



Our River Our Water

Primary School Education Information Pack

FREE river education sessions for schools, covering river wildlife and features and water saving activities. Suitable for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils.



Wessex
Rivers Trust



from
**Southern
Water.**

Why choose us?

Fun and interactive sessions...

All our sessions offer hands on, immersive activities that engage children with the natural world. Whilst we offer set sessions, we can adjust activities to fit with the school's needs.

Our sessions are FREE

Our River, Our Water sessions are a partnership between Southern Water (our funder) and the River Trusts South East. The aim of the sessions is to help spread the vital message that we all need to save water to protect our precious environment.

The Rivers Trust South East is a group of rivers trusts that work to ensure all life can thrive in and around our rivers.

We offer curriculum linked sessions covering topics such as:

- Living things and their habitats
- My local area
- Humans and the environment
- Rivers!





We come to you...

We come to a site local to you, to make the learning relevant to the children and to reduce travel costs.

If we cannot find a suitable riverbank site for your session and you do not have easy access to transport, we can bring the river to life in your classroom.

Education sessions are available to schools and groups in and around Romsey, Winchester, Eastleigh and Southampton.

If your school is outside of the project area, please contact us to discuss how we can help with your learning:

education@wessexrt.org.uk



Wessex
Rivers Trust

Our River
Our Water



from
Southern Water.

Education Session Options

There are a number of education sessions for schools to choose from. The assembly can be delivered before either the riverbank session or classroom alternative, for maximum impact, or the sessions can standalone.

Programme	Length	Why choose this session?	Years	When
Interactive Assembly	45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educates large numbers of pupils Covers river features, wildlife and heritage sites Includes how we can help our rivers, with a focus on saving water Provides a great introduction before the riverbank session or classroom alternative 	KS1 & KS2	All year
Riverbank Session	2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fun, interactive and engaging Sense of ownership of local river Includes a river feature and wildlife walk, river dipping for invertebrates and water use games 	KS1 & KS2	All year
Classroom Session	2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative to the riverbank, we bring the river invertebrates to you! Includes river wildlife and water saving activities 	KS1 & KS2	All year

Games and activities encourage children to:

- hunt for signs of wildlife
- discover what lives beneath the surface
- investigate the river habitat
- find ways we can prevent low flows to help save our rivers!

Each riverbank session or classroom alternative will include:

- a booklet to be taken back to class with a record of activities carried out during the session
- suggested follow-up activities
- a take home leaflet for each child with wildlife facts and water saving tips

Sessions can be differentiated for KS1 and KS2 classes

What do other people think?

'From communication in advance about arranging the session and tailoring it to our class, to the warm welcome we received on arrival and the perfectly pitched and paced session, our whole experience was fantastic. Thank you - we'll definitely be back!' Year R Teacher, Wallop Primary School

'The Our River, Our Water session that we took part in at Hiltingbury Lakes was excellently organised and delivered by Tracy. Our Year 4 children were engaged from the start, collecting and identifying water life enthusiastically both from the provided specimens and from the river themselves. I was delighted that we were able to use a site so close to school for the session, and that Tracy met me before hand to discuss the activities and how we could tailor them to the site and the children's prior and future learning. A great morning!' Year 4 Teacher, Sherborne House School


'Thank you so much for yesterday. The children were engaged and excited to learn about rivers and could recount many things you had talked about in our afternoon follow-up session.' Year 6 Teacher, St Faith's Primary School

Harry 's River Pledge Card *Our River Our Water*

Write your name above then write or draw your answers below:

The river is home to:


- Ducks
- shrimps
- swans
- waterhousenose.



Include your favourite river animal from today's session

I will protect the river habitat by:

Not leaving the tap on until it changes temperature.




Include your best water saving ideas

Arlo 's River Pledge Card *Our River Our Water*

Write your name above then write or draw your answers below:

The river is home to:

- Mayfly Larve
- Caddisfly Larve
- Freshwater Shrimp
- Leeches
- Worms



Include your favourite river animal from today's session

I will protect the river habitat by:

- Taking less time in the showers
- Turning off the taps when I brush my teeth.


Include your best water saving ideas

ELIZA 's River Pledge Card *Our River Our Water*

Write your name above then write or draw your answers below:

The river is home to:


Caddisfly larva
It's so cute



Include your favourite river animal from today's session

I will protect the river habitat by:

Putting less water in the bath.



Include your best water saving ideas

Mireya 's River Pledge Card *Our River Our Water*

Write your name above then write or draw your answers below:

The river is home to:

caddisfly larva and duck



Include your favourite river animal from today's session

I will protect the river habitat by:

turning off tap whilst brushing teeth.




on off

Include your best water saving ideas

Making a Booking

Completing the booking form

Wessex Rivers Trust staff will work with the school to arrange the most appropriate range of sessions to suit the school's needs. To start the booking process, please complete the booking form with as much information as possible and send it to Tracy Standish, Education Officer, via tracy@wessexrt.org.uk.

Once the booking form has been received, and Wessex Rivers Trust have assigned a tutor to the session(s), a confirmation email will be sent to you.

If access to a river is required, and you do not have local contacts, we can investigate possible sites for you.

Travelling to site

We try and educate children as close to their school as possible, ideally within walking distance. If, however, schools require transport and cannot afford this, we can bring the Riverbank Session to your classroom.

If we're delivering a session onsite, we recommend the lead teacher has a "pre-visit" meeting onsite with the Wessex Rivers Trust session lead, to discuss the proposed content and timings of the visit, run through any relevant risk assessments and ensure school staff are familiar with the site before the day.



Payment & Cancellations

All sessions are FREE, as they are funded by Southern Water.

Sessions will go ahead in light rain and cold conditions. If the weather forecast does not look safe for the booking date, the session will be cancelled, at least one day before and either rearranged for another time or brought into the classroom.

Ratios

Although Wessex Rivers Trust staff will lead the session they are unable to be responsible for the supervision of the children. We recommend at least 1:6 (KS1) and 1:8 (KS2) adult to child ratio for outdoor sessions, not including Wessex Rivers Trust staff and volunteers.

Photo permission

Wessex Rivers Trust likes to take photos of some sessions for educational and promotional purposes. These include our website, social media, Wessex River News magazine and press releases.

Due to the nature of the Our River, Our Water project, these photographs may be shared with some partners including Southern Water and the Rivers Trust South East, for use in relation to the project. They may also be used for promotional purposes by third parties, e.g. newspaper articles about project activities.

The session leader will check with the class teacher on the day with regards to permissions, and if necessary the relevant paperwork will be completed.





What to wear to outdoor sessions?

Children AND adults should dress for the weather on the day and for the activity. Sessions will go ahead, except in extreme weather conditions. PE kit or similar is normally a better choice of clothing than school uniform.

For warm weather we recommend wellies, water shoes, crocs or old trainers (flip flops, sliders and bare feet are not suitable for river dipping), a sunhat, sun cream and lots of water to drink. To minimise stings and scratches, long sleeved t-shirts and long trousers are recommended.

For cold/wet weather we recommend wellies, warm hat, gloves, waterproof coat, waterproof trousers and lots of layers. We also recommend children having a snack, just before, during, or straight after the session.

We recommend the group leader brings a full set of spare clothing in case of an unlikely fall in the river! We also suggest all children bring spare socks, shoes and shorts/ trousers for after the session. If they enjoy their river dip, they are likely to get wet!!



Keeping you Safe

Safeguarding

If a Wessex Rivers Trust staff member is concerned about the welfare of a child they will report this to the class teacher or school Designated Safeguarding Lead. Wessex Rivers Trust will record and report any concerns or disclosures in accordance with their Safeguarding Policy. It is the school's responsibility to follow this concern up where necessary. For more information on our safeguarding policy please contact us.

Medical conditions and additional needs

When booking a session please inform us (via the booking form) of any medical conditions or additional needs within the group. This will allow us to make any adjustments to the activities and keep everyone safe.

Health and Safety

When learning in nature we need to be aware of the risks involved. When the booking is confirmed, Wessex Rivers Trust will send their activity risk assessments to the school, for the school to use as a guide when producing their own. If you have any concerns about any of the risks highlighted, please get in touch.

Contact Details

For any queries please contact Tracy Standish, Education Officer,
via tracy@wessexrt.org.uk
or 07518 928814.

