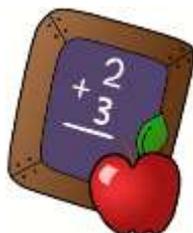




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EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM E-BULLETIN

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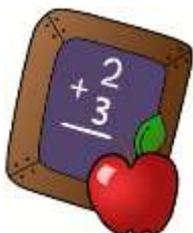
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Education for Sustainable Development Forum** which provides information on activities in the environmental education and education for sustainable development sectors in Northern Ireland. Below you will find a variety of useful information, including ESD Forum and member's news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and any job vacancies in the sector.

The Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Forum attempts to raise awareness of environmental education and education for sustainable development issues in the formal and non-formal education sectors through the provision of services such as the production of resources, initial and in service teacher training, member meetings and training and organising member and public conferences.

Iona Meyer
ESD Forum Administrator

NEWS FROM THE ESD FORUM

1. ESD FORUM UPDATE

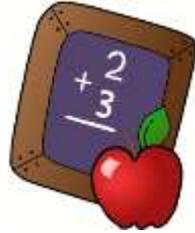
I'm sure now that the school term has ended you are all ready for a well-earned rest. It has certainly been a challenging year for us all. Whatever you are doing over the summer enjoy the break and stay safe.

You will have received your invoice for membership from our Finance Manager should you have any difficulty with this please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you need to contact me please use my email iona@nienvironmentlink.org and I will get back to you as I am currently working from home. If you have any information you would like promoted through the E-bulletin please send it to me by the end of the month, and if you want anything (news, upcoming events, etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me. It is a good opportunity to get your information out to a wide audience at no charge to you or your organisation.



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JULY 2021



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. SUMMER SCHEME OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS



It's a 'Shore Thing'!
Marine themed workshop with Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator, at a coastline near you (also adaptable to school grounds).

Suitable for Foundation, KS1 & KS2
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. £3.50 per child plus travel
Bookings & enquiries: liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07807172893 or 028 30851595

Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator is currently delivering outdoor summer themed workshops to Foundation, KS1, and KS2 pupils to support EA funded summer schemes in school grounds or a wild place near you. Themes can include Gruffalo Trails 'Minibeasts', 'Pond dipping', 'Bird Murder Mystery', 'Teddy Bears Picnics', Exploring woodlands, Marine etc.

All workshops have been tried and tested and are risk assessed to include Covid-19 control measures.

Check out the link below to Liz's free video resource aimed at 8-11 yr olds: 'Bird Murder Mystery' which highlights biodiversity & food chains in our gardens and how humans can affect them. It can be replicated as a fun interactive workshop in school grounds.

<https://youtu.be/uxVkkgpnY1M>



You can also book an outdoor classroom workshop for the new autumn term. To book, for more details on price, content and curriculum links or to discuss social distancing guidelines please contact liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk or Tel. 028 3085 1595

Find on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Liz-Farnan-Environmental-Educator-1674793462617924>

2. LOCAL SCHOOLS CHOOSE ACTIVE TRAVEL TO CUT CAR CONGESTION (VIA ECO-SCHOOLS)



Year 9 Staff and Pupils from Ulidia Integrated College celebrate winning the Post Primary category of the Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge which encourages local schools to make 'smart moves' by choosing sustainable transport modes to cut down car congestion, protect the environment and boost pupil health and wellbeing. (Image via Translink)

Translink and Eco-Schools – the international environmental education programme – teamed up again this year to deliver one of the most popular school travel challenges across Northern Ireland. Despite the difficulties of COVID-19 teachers, pupils, staff and parents committed to take part in the annual eco travel initiative, which has marked the completion of another successful programme with the announcement of its winning schools and pupils

The Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge promotes walking, cycling, bus and train travel for the school run instead of car use. Since its launch, pupils, school members, and parents, have made over 340,000 sustainable journeys using 'smart moves' active travel modes in an effort to cut car congestion at the school gates, protect the environment and boost their health and wellbeing. The travel challenge incorporates curriculum-linked classroom resources and encourages schools to develop sustainable travel plans for at least 2 weeks in order to achieve the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

The winners for 2020-21 are:



- Most Eco–Journeys – Post Primary – Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus Prize £300
- Most Improved Class – Primary – Primary 5 at St Colum’s Primary School, Portstewart Prize £300
- Best Pupil & Transport Hero – Primary 5 Mary Kate from St Colum’s Primary School, Portstewart Prize £50 book token

Translink Health & Safety Manager John Thompson said: “We’re delighted that so many eco journeys were logged during this year’s challenge, despite the disruptions of Covid. As part of our efforts to create a greener world, Translink has launched a Climate Positive Strategy including ambitious targets to achieve Net Zero Emissions across the business by 2040, and active travel is such an important element in achieving this. Congratulations to the winning schools and pupils – it’s fantastic to see pupils, teachers and parents so involved and committed to playing a role in protecting our planet.”

Charlene McKeown, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, said: “We really enjoy working on this great project with Translink and even in our education’s most difficult year to date schools in Northern Ireland still took the time and prioritised sustainable travel and took part in the challenge. It is really encouraging and promising for us to see so many take part in what was a challenging year for many. We hope to see the programme success continue to grow in the future all while having fun and looking after our health and our environment.”

Sandra Patterson, Ulidia Integrated College, said “Congratulations to Y9 Ulidians who have shown that even in a pandemic they can achieve great things. Ulidia Integrated College is very proud of the effort shown by Y9 during the challenge and congratulate the participants on displaying determination and resilience to make a positive environmental impact.”



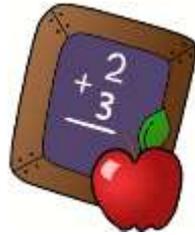
Linda Mullholland, St Colum’s Primary School, said “Taking part in the Translink Travel Challenge this year was a little different with Covid restrictions and we were unable to run our usual ‘Walking Buses’ to school each morning but our pupils and parents rose to the challenge and they walked, cycled and scooted to school... even without ‘the bus’. There was great competition between our classes and we are enormously proud of the efforts of all our pupils, parents and staff. We are thrilled that our Primary 5 class have won an overall prize for our school. We are delighted that Mary Kate has won Best Pupil award. She is an excellent example who travels

sustainably to school – not just on ‘Walking to School’ days but almost every day! Rain or shine, she is such an inspiration for her peers and an amazing example to everyone in our school. A real sustainable transport hero!”

For further information click www.translink.co.uk/ecoschools. Registrations for Translink Eco–Schools Travel Challenge 2021–22 open in September. For further information email Eco–Schools at: eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org



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3. 1.3M PIECES OF LITTER DROPPED AT ANY ONE TIME - TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME, URGES WALK NI



It's a hot topic anytime of the year, but even more so now as we see discarded litter at our favourite beauty spots continue to increase. It may seem obvious to take litter home when enjoying the outdoors, but many don't. 'The Right Side of Outside' is a nationwide campaign rolled out by Walk NI that wants to reiterate the importance of taking your litter home, as leaving it behind is having a lasting damaging impact on our wildlife, countryside and oceans; plus, binning it isn't always a solution at overcrowded sites.

From plastic bottles, single use coffee cups and cigarette butts, to crisps packets and disposable BBQs, these are just some of the alarming things people leave behind. Walk NI's

nationwide campaign has been launched to try and ease some of the issues our outdoors is suffering from, due to the sheer volume of people visiting since the start of the pandemic. The message is simple – take your litter home.

Stark figures from environmental charity, 'Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful' reveal that a staggering 1.3million pieces of litter are on our streets at any one time, with an annual clean-up bill of £45 million. However, litter is not only a problem on our streets; disregarding rubbish has a devastating impact on marine life. Research conducted at 12 beaches around our coast in 2019, revealed that there was an average of 508 items of litter per 100 metres. These items included single use plastics and fishing gear. A disregarded plastic bottle can be pushed by wind and tides far from where it enters the sea, therefore it not only impacts sea life, but those who have to pick it up when it is washed ashore. Startlingly, for one single plastic bottle to decompose, it can take up to 450 years.



Dave Scott, Estate and Project Manager for Woodland Trust Northern Ireland said: "The Woodland Trust looks after over 50 sites across Northern Ireland and our woodlands are free for everyone to visit and enjoy. As we approach summer and the days get longer, we hope everyone will continue to visit our sites and enjoy more time outdoors. Woodlands, in particular ancient woodlands, are a fragile habitat and extremely rare in Northern Ireland, so we ask you to respect the local environment you are visiting, stick to the paths we have created for you and put your litter in the bin or simply bring it home."

Over the past few weeks, Walk NI has seen an increase in voluntary groups coming together to recover rubbish at local landmarks. Recently, volunteers gathered at Carrick Café at Annalong Wood, in a bid to improve the



environment right on their doorstep. During this clean up, several bags of rubbish were recovered, containing items that were left unnecessarily in the mountains.

From bringing home your litter and dog waste, planning ahead, parking responsibly, being mindful of wildlife, wearing appropriate clothing and footwear, keeping your dog away from livestock and avoid lighting wildfires; 'The Right Side of Outside' campaign will continue to roll out its messaging over the coming weeks and focuses on informing people on how to make the right choices outdoors.

For more information on the campaign visit WalkNI.com or search #RightSideofOutside.

4. 'THE RIVER' CATCHMENTCARE EDUCATION PROGRAMME GOES ON-LINE

One of the successes of CatchmentCARE project has been the schools' engagement work being delivered by educators from the River Backwater Catchment Trust.

In 2020 plans were set in place to build on the success of the 2019 pilot education programme and encourage the 8 schools that participated in the pilot programme to incorporate elements into the core school curriculum through a series of teacher training events and curriculum planning activities.

There were also plans to engage with 6 new schools who would avail of the pilot programme, receiving in-school visits and visits to local rivers. The programme should have started in February 2020 but because of Covid 19 the programme has been postponed until schools begin to allow visitors back into the classroom and run off site schools' trips.

Rather than mothball the work however, the CatchmentCARE education team have been busy developing a series of online education programmes for use by schools and teachers across the 3 catchments. **"The River"**

is a fun and informative look at rivers and is packed with activities, crafts, interviews and experiments to help young people understand more about their local rivers. There are five episodes in the series, each accompanied by a teacher's pack and teacher notes. The programmes are linked to the NI curriculum at KS2 (P5 – P7) and the ROI curriculum (Classes 3, 4 and 5).

There are 5 episodes in the current series –

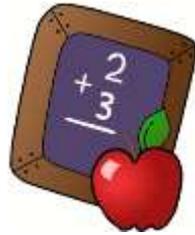
- Episode one: **"The River- where it all begins"**.
- Episode two: **"How to build a river"**
- Episode three: **"Creatures of the river"**
- Episode four: **"The magic moving river"**
- Episode five: **"All my fault"**

The advert introducing the programmes can be viewed at the following link:





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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgLntTEUYsk&feature=youtu.be>

If you would like the links to all 5 episodes, please contact andrew.Griggs@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

5. COULD YOU PAINT FOR NATURE, CROCHET FOR CLIMATE OR SCULPT FOR SUSTAINABILITY?

RSPB NI is working hard to raise awareness and find solutions to the nature and climate emergency both here in Northern Ireland and across the globe. Throughout history, big changes have been made by small groups of passionate people making their voices heard for a cause they believe in and the nature and climate emergency is the defining issue of our time.

If you believe in this too, help us to Revive Our World by sharing your vision of a better Northern Ireland, free from the threat of nature loss and climate change.

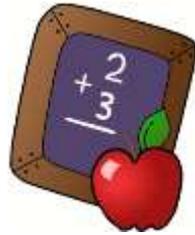
The Artist of the Year competition is encouraging everyone - from beginners to budding artists - to **illustrate a nature-rich and climate-safe future for Northern Ireland.**

For more information and to find out how to enter visit: <https://bit.ly/RSPBNIArtistOfTheYear>





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6. NATURE NURTURES CHILDRENS WORKSHOPS BY ULSTER WILDLIFE

Ulster Wildlife are running wildlife workshops on Nature Nurtures Children. To access the flyer, click on the link. [Here](#)

7. ECO-SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Follow the link to find out all the updates from Eco Schools [Here](#)

8. SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES FROM THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

The Education Authority has just launched a series of new funding opportunities to facilitate programmes and camps in the upcoming summer period for Young People including:

- Access for All
- Summer Jam
- Summer Boost
- Camp Equipment Grants

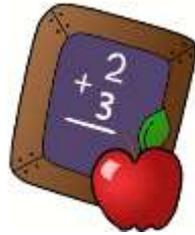
For further information, visit <http://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/>



Picture from EA Website



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9. UPDATE FROM WEE CRITTERS



Wee Critter's is a fully mobile and professional interactive animal education service which operates throughout Northern Ireland. Our mission is to provide a unique, fun, memorable and educational experience which will inspire a commitment to the protection and conservation of animals and the natural environment within the local community.

Learning in the Great Outdoors

We are currently delivering our interactive animal education sessions in a safe and fun way! Let our intrepid explorer take your class on an interactive adventure in an outdoor space at your school.

From the curiously cute to the creepy and crawlly, when you book a Wee Critters session a carefully selected team of animal ambassadors will come along to your class. Wee Critters offer a range of curriculum-based topics to suit all age groups and abilities including the world around us, rainforests, nocturnal animals, mini-beasts, animal diets and food chains, classification and many more!



You can find out more and download Wee Critters' school programmes leaflet at www.weecritters.org.uk/schools, email hello@weecritters.org or call 079 1278 5047.

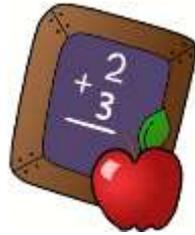


All Wee Critters sessions are covered by a full risk assessment. We have comprehensive covid-19 procedures and full public liability insurance.

Our diary for the 2021 / 2022 academic year is now open. Book today...a wild time awaits!



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Working Together For Wildlife

At Wee Critters we believe that environmental education must be a collaborative effort, both here in our wee country and on a global scale. We are proud members of the Education for Sustainable Development Forum and we have recently become an eco-schools partner!



Wee Critters will work with Eco-schools to help spread their important messages about sustainability, recycling, climate action and much more! Allan the explorer will also be trained to assess schools applying for their green flag awards and is very excited to see all the amazing work that schools are doing across our wee country.



Allan the Explorer's Koala-fications



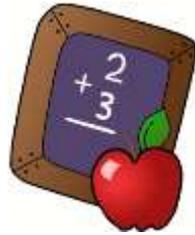
- 15-year career in zoology and conservation
- Diploma in zoo animal management (*Sparsholt College*)
- Member of International Zoo Educators Forum
- Eco-schools partner
- Child Protection Training (*level 2*)
- Autism Awareness Training (*Autism NI*)
- Understanding the Autism Spectrum (*Queens University*)
- Sensory Steps Training ASD Processing and Sensory Equipment Training
- Disability Awareness Training
- Covid-19 Awareness Training
- Fully Access NI checked
- Fully licensed by DAERA
- Comprehensive risk assessments and public liability

Wee Critter's Contact Details

Phone - 079 1278 5047
 Email - hello@weecritters.org
 Website - www.weecritters.org
 Facebook - www.facebook.com/weecrittersni
 Twitter - www.twitter.com/weecrittersni
 Instagram - [@weecrittersni](https://www.instagram.com/weecrittersni)



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10. GROWING FOR THE FUTURE - JULY

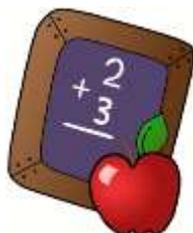
Visit the Growing for the Future resource on www.ccea.org.uk/growing and get ideas to manage your garden. Remember the schools are on holiday and if you have a school garden to keep a check on it too.

CCEA has developed a web resource, in partnership with Tourism NI, to encourage children to grow fruit and vegetables, explore where food comes from and to promote healthy eating.

Teachers can access curriculum-linked resource sheets for Key Stages 1 and 2 divided into the calendar year, with monthly overviews and guidance to growing the fruits and vegetables that are in season. These resources



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can support many of the Ten Topics of the Eco-Schools Green Flag journey, such as Biodiversity, Energy and Healthy Living.

Let us know how you get on with any of these activities by sharing on CCEA's social media or email Melanie Mulligan, Education Manager on mmulligan@ccea.org.uk.

11. ADOPT A SPOT

Applications are now open

We have reopened applications for Adopt A Spot through our new app! The Live Here Love Here app is available to download on the play and app stores for iOS and Android devices by searching Live Here Love Here.

You can also access it online by going to <https://liveherelovehere.app> or by clicking the button below.

[Apply to Adopt A Spot here](https://liveherelovehere.app)

PLEASE NOTE you will be on a waiting list until July and we will be in touch to arrange collection/delivery of your kit.

Is there an area near you that could use a bit of TLC? Could you commit to carrying out just four clean ups a year? Then get involved in our Adopt A Spot programme!

Adopt a Spot is a scheme that enables volunteers across Northern Ireland to adopt an area and look after it.

Adopters can be anyone, from families, community or youth groups, schools and sporting associations. Live Here Love Here will provide groups with an adoption pack containing all the equipment you need, including a hints and tips booklet on how to run a successful clean up.

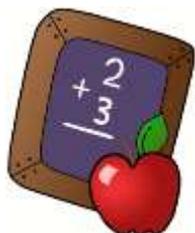
The guys at Mid Ulster Walking Club take their litter pickers out with them on all of their walks across Northern Ireland - mostly the Mourne Mountains! Your spot can be as big or as small as you want it to be, it can even be the street you live on! It could be a mile of beach that always seems to be full of litter, an urban park, your local forest.... anywhere is possible!

The Adopt A Spot Kit

When you register for Adopt A Spot you'll get a maximum of 5 litter pickers, 5 high vis vests, 5 pairs of gloves, bin bags, First Aid Kit, bucket, sharps box, hints and tips booklet and a certificate. All we ask is that you record your clean ups on your profile and agree to carry out 4 clean ups a year for a minimum of 2 years.



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What's Next?

When you register for Adopt A Spot, we will approve your application. We'll then be in touch for you to book an appointment to collect the equipment from our office in Belfast. If it is not possible for you to get to Belfast, please let us know.

12. MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND UPDATED WALKING WITH WILDLIFE GUIDE

Click on the link below to get the latest Mountaineering Ireland Walking with Wildlife Guide.

[Mountaineering Ireland produce printable Walking with Wildlife guide](#)

You can also contact helen@mountaineering.ie if you are interested in receiving a batch of printed hard copies

RESOURCES

1. ULSTER WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Ulster Wildlife have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. [Here](#)

2. RSPB RESOURCES

RSPB have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. [Here](#)

3. MAGILLIGAN FIELD CENTRE RESOURCES

Magilligan Field Centre presents a new set of *free* outdoor learning activity resources for primary schools. What better time to plan for a term filled with outdoor learning opportunities, fresh air and adventures in your school grounds!

Follow the link below to find all the details and resource links.

[Here](#)

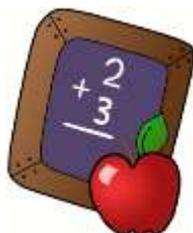


4. ECO SCHOOLS RESOURCES

Eco-Schools have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link: [Here](#)



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TRAINING & EVENTS

1. VARIOUS EVENTS

Some organisations are beginning to hold events now; those I know of are listed below. If you have, any events coming up in your own groups let me know and I can publicise them on the website.

www.eefni.org.uk/events/index

Check out Belfast Hills Partnership events on <https://belfasthills.org/events/>

National Trust NI Events which have to be pre booked on

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/location/1431734304954/whats-on>

FUNDING

1. BIG LOTTERY AWARDS FOR ALL NORTHERN IRELAND

What funding is available?

National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland

£300–£10,000

- Projects bringing local people together to make positive changes in their community.
- No deadline, so groups can apply any time.
- Applying is quick and simple.
- Applications welcome from constituted voluntary or community organisations, schools, and statutory bodies.
- If we funded you within the last two years, we may have to give priority to other groups that have not recently been funded through this programme.
- less
- For more information, click on the link below

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/northern-ireland>

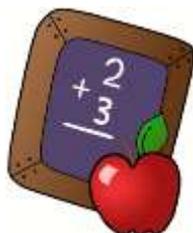
2. MARINE CAPITAL GRANTS

The Live Here Love Here Marine Litter Capital Grants are being provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs through the Live Here Love Here collaborative partnership, involving DAERA,

ten Local Councils, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. For more information click on the link [Here](#)



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OPPORTUNITIES

[Keep NI Beautiful: Live Here Love Here Community Project Officer](#) - Closing 15th July 2021

[The Conservation Volunteers: Senior Project Officer](#) - Closing 16th July 2021

[Belfast Hills Youth Ranger](#) – Closing 19th July 2021

[Holywell Trust: Casual Support Team](#) - Closing 21st July 2021

[Keep NI Beautiful: Assistant Grants Administrator](#) - Closing 22nd July 2021

[Woodland Trust: Community Development Officer \(Mourne Park\)](#) - Closing 25th July 2021

[Woodland Trust: Site Manager Northern Ireland](#) - Closing 1st August 2021

MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

JOIN US

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Most members are actively involved in environmental education and bring a wide range of expertise and enthusiasm to the forum. Membership to the ESD Forum is open to all individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Benefits of membership include:

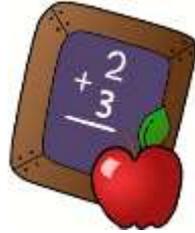
- Access to an established networking and information organization
- One conference per year organised on a range of related environmental education topics
- ESD Days run at all of Northern Ireland's University establishments
- E-mail updates on the Forums activities plus information, publications and events via the E-Bulletin
- Access to ESD Forum website
- Support and publicity for your work
- Sharing of ideas, expertise and experience

	Voluntary Organisation	Statutory Body
Any Organisation, either voluntary or statutory	£48	£48

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As part of your subscription, you will have free place at an ESD Forum conference each year. The E-Bulletin goes into many of the schools and is a good way to promote your work. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact.

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