**SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHOOLS IN THE TEES VALLEY**

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Growing Wild Schools**

A new project from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – following on from the successful Local Food funded “Growing Food for the Future” project the Trust is launching its new project Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Growing Schools

We are offering schools not just support with growing food but also with range of other environmental activities including wildlife gardening, using your school grounds and eco-schools and MUCH more.

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| **Level of Support** | **What you get** | **Cost** | **Additional option** |
| **Bronze** | 2 days | £550 | Constant garden\* £180 |
| **Silver** | 4 days | £1050 | Constant garden\* £180 |
| **Gold** | 6 days | £1550 | Constant garden\* £180 |
| **Green** | 8 days including constant garden\* | £2100 |  |

\*We have negotiated with Rocket Garden – Constant Gardens for a discount for schools who sign up through our scheme.

The Trust is planning to continue its work as the Local Food project has finished. The plan is to use the funds to cover the costs of employing someone to deliver the support.

However, if we get enough schools signing up, we can employ a full time member of staff and the above time allocations will become **minimums** rather than **maximums**.

The support will:

* enable schools in the Tees Valley to work towards their **Eco Schools Award**, **RHS Campaign for School Gardening Benchmark Scheme**, Learning Outside the Classroom Mark and the Sustainable Schools framework.
* provide specialist advice and support in various aspect of sustainability including school grounds development, sustainable resource management to cut costs, curriculum development for **Learning Outside the Classroom** (e.g. Forest Schools) and local wellbeing.

The approach will work closely with the **OFSTED** judgement criteria to improve pupil achievement, improve quality of teaching, enhance the safety and behaviour of pupils and support high quality, effective leadership.

Research has shown that learning outside the classroom and learning about topics such as sustainability and the global dimension can *“****add significant value to*  *young people’s learning*** *… it provides a context for accumulating integrated and subject based*  *knowledge and for developing key skills … on problem-solving skills, cooperation and interpersonal communication: all essential skills for today’s young people.”*

**Eco-Schools** is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life. The programme creates positive environmental improvement but this is only half the story research shows evidence of a positive impact on wellbeing, behaviour, motivation and cognitive skills that benefit the whole community. The Sustainable Schools framework aims to encourage schools to take on board the principles of sustainable development in their everyday work, achieving educational excellence alongside the goals of healthy living, environmental awareness, community participation and global citizenship.

The **Learning Outside the Classroom Mark** is the first national accreditation for schools which recognises, and supports the development of learning outside the classroom across all subject areas.

**Forest Schools** originated in Scandinavia and aims to enable children to develop skills in a woodland setting, on a regular, sustained basis, with a child-led enquiry based approach to learning.

**Gardening** could be taught in schools from September 2014, a move very much welcomed by the Wildlife Trusts and other organisations - The consultation on reform of the National Curriculum states that pupils from Key Stages 1–3 should be taught ‘to cultivate plants for practical purposes such as for food or for decorative displays’ as a key activity in design and technology lessons. The Trusts **“Growing Food for the Future”** project has been delivering on this for the past 3 years.

The package aims to be as flexible as possible to fit in with on-going school priorities.

**Rocket Garden – Constant Gardens**

Constant Gardens are the best and easiest way to ensure you have an amazing and continuous supply of fresh produce bursting from your garden throughout the entire year. Your Constant Garden will comprise of a series of 5 gardens delivered throughout the year. As with all Rocket Gardens we’ve done all the tricky stuff for you, so all you have to do is unpack your plants on arrival, pop them into the ground and watch them grow. A detailed growing guide will be provided with each garden delivery. You will need 10-15 m2 of space to grow this garden.

**What happens next?**

**An initial meeting of up to an hour will be provided free of charge to discuss how the time is best used** and will includeone stop shop signposting to further support/training focusing on the eco-schools/sustainable schools doorways and ideas of where to access funding for specific projects.

**Schools can pick and choose from the following – the list is not exhaustive**

**Specialist support for senior staff**

* Strategy meeting discussing how the school can benefit from being involved in the sustainable schools agenda.
* Presentation to governors
* Run a staff meeting
* Deliver CPD sessions
* School development planning

**Specialist support for Eco–school coordinators/subject leaders**

* 1 to 1 support to develop applications for the various awards
* 1 to 1 support for subject areas focusing on sustainable development themes
* Attendance at Eco-School action team meetings
* Help with Environmental Review and Action Planning, Waste Audits, Energy Audits, Litter Surveys
* Support with Travel Planning, Wildlife Surveys, School Grounds Development, developing a global dimension, learning outside the classroom.

**Specialist support for classroom teachers**

* Assemblies
* Half day pupil workshops
* Curriculum-linked Learning Outside the Classroom, Gardening and Forest School delivered to pupils.

**CPD**

Staff meeting, Twilight and half day CPD sessions focusing on:

* Eco-school/Sustainable schools themes:
  + Energy
  + Water
  + Biodiversity
  + School grounds
  + Healthy living
  + Transport
  + Litter
  + Waste
  + Global citizenship
  + Wellbeing, inclusion and participation
* How to be an eco-school
* How to get a Green Flag – ideas for your school
* Tailor-made sessions e.g. Growing food in schools, How to use your schools grounds to deliver the curriculum (various subjects / age groups)
* Forest School Taster Sessions

**SERVICE STANDARDS**

The service will use nationally-recognised training resources, tools and methodologies to ensure high quality provision, including:

* “The Pod” Eco-Schools resources
* Sustainable Schools Framework resources
* Auditing tools, e.g. Eco-Schools Environmental Review
* Guidance on global dimension and sustainable schools
* National College sustainable schools toolkit
* WWF Pathways to Sustainability
* philosophy for children and enquiry-based learning
* Staff delivering outdoor learning are Forest School Leadership and Practise Level 3 qualified
* RHS Campaign for school gardening
* Membership or Institute of Outdoor leaning

**ROLE OF SCHOOL**

The school will be required to make available senior leadership staff to work with the provider and take forward the sustainable schools framework through a mutually agreed plan. The school will be expected to have set up an eco-action team or school council and will make time for the provider to work with this group.