



Wessex
Rivers Trust



Primary School Education Information Pack

Wessex Rivers Trust offer low-cost education sessions about the wildlife and heritage of our chalk streams and rivers throughout the Wessex area. Sessions are suitable for Key Stage 1 and 2 classes and fit within the national curriculum.



Wessex
Rivers Trust

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.

We offer curriculum linked sessions covering topics such as:

- Working scientifically
- Living things and their habitats
- Animals, including humans
- Evolution and inheritance
- Geographic skills and field work
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Rivers!



We come to you...

We come to a site local to you, to make it relevant to the children and reduce travel costs. If we cannot find a suitable riverbank site for your learning, we can bring the river to life in your classroom.

We cover the Wessex region including:

- Bournemouth
- Southampton
- Portsmouth
- Andover
- Salisbury
- Warminster
- Winchester
- Blandford Forum



Education Session Options

There are five education sessions for schools to choose from. The sessions complement each other and can be delivered as a package, for maximum impact, or they can be standalone sessions.

Programme	Length	Why choose this session?	Years	When	Suggested Donation*
Interactive Assembly	45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educates large numbers of pupils Covers river features, wildlife and heritage sites Provides a great introduction before other sessions 	KS1 & KS2	All year	£135
Riverbank Session	2 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fun, interactive and engaging Sense of ownership of local river Best way to learn about rivers! 	KS1 & KS2	All year	£265
Classroom Session	2 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the Riverbank Session Takes a closer look at invertebrates & their adaptations Learn about the challenges rivers face and how to help them 	KS1 & KS2	All year	£215
Evolution and Adaptations Session	2 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick and easy way to teach a tricky topic Deeper understanding through interactive activities Pupils dress up to “adapt” to their environment 	KS2	All year	£205
Mayfly in the Classroom	1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands on experience caring for wildlife Sense of ownership of rivers Longer experience for pupils 	KS2	May and June	£430

*Sadly we are unable to offer subsidised rates due to lack of funding at present.
We are applying for funds to make sessions more affordable to schools.
Please ask for more details when booking.



Wessex
Rivers Trust



What do other people think?

"I was thoroughly impressed with the organisation, knowledge and resources prepared by the team. Highly recommend". Year 4 Teacher, The Pilgrims' School

"Sessions were well prepared, relevant, engaging, appropriately pitched and thoroughly enjoyable for both children and staff. A life changing experience for all". Science Teacher, Downton Primary School

"The children's learning and experience of their local river was most definitely enhanced and enriched. THANK YOU". Year 5 Teacher, Bemerton St John Primary School

"I am sure memories of the day will stay with the children for a long time. It was fantastic!" Year 5 Teacher, St Andrews C of E Primary School

"The children have been raving about the session since and it has sparked a real interest in our science learning". Year 1/2 Teacher, Shrewton CE Primary Academy

"A fantastic session, well thought out and professionally administered. The children had a fantastic time". Year 4/5 Teacher, Heytesbury C of E Primary School



Wessex
Rivers Trust

Thank you for telling us more about Cheriton stream and rivers in general. It was amazing! My favorite part was the river dipping. It's amazing how many creatures you can find. I didn't know chalk was made of tiny little skeletons.

Thank you again,
William

thank you for coming and teaching us. I loved exploring the creatures ~~out~~ and putting them in their place. I also enjoyed making the creatures out of clay. I didn't know that chalk was made out of bones of little creatures and it acted like a sponge. See you soon
Stom Mei.

Thank you so much for our AMAZING river day. I never knew that chalk was made out of tiny skeletons and chalk acts like a sponge and how the river is so deep. I would have never known. But the thing I loved the most was the creature identifying. Thank you again.

From Jacob

Thank you!

I loved everything, because I loved learning about river creatures. If I could I would do it again. I never knew that shrimp were so tiny.

From Martha





Wessex
Rivers Trust



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 digital booking form with as much information as possible and send it to education@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 your visit, run through any relevant risk assessments and ensure school staff are familiar with the site before the day.

Payment & Cancellations

A request for payment will be submitted to the school after the session date. Cancellations should be made no less than one week before the booked date. If the session is cancelled less than one week before the booking, the full charge will still apply.

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 may be 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.

Photo permission

Wessex Rivers Trust likes to take photos of some of the sessions for educational and promotional purposes. These include our website, social media, Wessex River News magazine and press releases. The session leader will check with the class teacher on the day with regards to permissions.





Wessex
Rivers Trust



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!!





Wessex
Rivers Trust



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 the Education and Engagement team
education@wessexrt.org.uk or 01722 654253.**