. It is the only centre of its kind in South Tyneside which, combines a diverse nature site with experienced and enthusiastic staff to offer schools and other groups unforgettable experiences.

Groundwork have been developing the site for almost 2 decades into its current glory and working with upwards of 1,500 school visitors each year.

Our staff have a wealth of experience, qualifications and enthusiasm which results in consistently high quality delivery of education programmes that will suit all needs. As well as facilitating visits to West Boldon Lodge, we also deliver activities in schools and green spaces across the region.

The 13 hectare site is comprised of diverse habitats which offers safe and secure surroundings for all age groups to learn about the environment and encourage a positive and caring relationship with the natural world.

The centre, an Erlund-house log cabin, is an inspiring, flexible learning environment full of light and space. The Lodge's eco credentials including solar hot water and natural insulation demonstrate Groundwork and National Grid's commitment to sustainability. The centre and whole site are accessible to all visitors.



**West Boldon Lodge, Newcastle Road, Boldon
South Tyneside NE36 0BG**

Tel: 0191 536 4873

Email: westboldonlodge@groundwork.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westboldonlodge

Website: www.westboldonlodge.co.uk

Where to find us:

Based just off Testo Roundabout - the junction of the A19 and A184. From Testos roundabout, head East along Newcastle Road A184. After 300m, go all the way around the roundabout, taking the slip road immediately on the exit (A184W) into the West Boldon Sub Station. For a map see www.tiny.cc/findwbl



Curriculum Programmes

We offer a range of programmes that align to the National Curriculum and topics commonly covered by schools. They focus on using our site, centre and staff expertise to provide classes with knowledge and hands on experience that can be built on in school, or used to reinforce classroom based learning.

The topics are outlined over the next few pages, but if there is something else you think we could support you with, please get in touch.

Cost: £115 for 2hrs, £190 for full day for up to 30 children

Location: West Boldon Lodge, local parks or most school grounds.

LIFE CYCLES

Suitable for: EY, KS1, KS2

Your class will:

- Learn about life cycles through games, stories and outdoor exploration.
- Make a life cycle craft.
- Give examples of animal and plant life cycles.
- Discover real life examples of different life stages in our ponds, woods and meadows.
- Discuss the importance of looking after our natural world and the creatures that live there.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Suitable for: KS1, KS2

Your class will:

- Learn about waste management through games and team activities and crafts.
- Explore what can be recycled through discussion and demonstration.
- Understand the economic, social and environmental benefits of recycling.
- Demonstrate re-use of waste materials.
- Devise a waste reduction plan for the school (full day only).

ENERGY, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Suitable for: KS2

Your class will:

- Think critically about electricity generation and differentiate between renewable and non-renewable.
- Make and race a solar powered car.
- Look at practical ways of reducing energy consumption at home and at school.
- Examine their own energy consumption and relate this to global environmental challenges.
- Discuss climate change and its effect on the environment.
- Investigate how to stay safe around electricity.

OUTDOOR LIVING AND FIRE

Suitable for: EY, KS1, KS2

Your class will:

- Learn about traditional living and people's long-standing connection with nature.
- Demonstrate traditional shelter building techniques.
- Discuss the dangers and benefits of fire.
- Describe how to be safe around fire.
- Explain how humans have used natural resources to survive in the past.
- Demonstrate safe use of a range of tools (full day only).

PLANTS

Suitable for: KS1, KS2

Your class will:

- Explore their surroundings to learn about different plants
- Outline the life cycle of a plant.
- Identify the conditions a seed needs to enable it to grow and plant a seed.
- Investigate the different parts of a plant and their purposes.
- Discuss human uses of a range of plants.



MINIBEASTS, HABITATS AND CLASSIFICATION

Suitable for: EY, KS1, KS2

Your class will:

- Explore the wonderful world of minibeasts and the habitats they live in.
- Hunt for minibeasts in our woodland, ponds, and meadow.
- Understand similarities and differences between minibeasts.
- Discuss the minibeasts found and why they choose to live in specific locations (KS1 + KS2 only).
- Classify minibeasts into different groups (KS1 + KS2 only).
- Identify minibeasts from the same family that have adapted to live in different habitats (KS2 only).
- Discuss the importance of looking after our natural world and the creatures that live there.

SEASONS

Suitable for: EY, KS1

Your class will:

- Understand that weather, wildlife activity, plants and flowers all vary throughout the year as the seasons change.
- Identify our 5 senses and use them to explore the current season in different ways.
- Discover signs in nature that the seasons are changing.
- Complete natural craft activities.

Enrichment Programmes

The team at West Boldon Lodge firmly believe in a holistic approach to education and that challenging and immersive experiences in our youth stay with us and inspire us throughout our lives. We offer a range of unforgettable encounters that develop resilience, self-confidence and social skills to compliment the formal curriculum structure.

All our enrichment activities will be tailored to the needs of your group and our staff will discuss programme content with you at the time of booking.

EASTER

Suitable for: EY, KS1

Location: West Boldon Lodge, local green space, or most school grounds

Price: £125 for 2 hours for up to 30 children

Your class will:

- Make a range of Easter crafts and learn about Easter traditions.
- Hunt for an Easter egg that has been left for them by Easter bunny.
- Discover signs of spring and new life that we celebrate at Easter.

SANTA'S WINTER WOODLAND

Suitable for: EY, KS1

Location: West Boldon Lodge

Price: £225 for 2 hours for up to 30 children

Your class will:

- Enjoy a magical experience with Santa's top elves and help them get ready for Christmas.
- Train as Elf Helpers, learning skills like toy making, sleigh packing, and how to spread Christmas cheer.
- Visit Santa who will read a story, speak with each child individually, and give present to all children on his nice list.

BUSHCRAFT

Suitable for: EY, KS1, KS2

Location: West Boldon Lodge, local green space, or most school grounds

Price: £115 for 2 hours or £190 for full day for up to 30 children

Your class will:

- Demonstrate team working skills to build a woodland den using natural materials.
- Use communication and collaboration to complete team challenges.
- Learn how to safely use a range of outdoor tools.
- Discuss fire safety and enjoy cooking over and open campfire.

FOREST SCHOOL AND BEACH SCHOOL

The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of all ages through positive experiences and participation in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks. The focus is as much on personal, social and emotional development as on traditional knowledge gained.

We have been delivering Forest School programmes at West Boldon Lodge since 2004 and our staff are Level 3 Forest School Programme Leadership certified. We recognised that the outcomes can be achieved in other natural environments and so are offering Beach School programmes from spring 2015 to make use of our spectacular North-East coastline.

Suitable for: All ages (Pre-school, Early Years, KS1, KS2, Youth, Adults, and Families). Generally groups are limited to 15 people to allow for personalisation and differentiation.

Duration: Forest School and Beach School are long-term approaches to teaching and learning. We recommend a minimum of 5 sessions. These can be consecutive weeks or split over the course of a year. However, taster days are also available.

Location: Forest School programmes can be run at West Boldon Lodge, in local green spaces, and in certain school grounds. Beach School can be delivered at your local beach.

Cost: Price on enquiry

Participants will:

- Undertake a range of outdoor activities that can include den building, campfire cooking, natural art, storytelling, sensory exploration, orienteering, music making, Bushcraft skills, nature hunts, muddy play & much more.
- Be supported to develop a connection and respect for the natural world and overcome barriers to learning and the fulfilment of potential.
- Improve communication, team work, and problem solving skills.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

Outdoor education isn't just for young children. Time spent outdoors is well documented to help young people become active citizens, effective communicators and strong team members. We offer a range of one-off activities and long-term programmes that will engage and inspire the next generation.

Suitable for: Young people aged 12 - 24. Activities could be tailored to suit those struggling with conventional classroom based education, as a reward for high achieving students, or as an extra project for a youth group.

Cost: Price on enquiry

- **YOUTH FOREST SCHOOL:** Helping the social, personal and emotional development of young people through engaging woodland activities. We work with small groups to ensure maximum benefit and personalisation for those taking part.

- **JOHN MUIR AWARD:** Pupils can gain nationally recognised certification by discovering, exploring and conserving a local nature space, then sharing their achievements and findings with others. A structured programme over a number of weeks.

- **VOLUNTEERING:** We can arrange or accommodate groups of young people contributing something to their local community through either practical conservation volunteering or community involvement.
- **ACCREDITED TRAINING:** Young people can gain an accredited qualification in things such as team work and communication, leadership, and community action. This is gained through a mix of practical demonstration and completion of an evidence portfolio.





School Support

There is a wealth of experience within Groundwork that your school can draw upon to make practical improvements, gain knowledge and skills, and even access funding to make outdoor education accessible to your school community.



SCHOOL GROUNDS SUPPORT

Having engaging and useable school grounds can transform a school's ability to provide meaningful outdoor education. Groundwork can help you in a number of ways. We have helped schools to develop allotments and orchards, Forest School areas, engaging play areas, and sensory gardens.

We can help you see an idea from start to finish including generating ideas for design, cost estimates, applying for funding to assist with the project, practical implementation, and use of your new area. We pride ourselves on creating a valued resource by involving the whole school and the wider community in the process.

This might be through involving pupils in the design or incorporating a Family Learning course into the practical work to compliment the work our professional landscaping team will carry out.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

Family Learning is a wonderful way of engaging parents in their children's learning and wider school activity. Through Groundwork's contract with South Tyneside Council, we are able to offer South Tyneside schools a number of Family or Adult Learning courses completely free.

We work with families of your choosing over 5-10 weeks to provide the parents with new skills whilst fostering a positive relationship between parent and child. We then support the parents into further education, training or employment.

Our courses include:

- **Seasonal stories and crafts**
- **Fun with science**
- **Family gardening**



STAFF TRAINING AND CPD

West Boldon Lodge offers a range of training and professional development days for teaching staff and child-minders. Our development days give an excellent insight into how to use outdoor education to its full potential and equip you with inspiring ideas, confidence, and resources to use with your class.

We offer the following courses but can tailor training courses to particular requirements:

- **Creative Outdoor and Environmental Learning**
- **Forest School Taster Days**
- **Team Days**
- **Improving Your School Grounds**

Sessions are relaxing and informative and a great way of expanding your knowledge and skills while having fun.

Our courses are run by experts in their field who have a commitment to teaching and learning in a holistic way.

The above can be run as full days or twilight sessions and can take place at West Boldon Lodge or in school. Please contact us to discuss specific requests and cost.



**West Boldon Lodge, Newcastle Road,
Boldon, South Tyneside, NE36 0BG**

Tel: 0191 536 4873

Email: westboldonlodge@groundwork.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westboldonlodge

Website: www.westboldonlodge.co.uk

nationalgrid

West Boldon Lodge
Education Business Communities

