



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Wilder Learning Development Officer Job Description

Role:	Wilder Learning Development Officer
Job purpose:	You will be working with schools to train primary school staff to feel confident and competent in undertaking outdoor learning in their own settings, supporting senior leaders to embed outdoor learning across school life and bringing together teaching staff to share ideas, support and skills across different schools.
Duration:	Three-year fixed term contract
Hours:	Full time (job share will be considered)
Salary:	c£26,000 per year
Reporting to:	Senior Wilder Schools Officer
Staff management:	None.
Other key relationships:	Engagement team leader, Engagement team members and Honorary Officer for Resources (trustee). Sessional tutors and school volunteers.

About us

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is the county's leading nature conservation charity working for nature's recovery. We own or manage over 75 nature reserves across 3,000 acres of Worcestershire. These amazing sites range from woodlands and meadows to heathlands and wetlands and are home to over 10,000 species. We also engage with communities to improve the understanding of the natural world and to inspire people to take action to improve spaces for wildlife where they live. Schools are an important part of this work and for over 30 years the Trust has run an education service at Lower Smite Farm, engaging

with between 2,000-3,000 primary school children each year. We also provide school outreach opportunities including assemblies and Wild Art workshops.

More information about our school offer can be found

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/schools

We aim to inspire, empower and engage people from all backgrounds, cultures, identities and abilities as well as cultivate inclusive workplaces. Find out more -

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wild-about-inclusion

We are one of 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK. To find out more about the Trust and its work, please see www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/

Background to the project

Research shows that learning in nature helps children's wellbeing, physical health and learning skills. Furthermore, we need to equip our young people with the knowledge and skills to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises. By 2030 we want one in four schools taking action for wildlife in Worcestershire. To do this we need children and staff to be connected to nature and confident to go outdoors. To achieve this, we are developing a natural learning journey to support staff and pupils grow a connection to nature and facilitate ways for schools to become more confident and skilled in delivering outdoor sessions where children learn in, about and for nature. The project will work with five schools in the first year as part of a pilot phase before increasing the numbers of schools involved based on test and learn and evaluation data.

The role will be focussing on developing generic and bespoke training to teaching staff and senior leaders as well as growing an outdoor learning network for schools to share ideas and support each other through their individual natural learning journeys.

Role specification

a) Deliver training programmes and tailored support

- Nurture staff confidence and competency through providing generic and tailored training / CPD focused on building foundational outdoor learning skills.
- Support subject and curriculum planning through offering subject-specific training days to help teachers integrate outdoor learning into their topics.
- Establish training programmes for school leadership to support outdoor learning integration.
- Ensure training events are planned and resourced and that all risk assessments are in place.

- Ensure records are kept of event attendance and that feedback on events is sought.

b) Curriculum integration and planning

- Create and make available resources that assist teachers in embedding outdoor learning into different subjects and daily lessons.
- Promote and support a whole-school approach to outdoor learning by working closely with senior leadership teams to integrate outdoor learning into school development plans.
- Highlight and share best practices from schools with successful outdoor learning cultures to inspire and guide other schools.

c) Brokering partnerships and networks

- Facilitate a range of networking opportunities for teachers to share expertise, resources and best practices through cohort-based meetings and forums.
- Establish and manage a mentorship program to support outdoor learning champions already in situ within schools. This may take the form of groups and/or one-to-one mentoring / guidance for staff working to support outdoor learning within their schools.
- Organise community days and workshops at Lower Smite Farm to bring together organisations supporting outdoor learning, facilitating skills sharing and networking.

d) Support project monitoring, evaluation and reporting

- Work with the Senior Wider Schools Officer to ensure the project monitoring and evaluation requirements are being met.
- Support the project reporting to the trustees and internally within the Trust, which will include providing project records including photos and video.

e) Support project communications and promotion

- Work with teaching staff to encourage them to share their stories through films (professional and via project team), examples online and through the networking events.

f) Contribute to the overall work of the Trust

- Attend and contribute to staff team meetings, trustee meetings and others as required.
- Assist with, attend and support Trust events, activities etc as required that are relevant to project objectives.
- To carry out all other such duties that may, from time to time, be determined by the line manager, Engagement Team Leader or Head of Resources.
- Deputise for Senior Wilder Schools Officer where appropriate.

g) Legal

- Manage work and project volunteers to ensure that all legal (including Health and Safety, safeguarding, risk assessments and data protection) and contractual obligations are fully met, working with other staff where appropriate.

Postholder specification

While we have set out expectations of the postholder below, please still apply, even if you feel that you don't meet all the requirements.

Area A Experience

- At least two years delivery of outdoor learning in an informal or formal education setting with evidence of delivery of sessions linked to the primary curriculum.
- Designing and delivering CPD, training or mentoring programmes.
- Creating supportive networks of like-minded people or subject leads to share skills, knowledge and resources.
- Delivering against agreed project plans, work plans and milestones.
- Supporting colleagues with reporting to internal stakeholders.
- Supporting project or activity evaluation.
- Successful team working.

Area B Knowledge

- Strong understanding of school life, its pressures and challenges, ideally within the primary school sector.
- Strong understanding of the primary curriculum (especially literacy and numeracy) curriculum planning and sequencing.
- A basic knowledge and understanding of UK wildlife.
- Understanding of risk assessments and safeguarding issues.

Area C Skills

- Ability to work co-operatively with a range of diverse project stakeholders including senior school leaders.
- Can communicate persuasively and in an engaging and empathetic manner.
- Effective listener, coaching and facilitating people to solve challenges.
- Can demonstrate utilising foundational outdoor learning skills within your own practice (risk assessments, behaviour management, adaptation to settings, seasons and weather).
- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to create creative and engaging learning resources.
- Good organisational abilities and able to prioritise work effectively to deadlines.
- Good working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite of tools, word processing, spreadsheets and databases.

Area D Personal qualities

- Personal enthusiasm for the benefits of connecting pupils and teaching staff with nature for wellbeing, learning and the planet.
- A reflective practitioner.
- Self-motivated.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

This role will require a full, clean driving licence and will be subject to reference checks and a DBS enhanced check with child barred list.

Sep 2024