



education for  
sustainable  
development  
forum



## Resource guide for teachers and group leaders

2019-2021

This document and further  
updates can be downloaded  
from the ESD Forum website

[eefni.org.uk](https://eefni.org.uk)



# Acknowledgements

Iona Meyer has prepared this document with information provided by members of the Education for Sustainable Development Forum (ESD Forum).



## Contact

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[www.esdforum.org.uk](http://www.esdforum.org.uk)





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# Foreward

This document has been developed by the Education for Sustainable Development Forum (ESD Forum) for In-Service Teachers, Student Teachers, Youth Group Leaders, Pre School Leaders and Environmental Organisations as a guide to those who can contribute to or provide Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Northern Ireland.

The booklet contains details of Forum members, the education programmes that they provide, and the links those programmes have to all levels of the Northern Ireland curriculum and youth service programmes. It also contains relevant contact details, e-mail and website addresses and resources available to download or order.

The guide will provide you, as a teacher or group leader, with tangible ways to facilitate the teaching of ESD through your work, whether in a school setting, in the outdoor classroom or as leader of youth group. It gives you details of how you and your school or group can become involved in environmental education work that will lead to your students becoming more aware of their world both locally and globally, engaged with it and inspired to take action to lead more sustainable lifestyles at school and at home.

Many statutory and voluntary organisations are involved in this area of work all over Ireland and this document will allow you to see at a glance the programmes run by these groups and where they fit into your area of study.





## education for sustainable development forum

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum (ESD Forum) is a networking organisation that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Members include representatives central and local government, the voluntary sector and educationalists. The formal education sector and the youth service are represented at several levels. Most members are actively involved in environmental education and bring a wide range of expertise and enthusiasm to the Forum.

The Forum was established in 1995 with the aim of enhancing the profile of environmental education in the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Through providing a forum and network for the exchange of information on environmental education, by encouraging co-operative working amongst those involved in its delivery and by promoting the role of environmental education in the formal and non-formal curriculum. The Forum plays an important role in enhancing environmental education and education for sustainable development provision in Northern Ireland.

The Forum organises a variety of activities for its members and the education sector including:

- Training days for members (where possible)
- Conferences (one per year)
- University ESD Days
- Supporting Youth Service
- Members website and monthly E-mail Bulletins



# Introduction

“Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD) is a phrase often thrown about staff rooms and meetings, but what does it mean? What is Sustainable Development, why should we be educating our children and young people on it, and where do we begin?

Education for sustainable development is about helping people to understand that, as humans continue to live on this planet, as we continue to multiply and expand across it, that there are economic, social, and environmental considerations that we all need to be aware of. This is about the big global issues of rising economies and climate change, for example, and also the much more constant, local issues and systems of our society here in each of our homes, villages and towns.

The current school curriculum in Northern Ireland places greater emphasis on ESD and in response to the issues mentioned above, asking pupils to:-

- Think globally act locally
- Cut down on waste and prevent pollution
- Save energy and natural resources
- Look after the local environment
- Encourage biodiversity and understand its importance to us.

This document therefore has been compiled by the ESD Forum for in-service teachers, student teachers, youth workers and group leaders, pre-school leaders, and environmental organisations as a guide to those who can contribute to or provide ESD.

The guide will provide you, as a teacher or group leader, with tangible ways to facilitate the teaching of ESD through your work, whether in a school setting, in the outdoor classroom or as leader of a youth group. It gives you details of how you and your school or group can become involved in environmental education work that will lead to your students becoming more aware of their world both local and globally, engaged with it and inspired to take action to lead more sustainable lifestyles at school and at home.

## **Andrew Griggs**

Chairman  
ESD Forum Management Committee







education for  
sustainable  
development  
forum



# Forum members

**EDSF: Resource guide for  
teachers and group leaders**



# Christian Aid Ireland



## Overview

Christian Aid Ireland is an international aid and development agency. We work across 37 countries to support poor and marginalised people. We work with people of all faiths and none, as well as with churches and other organisations, to promote sustainable development, strive for social justice and pursue our vision of a world without poverty. We do this by tackling both the causes and the symptoms of poverty so that everyone can achieve equality, dignity and freedom.

## Educational activities provided

We can provide speakers for assemblies or classes. We also have a range of school's resources, and simulation games available to download from our website at [www.christianaid.ie/schools](http://www.christianaid.ie/schools)

## Costs and Bookings

There is no cost and bookings can be made by contacting our Fundraising Support Officer, Vicky Flanagan on (028) 9064 8133 or [vflanagan@christian-aid.org](mailto:vflanagan@christian-aid.org)

## Curriculum Areas

Geography

## Key Stages

2 – 4

## Contact

Vicky Flanagan

## Address

Christian Aid Ireland  
Linden House  
Beechhill Business Park  
96 Beechill Road  
Belfast BT8 7QN

## Email

[vflanagan@christian-aid.org](mailto:vflanagan@christian-aid.org)

## Website

[www.christianaid.ie/schools](http://www.christianaid.ie/schools)





# Creggan Country Park



## Overview

Creggan Country Park Enterprises is a not-for-profit social firm established in February 1997, located on the 100-acre former Creggan Reservoirs site on the Northern boundary of Derry's Creggan estate. It aims to provide balanced opportunities in training, employment, recreation and education for the local community.

Creggan Country Park is host to the city's first and only inflatable assault course on water. Other activities include canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, team building, assault course, orienteering and the recently introduced environmental education programme 'Nature's Classroom.' Creggan Country Park works continuously to encourage environmental awareness through programmes of environmental education, planting and community clean-up programmes and a robust development programme incorporating renewable energy technologies which include a biomass boiler and hydro-electric scheme. The Creggan Country Park activity centre also features a turf roof, which is designed for energy efficiency.

'Nature's Classroom' is funded by the Department of Social Development and is available for schools and community groups free of charge all year round. Activities can take place on our 100-acre site. There are 13 educational themes to choose from including 'Power from the Planet or Renewable Energy Workshop', which gets pupils up close to renewable technologies. The Big Bug Hunt and Treemendous Tree Hunt are fantastic ways to get pupils up close to nature.

The Primary education programme links into the subject area 'The World Around Us' in the revised curriculum for NI. Our post primary themes are related to Learning for Life & Work—local and global citizenship, Geography and Science in the revised curriculum.

School visits are arranged on a first come first served basis. Activities available on site and require advanced booking.

## Curriculum Areas

Geography, Science & History

## Key Stages

1, 2, 3, GCSE, AS and A2

## Contact

Karen Healy

## Address

Creggan Country Park  
Westway  
Creggan  
Londonderry BT348 9NU

## Email

Karen.healy@  
creggancountrypark.com

## Website

creggancountrypark.com

## Facebook

www.facebook.com/  
creggan.countrypark.18



# Field Studies Council Ireland



## Overview

Field Studies Council, FSC, is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore, and understand the environment. The charity was established in 1943 and has a UK-wide network of centers.

## Courses and Facilities

Delivering high quality outdoor learning to schools, colleges, groups and individuals across the island of Ireland.

FSC Ireland are primarily located at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre, in the lowlands of the Mourne Mountains. This iconic setting boasts access to a wide variety of natural environments, as well as a state of the art residential, conference and classroom facilities..

## Curriculum Areas

Geography, & Biology  
(Field Studies)

## Key Stages

1, 2, 3, GCSE, A Level,  
plus 3rd level courses and  
leisure courses, PGCE/NQT  
fieldwork training

## Address

FSC Ireland  
Tollymore National  
Outdoor Centre  
32 Hilltown Road,  
Bryansford, County Down,  
Northern Ireland BT33 0PZ

## Tel

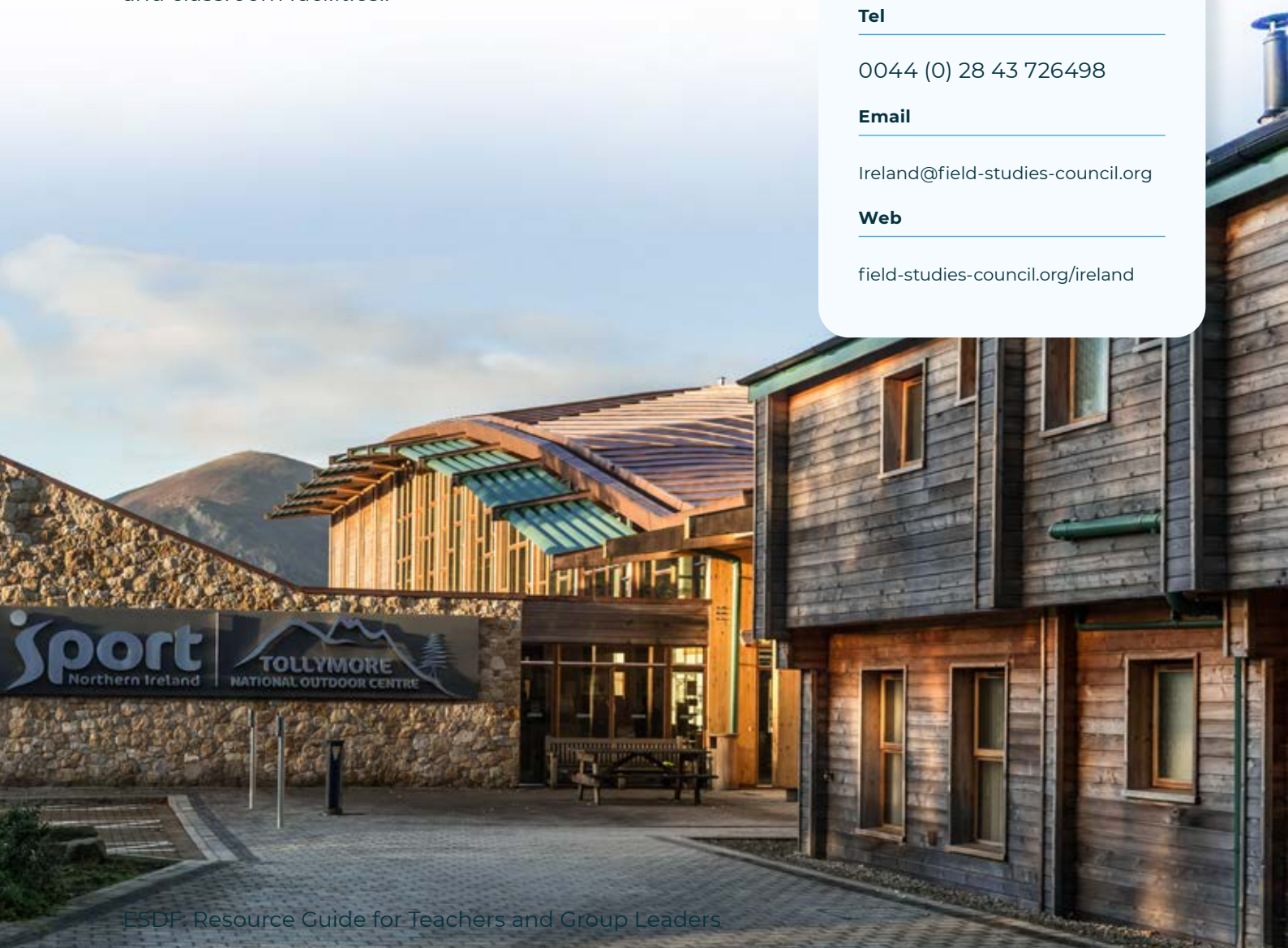
0044 (0) 28 43 726498

## Email

Ireland@field-studies-council.org

## Web

field-studies-council.org/ireland





# Lough Neagh Discovery Centre



## Who we are

The Lough Neagh Discovery Centre is a visitor centre situated within Oxford Island National Nature Reserve on the southern shore of Lough Neagh. Located just off the M1 motorway the centre and the nature reserve offer a variety of facilities for school children and members of the public to enjoy.

The Lough Neagh Discovery Centre is an ideal place to begin exploring the local natural environment. Facilities include a tourist information point, conference rooms and café. A purpose built education room is available for visiting school groups, which can be used for talks and activities and as a lunch room.

## Education Programmes

The Discovery Centre is home to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Conservation Service. The service runs a wide range of environmental education programmes, environmental events and activities designed to educate and inspire children and adults of all ages and abilities to become more aware of local biodiversity conservation, and the protection of local and global environments.

All are delivered by knowledgeable and experienced staff. Annually the team works with approx. 8,000 students from a range of different school, youth and community groups and through a variety of events.

Educational programmes are available to school groups from the nursery and primary sectors through to secondary schools and colleges of further education. Programmes are tailored to suit the needs of each individual group and the resources and habitats of Oxford Island National Nature Reserve offer excellent opportunities for field work and investigative studies.

## Curriculum Areas:

World around us, Environment and Society, Geography, and Science.

## Key Stages

Nursery and Foundation, Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 and youth sector groups.

## Contact

Lough Neagh  
Discovery Centre  
Oxford Island  
National Nature Reserve  
Annaloiste Road  
Craigavon BT66 6NJ

## Tel

028 3832 2205

## E-mail:

noreen.foster@  
armaghsanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

## Website

[www.oxfordisland.com](http://www.oxfordisland.com)

## Facebook

[www.facebook.com/  
oxfordislandnaturereserve](https://www.facebook.com/oxfordislandnaturereserve)



Evaluation and monitoring ensure a quality service is delivered and programmes are kept up to date with changes in the curriculum.

The Conservation Service gained the prestigious 'Learning outside the Classroom Quality Badge' for the third time in 2020, recognizing the high standard of the education and learning programmes delivered by the Education Team.

### Primary School Programmes

We run a variety of programmes and activities at Oxford Island for children of primary school age based on Woodland, Freshwater and Grassland habitats. Pupils can explore the plant and animal life associated with each habitat and how these areas are important to wildlife and people.

### Nursery and Foundation

A shorter programme has been specially developed for nursery and foundation years dedicated to encouraging the under 5's age group to learn and appreciate the world around them. Activities include woodland discovery walks, minibeast hunts, butterfly spotting, bird watching and arts and crafts.



### Post Primary Programmes

Programmes for secondary schools allow pupils to explore the habitats of Oxford Island and the ecosystem of Lough Neagh. These examine the communities of plants and animals found in the fresh water, woodland and grassland habitats and the impact of human activities upon them. Vegetation surveys allow the pupils to look at succession and changes in plant and animal communities using transect lines, quadrats pit-fall traps and other sampling techniques. The use of additional methods of recording and measuring biodiversity can be demonstrated in appropriate environments through the use of pooters, sweep-nets and pit-fall traps.

Outreach Programmes are available to schools on a variety of environmental topics including Garden birds, Minibeasts, Wildlife, habitats and biodiversity and Water. These programmes are all delivered in the classroom and are a great alternative to school trips especially during the winter months.

Growing your school grounds - This as a programme which has been designed to help schools make the most of their grounds. Staff from the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre can help teachers and pupils to develop pupil led projects which will enhance the environment and promote biodiversity.

- Setting up of raised beds and the growing of vegetables, flowers and herbs.
- Minibeast hotel
- Compost heaps
- Habitat creation and features to help wildlife.

Staff can help the children plan a series of projects for their school grounds and make a plan to tackle the work. The programme helps schools when they are setting out to achieve elements of their Green Flag award. (Most suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils)

The Education Team is also responsible for running a number of Events throughout the year to engage members of the public in biodiversity projects in an informal way.

To find out more about any of our programmes or for advice and information on a range of conservation and wildlife matters contact the Conservation Service based at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre.



# Magilligan Field Centre



Magilligan Field Centre is ideally located to provide stimulating learning experiences of the natural environment, with good access to one of the most varied and unspoilt parts of the coast of Northern Ireland. The immediate area falls within the Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and many of the study sites used are designated Areas of Special Scientific Interest or Nature Reserves.

It is an area of strong contrasts between upland environments with peat bog, streams and forests on the basalt escarpment and extensive sand dunes and mud flats on the coastal lowland. We are within comfortable driving distance of the North Antrim coast and the Sperrin Mountains. MFC is accessible by an hourly rail service on the main Belfast to Derry/Londonderry line.

## Early Years KS1 & 2

Investigating The World Around Us- MFC provides active learning opportunities to develop cross-curricular skills, thinking skills and personal capabilities and supports Primary Areas of Learning including STEM.

MFC offers appropriately structured investigations of a range of habitats in the local area- lake, stream, woodland and shore. All courses focus on active pupil participation and enjoyment. Activities include pond dipping, woodland minibeast hunts, beach studies, weather measurements, art work and ICT based follow up work.

As well as using the varied local environments, trips are also organised to Rathlin Island, the Giant's Causeway, Ballintoy Harbour and across the Foyle ferry to Greencastle, Co. Donegal.

## Curriculum Areas:

Geography, Science, STEM, The World Around Us, Literacy, Numeracy, Creative Arts, Thinking Skills

## Key Stages

1, 2,3, and 4, also post 16, Further and Higher Education

## Address

Magilligan Field Centre,  
375 Seacoast Road,  
Limavady, BT49 0LF

## Tel

028 7775 0234  
028 7775 0732

## Email

michael.cross@eani.org.uk  
natalie.mclucas@eani.org.uk

## Website

[www.welb-cass.org/mfc](http://www.welb-cass.org/mfc)

## Twitter

@FieldCentre

### KS 3 Statutory Curriculum-

Active learning opportunities developing personal capabilities cross-curricular and thinking skills. Landscape and Ecosystem studies of woodland, river, coast, sand dune and upland bog.

GCSE- Geography and Science- specification fieldwork support including River Studies, Rocky Shore Zonation, Urban Studies, Sand Dune Ecosystem, Land Use Studies, Woodland Ecosystem, Coastal Processes, Landforms and Management.

AS and A2 Geography and Science- specification and coursework related fieldwork support including ecosystem studies of upland bog, streams, hedgerows, sand dunes, woodland, river study, beach study, coastal landforms and management, urban study, sustainable tourism and pollution.

Adult- Specialist courses in plant and animal identification and environmental management.

**Health and Safety:** The safety of fieldwork participants is given paramount consideration in the running of the Field Centre. Experienced staff organise and accompany all fieldwork courses and are qualified in relevant areas for outdoor learning.

**Facilities:** MFC provides an extensive range of appropriate field work equipment and specialist outdoor protective clothing. In addition to three well equipped teaching classrooms the Centre has an ICT suite to facilitate follow up work.

Qualified teaching staff have a wide experience and knowledge of the local environment and are available to accompany all groups. Residential groups enjoy excellent catering, comfortable ensuite accommodation for visiting staff and 32 bunk beds for students.

A member of staff remains onsite overnight as a Duty Instructor. MFC aims to promote the understanding of sustainable living by exemplifying good practice.





# Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA)



The Northern Ireland Forest School Association was established in 2008. The sole aim is to develop and deliver sustainable environmental education projects across Northern Ireland. The Belfast Education & Library Board have endorsed the NIFSA Forest School programme - Dr. Gillian Humes, BELB Science Advisor said: "This is one of the few projects that truly integrates all elements of the revised curriculum. It incorporates aspects of history, geography and science, delivers an opportunity to develop thinking skills and personal capabilities, and has a strong emphasis on promoting numeracy and literacy. Even more importantly than this, the initiative connects children to their outdoor environment, stimulating curiosity and inspiring a love of the natural world that is likely to remain long after the end of primary school. Teachers participating in the project are well supported with expertise and resources, and enjoy the project as much as the children." NIFSA has developed the only Forest School qualification available in Northern Ireland, a range of specifically tailored lesson plans for use in an outdoor setting and lobby's Government and non-Government organisations in supporting Forest School Programmes. NIFSA, working in partnership with local Councils, the Public Health Agency, The Dufferin Foundation and others deliver The Forest School Awards Programme. A unique programme specifically designed to support school, youth organisations and families to get involved in Forest Schools. There are over 220 schools currently involved and this supports over 1,000 children learning outside every week in Northern Ireland.

## Curriculum Areas:

All

## Key Stages

1, 2, and 3

## Address

Brian Poots, CEO,  
Dendron Lodge,  
Clandeboy Estate,  
Bangor, County Down  
BT19 1RN

## Tel

077 9088 4522

## Email

brian.poots@gmail.com

## Website

[www.forestschoollawards.org](http://www.forestschoollawards.org)



## Why was it set up?

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Research nationally has highlighted the lack of opportunity and practical engagement children have with their natural environment. This has major consequences for the future of our natural landscape character as they will become the future custodians of this environment. It is also having immediate consequences with one in four children in Northern Ireland being classified as obese and a huge rise in mental illness in children and young adults.

## What is a Forest School?

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A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. By participating in simple achievable tasks and activities, on a regular basis in a woodland environment, each participant has an opportunity to develop intrinsic motivation, sound emotional and social skills and experience first-hand the landscape character of the local area. Forest Schools has demonstrated success with children of all ages who visit the same local woodlands on a regular basis and through play and discovery, have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Forest School programmes run throughout the year, going to the woods in all weathers (except for high winds). Children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated.

## Forest Schools will aim to develop:

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- Self Awareness
- Self-Regulation
- Intrinsic motivation
- Empathy
- Good social communication skills
- Independence
- A positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence

Forest School, through its application of Accelerated Learning techniques creates a unique learning vehicle that is used to encourage a range of individuals, community groups and larger organisations to utilise their local open space for interactive play, health, recreation and personal development uses.

## Benefits of being a NIFSA Member

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- NIFSA have created a community of over 220 Forest Schools in Northern Ireland over the last 12 years. Primarily, Primary and Nursery Schools. We have trained over a 100 Forest School Leaders and encouraged nearly 200 Forest School Families to get outside. We support over 1,000 children learning outside every week.
- By being a NIFSA Member –
- Opportunity for Forest School training. Many programmes are free and supported by your local Council. All of them lead to the nationally recognised Forest School Leader Level 3 qualification.
- Free pass for two to the Annual Conference in Autumn at Clandeboy Estate.
- Dedicated section in the Forest School Awards website to promote your own Forest School.
- Private area on website to record all your Forest School sessions.
- Ability to produce Eco-Schools or ETI Reports with bar charts and graphs.
- Ability to produce Nature Ranger Certificates for your pupils.
- Official Forest School plaque upon successful completion of Forest School Leader Level 3 qualification.
- Hundreds of lesson plans, book reviews, research papers etc. to support your Forest School journey.
- Discounts on major brands e.g. GoOutdoors.
- Discounted school and group visits to Clandeboy estate to experience Forest Schools.



# Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The RSPB believes that nature should be part of every child's life. A 'connection to nature' brings benefits to education, health, wellbeing and social skills. We're committed to getting the children of Northern Ireland closer to nature by supporting real-world learning experiences outside the classroom with resources and specialist equipment provided.

Trained educators will facilitate interactive, enquiry-based discovery of the natural world at our four sites in Northern Ireland: at Greenmount and Enniskillen College. In partnership with the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), at our nature reserves at Portmore Lough and Belfast's "Window on Wildlife" and through outreach visits in your outdoor space.

We have a selection of engaging, age-appropriate, curriculum-linked sessions which contribute towards the RSPB's "Wild Challenge Award" and support the Eco-Schools "Biodiversity" and "Outdoor Learning" topics. Sessions can be adapted to meet specific curricular needs or special areas of interest. As well as giving children and older young people an 'up-close' connection to nature, we want them to feel empowered to help to protect, enhance and celebrate nature and to understand the importance of their contribution to a sustainable world.

We support older young people designing their own conservation action plans which help them increase their knowledge and skills to protect our environment. Through standing beside us as allies in our advocacy campaigns or as leaders in their own right, we empower them to effectively voice their opinions about the future of our environment with different audiences including our policy makers.

Outdoor education and fieldwork - adequately planned and effectively followed-up - offers young people opportunities that add value to their everyday experiences.

For more information about our education programmes, or to make a booking enquiry, please email [joanne.cathcart@rspb.org.uk](mailto:joanne.cathcart@rspb.org.uk).

## Curriculum areas:

Geography, Science, World Around Us, Literacy, Citizenship, PSHE, Ideal for Shared Education and Eco-schools whole school "Eco-Action days"

## Key Stages

Pre-school, Foundation, KS1-4

## Contact

[joanne.cathcart@rspb.org.uk](mailto:joanne.cathcart@rspb.org.uk)

## Address:

RSPB Northern Ireland  
Headquarters  
Belvoir Park Forest BT7 8QT

## Website

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



# The Conservation Volunteers



The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is the leading practical conservation charity. Every day TCV works across the country to create healthier and happier communities for everyone - communities where our activities have a lasting impact on people's health, prospects and outdoor places.

Whether by conserving a well-loved outdoor space or bringing people together to promote social cohesion, our varied activities aim to improve wellbeing, combat loneliness or enhance employment prospects.

TCV - working together with our volunteers and communities to deliver practical solutions to the real life challenges they face.

The Conservation Volunteers provide local support for environmental projects from our local offices in Bangor, Belfast, Coleraine and Derry/Londonderry.

## Curriculum Areas:

Ecology, Biology, Art and Design, English, Geography, Maths, Personal Development & Mutual Understanding, The World Around Us, Citizenship, ESD

## Key Stages

Foundation 1, 2, 3, and 4

## Contact

See list of local offices

## Address

The Conservation Volunteers, Beech House,  
159 Ravenhill Road, Belfast,  
BT6 0BP

## Tel

028 9064 5169

## Website

[tcv.org.uk/northernireland](http://tcv.org.uk/northernireland)





## School Grounds Development Projects

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TCV can support work to improve school grounds anywhere in Northern Ireland from one of our local offices. Our aim is to involve pupils and teachers in the design, implementation, maintenance and use of school grounds projects. Teachers are encouraged to maximise opportunities to incorporate the Northern Ireland Curriculum into as many aspects of their school grounds as possible. We can help implement projects to create or improve ponds, trees, woodlands, wildflower meadows, hedges, paths and living willow structures. This work can involve children, teachers and parents, but we can also undertake work on our own, including jobs that might not be suitable for children to do. Costs are variable depending upon project size, duration and materials required.

## Food Growing Projects

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TCV has significant expertise in growing fruit and vegetables and supporting schools and communities across Northern Ireland in food growing projects. We can help with vegetable garden design and establishing the seasonal food growing cycle, whether you are working with window boxes or half an acre of land.

## Educational Workshops

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TCV can run educational workshops and events in subjects such as birdbox making, tree planting or growing trees from seed.

## Training Courses and Accredited Qualifications

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TCV runs a programme of one and two day training events in subjects like tree planting, dry stone walling and habitat creation. We are also a City & Guilds Centre for delivery of a range of vocational qualifications in horticulture and environment.

### For further information contact our nearest office:

#### Belfast Region, South Antrim and County Down and County Armagh

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Tel 028 9064 5169

E-mail: [H.Tomb@tcv.org.uk](mailto:H.Tomb@tcv.org.uk)  
or [k.holohan@tcv.org.uk](mailto:k.holohan@tcv.org.uk)

#### County Antrim & East Londonderry

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Tel 028 7035 5352

E-mail: [L.watson@tcv.org.uk](mailto:L.watson@tcv.org.uk)

#### Londonderry/Derry City & Counties Londonderry, Tyrone and Fermanagh

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Tel 028 7126 2664

E-mail: [S.healy@tcv.org.uk](mailto:S.healy@tcv.org.uk)

Training courses - Tel 028 9064 5169

E-mail: [R.shearman@tcv.org.uk](mailto:R.shearman@tcv.org.uk)





# The Eco-Schools Programme

The Eco-Schools programme provides an ideal way to foster environmental awareness in the entire school in a way that links many curriculum subjects. The programme is pupil lead, participatory and designed to educate and empower young people to make positive decisions and become change makers for an environmentally sustainable world.

Eco-Schools extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible attitudes and commitment, both at home and in the wider community. The programme runs in over 60 countries around the world and engages 18 million pupils, making it the world's largest environmental education programme.

Here in Northern Ireland, the Eco-Schools Programme is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, an environmental charity, and is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs and other organisations. Local councils and our network of delivery partners also offer invaluable practical support for the programme.

Schools structure their environmental work around a seven step process and progress towards the internationally recognised Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Schools can choose from ten different topics as they work towards their awards: Waste, Litter, Water, Transport, Biodiversity, Outdoor Learning, Energy, Healthy Living, Global Perspective and Climate Change.

## Curriculum Areas:

Language and Literacy,  
Mathematics and  
Numeracy, Personal  
Development  
The World Around Us,  
Environment and Society,  
Science and Technology

## Key Stages

Pre-School, Foundation, 1, 2,  
3 and 4

## Contact

Charlene McKeown,  
Eco-Schools Officer

## Address

Bridge House, 2 Paulett  
Avenue, Belfast, BT5 4HD

## Tel

028 9073 6920

## Email

eco-schools@  
keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

## Website

eco-schoolsni.org  
keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

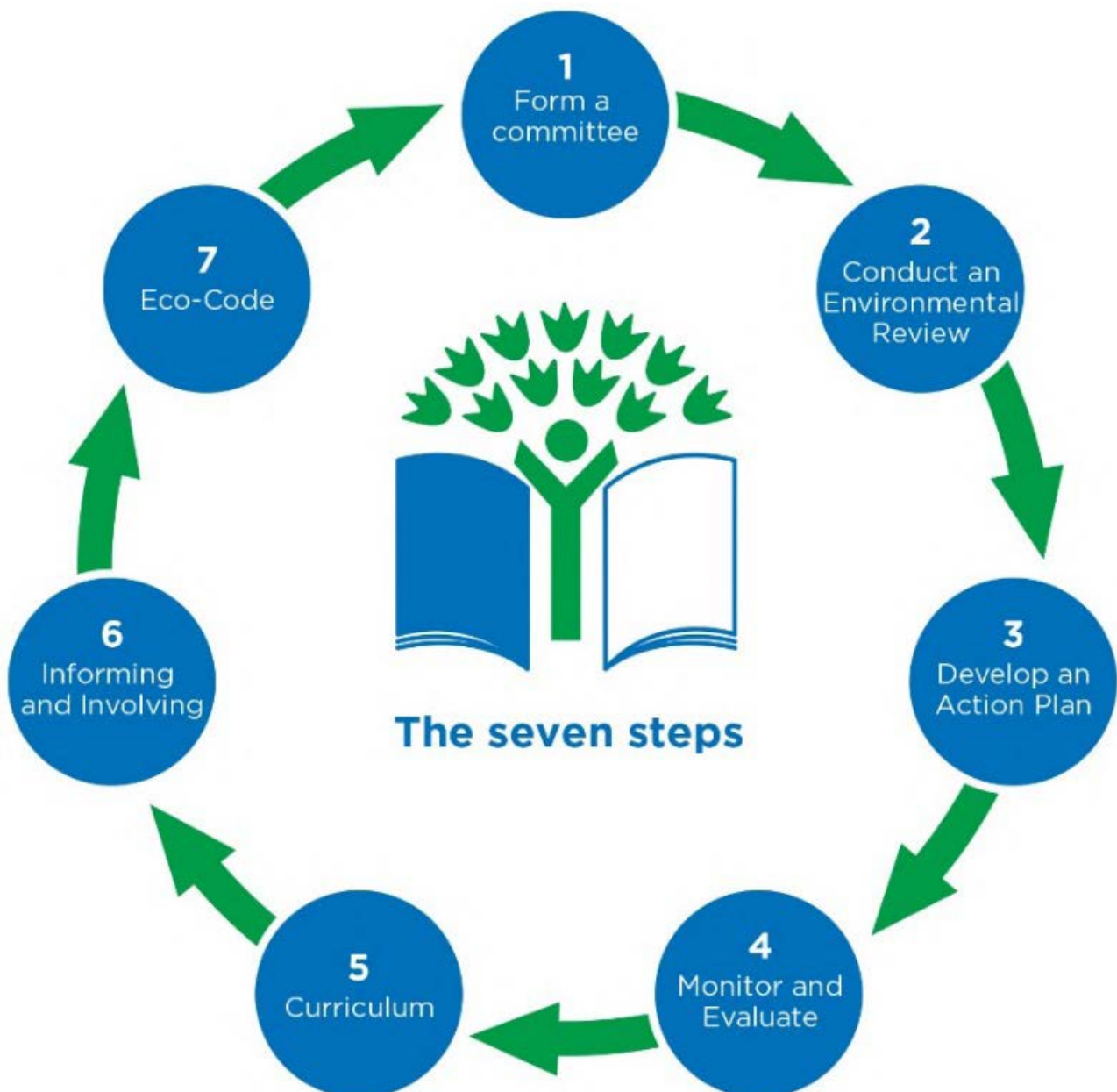




25% of schools in NI now have their Eco-Schools Green Flag award. In 2017 Eco-Schools awarded the 1000th Green Flag in NI. Eco-Schools is a long term environmental improvement and education programme and as such the Green Flag requires renewal every two years.

The Eco-Schools NI website [www.eco-schoolsni.org](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org) offers teachers a good range of resources to support their journey towards Green Flag. Eco-Schools run various projects throughout the year which schools can take part in focusing on particular topics. Our delivery partners can also provide support across a range of topics.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful run a range of environmental education programmes including - EcoCampus, Eco-Centres, and Young Reporters for the Environment. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is also a partner in the Live Here Love Here campaign which engages the public in environmental projects including the Big Spring Clean, Adopt a Spot, Clean Coasts and more – visit [www.liveherelovehere.org](http://www.liveherelovehere.org) for more information on how to take part.



# Ulster Wildlife Grassroots Challenge – Youth Action For Wildlife



Ulster Wildlife's 'Grassroots Challenge' project brings the great outdoors to life for young people, aged 11-24, through Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Special Schools across Northern Ireland.

This project is supported by the National Lottery Community Fund through the UK Our Bright Future initiative.

## **Action4Wildlife Awards – Open to all**

If your School or Youth Group is doing something to benefit Wildlife and the Environment then register this with Ulster Wildlife's Action4Wildlife Awards. This scheme gives recognition to children and young people for the time they spend helping the natural world. Participants get a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award based on the amount of time they spend on their eco activities.

They also get invited to the Annual Grassroots Challenge Celebration event and get to be nominated for special Best Activity and Environmental Leader Awards.

## **Grassroots Challenge Programmes for specific groups:**

### **Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster (YFCU)**

Individuals and groups/clubs from YFCU design, develop and deliver environmental projects within their own community with support from Project Officers. Projects can range in size and scope and can take place over one day or several months to a year.

Each participating club/group will have the opportunity to be assessed against key areas and work towards achieving an Eco-Club award. A one day LANTRA accredited training course called Conservation on the Farm is available as well as other countryside management training opportunities.





### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award/Joint Award Initiative (DofE)**

The Grassroots Challenge programme supports young people to complete the volunteering, skills, expedition or residential sections of their Award through activities that benefit wildlife and the environment.

Volunteering project grants of up to £300 are available. Volunteering placement opportunities, skills starter packs, wildlife expedition packs and training sessions plus a Gold level Wildlife and Outdoor Adventure Residential are all available.

### **Special Schools (Post primary age only)**

Our Project Officer delivers a series of nature and wildlife sessions to participating classes within their own school grounds with close liaison with teachers to ensure sessions are best suited to those taking part. Each participating class will then be

supported to design, develop and deliver a 'Wild Ideas' environmental project within their school grounds and/or local community.

Costs: Free to Young Farmers' Clubs, Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups and Special Schools.

Sessions can also be booked by other School and Youth groups, costs available on request.

To Book: For more detail, registration forms and contact information please visit:

<http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/grassroots>

Alternatively call Ulster Wildlife on 02890 454094 and ask to speak to a member of the Grassroots Challenge staff team or email with your enquiry to [info@ulsterwildlife.org](mailto:info@ulsterwildlife.org)

Address – Ulster Wildlife, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast BT3 9LE







# Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (Castle Espie) is a voluntary organisation that aims to conserve wetlands and their biodiversity. WWT is very keen to teach children the importance of the environment and tries to ensure 'lifelong learning' by offering fun, exciting activities that children enjoy and remember.

## Activities offered by educators

There are various activities offered by the educators including feeding the ducks, geese and swans, learning about migration, pond dipping, general biodiversity topics, wetlands habitats, and sustainability.

For details of our programme offers please visit [www.wwt.org.uk/learn/learn-at-castle-espie/](http://www.wwt.org.uk/learn/learn-at-castle-espie/)

## What subjects are covered?

The subjects covered include English, Maths, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Art and Design (The world around us) What Key Stages these activities are relevant to? We can cater for all Key Stages with programmes suited to all ages.

### Curriculum Areas:

Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, English, Geography, History, Maths and Science

### Key Stages

1, 2, 3 and 4

### Contact

John McCullough Learning Manager

### Address

WWT Castle Espie  
Ballydrain Road  
Comber BT23 6EA

### Tel

028 9187 4146

### Email

[john.mccullough@wwt.org.uk](mailto:john.mccullough@wwt.org.uk)

### Website

[www.learningzone.wwt.org.uk/our-wetland-centres/castle-espie](http://www.learningzone.wwt.org.uk/our-wetland-centres/castle-espie)





# The Woodland Trust



## Learning through the seasons

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. One of its key aims is to see more and more people enjoying trees and woods as part of their everyday lives. To support this, the Trust has developed a series of high quality educational resources and projects, created in partnership with teachers and tested by children.

The Woodland Trust's website has pages dedicated to teachers and offers a range of online and offline curriculum-linked activities for use both in the classroom and outdoors. Visit [treetoolsforschools.org.uk](http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk)

## Join the Green Tree Schools Award:

It's free and has loads of innovative projects and resources for your school. Gain points towards the coveted Gold award plaque as you participate in great environmental activities inspiring your pupils about woods and trees. Visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/schools](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/schools)

Free, fun, fresh Nature Detectives has downloads and activities to help kids discover nature, woods and trees. Great ideas for families, schools and youth groups – use them anywhere, any season, in any weather! Start your own adventure at [www.naturedetectives.org.uk](http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk)

Free trees for schools, youth groups and community groups: The Woodland Trust is giving away free packs of native trees to schools and community groups.

Choose between packs of 30, 105 or 420 saplings, depending on how much space you have to plant. There are different mixes of tree species to choose from too, including packs themed for autumn colour, wood fuel and wildlife.

Planting trees is the perfect way to help children and young people connect with and learn about nature. To find out more, head to [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees)

## Contact

The Woodland Trust,  
1 Dufferin Court,  
Dufferin Avenue,  
Bangor, County Down,  
BT20 3BX

## Telephone:

028 9127 5787

## Email

[wtni@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wtni@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

## Visit:

[woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk)







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# Useful contacts

EDSF: Resource guide for  
teachers and group leaders





## District Councils

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Belfast City Council
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- Derry City and Strabane District Council
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council - Enniskillen Office
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Mid Ulster District Council, - Dungannon
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



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# Education Authority

## Belfast Office

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40 Academy Street  
Belfast BT1 2NQ  
Tel 028 9056 4000  
Email [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk)  
[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## Armagh Office

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The Mall  
Armagh BT61 9XX  
Tel 028 3751 2200  
Email [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk)  
[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## Antrim Office

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County Hall  
182 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena BT42 1HN  
Tel 028 2565 3333  
Email [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk)  
[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## Dundonald Office

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Grahamsbridge Road  
Dundonald  
Belfast BT16 2HS  
Tel 028 9056 6200  
Email [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk)  
[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## Omagh Office

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Hospital Road  
Omagh BT79 0AW  
Tel 028 8241 1411  
Email [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk)  
[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)





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## Statutory Education Bodies

### **Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment**

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29 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG

Tel 028 9026 1200

Email [info@ccea.org.uk](mailto:info@ccea.org.uk)

[www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

### **Council for Catholic Maintained Schools**

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Linen Hill House  
Lisburn  
County Antrim BT28 1FJ

Tel 028 9201 3014

Email [info@ccmsschools.com](mailto:info@ccmsschools.com)

[www.onlineccms.com](http://www.onlineccms.com)

### **Department of Education**

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Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor BT19 7PR

Tel 028 9127 9279

E-mail: [DE.DEWebMail@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:DE.DEWebMail@education-ni.gov.uk)

[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

### **Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education**

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25 College Gardens  
Belfast BT9 6BS

Tel 028 9097 2919

E-mail: [info@nicie.org.uk](mailto:info@nicie.org.uk)

[www.nicie.org.uk](http://www.nicie.org.uk)



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# Universities

## **Queen's University Belfast**

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University Road  
Belfast BT7 1NN

Tel 028 9024 5133

E-mail: depends on faculty

[www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

## **Stranmillis University College**

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Stranmillis Road  
Belfast BT9 5DY

Tel 028 9038 1271

E-mail: depends on faculty

[www.stran.ac.uk](http://www.stran.ac.uk)

## **St Mary's University College**

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191 Falls Road  
Belfast BT12 6FE

Tel 028 9032 7678

E-mail: depends on faculty

[www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk](http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk)

## **University of Ulster, Coleraine**

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Cromore Road  
Coleraine BT52 1SA

Tel 08 700 400 700

E-mail: depends on faculty

[www.ulster.ac.uk/campus](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/campus)



## Notes



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# Resource guide for teachers and group leaders

2019-2021

This document and further  
updates can be downloaded  
from the Forum Website

**[new.eefni.org.uk](http://new.eefni.org.uk)**

If you would like to be included in  
the next edition, please contact

**[iona@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:iona@nienvironmentlink.org)**



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