



# St Nicholas Fields Education Activities 2011-2012





St Nicholas Fields is a thriving 24-acre **nature reserve** on the edge of York's historic centre. It was not always this way though: over the last twenty years, local grassroots action has seen this parcel of land transformed from **a former landfill site** into a **green haven** for people and wildlife.

Using the award-winning York Environment Centre as a base, our education programme covers a huge variety of topics on the theme of 'sustainability' – from pond dipping to wind farms, compost to food miles. Education visits will inspire, challenge and engage pupils with thought-provoking and enjoyable experiences that they will remember for many years to come.



**Bring your school to St Nicks for the full experience of the nature reserve and York Environment Centre, or let us organise and lead a day to remember within your school.**





## Education Visits with St Nicholas Fields

**Visit St Nicks and take advantage of the fantastic facilities, showing sustainability in action. Use the famous composting toilets, dip into our wildlife-packed pond, or take a trip around the nature reserve, unearthing its past secrets.**

Most of the activities can be done both at St Nicholas Fields or within school. However, some are only appropriate to the school environment and some are only available at St Nicks. Our activity list is mainly aimed at Key Stages 2 and 3, but many of the activities can be adapted for younger or older groups, or groups with different attainment levels. Activities can be combined to create a half or full day programme unique to your school.

We are very flexible, and can tailor sessions to meet your requirements. If you would like to cover something not already mentioned in the brochure, or want to arrange a bespoke day of lessons for your class, please talk to our Education Officer to discuss the options.

Scout and guiding groups are welcome at St Nicks — we can deliver a session based on one of the listed activities, or we can work with you to create a session that fits the requirements for a group badge. We can also accommodate out of school clubs, youth groups, and other community groups. As with schools, sessions can be run at St Nicks or on your premises. Just let us know what you would like to do. Our price list and contact details are at the back of this brochure.

**“ All the activities were pitched appropriately for the year group – children were engaged and on task all day... A very enjoyable and thought-provoking day – thank you. ”**

Paul Dixon, Year 6 teacher  
Greetland Academy, Halifax

## List of Activities and the Curriculum Areas they Address

The activities St Nicks provide touch on many different subject areas, from speaking and listening opportunities, to physical exercise out around the reserve. Given the holistic approach we have to our education activities, it is difficult to pinpoint all the areas of the curriculum addressed in each session. However, we have drawn up a table to highlight some of the main subjects covered.

	English	Maths	Science	History	Geography	PE	Citizenship	Art & Design	ICT	page no.
<b>Activities at school or St Nicks</b>										
Green Up Your School!	☞	☞	☞		☞		☞	☞	☞	5
Doorway Days	☞	☞	☞		☞		☞	☞	☞	5
Climate Change	☞		☞	☞	☞		☞	☞		5
Waste Audit	☞	☞	☞				☞		☞	5
Waste Not Want Not	☞		☞		☞		☞	☞		6
Energy Experts	☞	☞	☞		☞		☞		☞	6
Radical Renewables	☞		☞		☞					6
The Great Wind Debate	☞		☞		☞		☞			6
Recycled Art *			☞				☞	☞		7
Trashion Refashion *			☞				☞	☞		7
Terrific Trees			☞		☞	☞	☞			7
Habitats			☞		☞					7
Land Art			☞		☞		☞	☞		8
Our Edible School 1	☞	☞	☞		☞		☞	☞	☞	8
Team Building										9
<b>Activities at school</b>										
Living Willow Fences *		☞	☞		☞		☞	☞		8
Our Edible School 2 *		☞				☞	☞	☞		8
<b>Activities at St Nicks</b>										
Wild Food			☞	☞	☞		☞			9
A Land Through Time				☞	☞		☞			9
Make a Difference	☞		☞		☞		☞			9
Conservation activities for secondary schools			☞		☞	☞	☞			10

Please note that sessions marked with \* may incur an extra charge for materials



## Green Up Your School!

This is an interactive day of activities, giving pupils the chance to make changes in their school. Pupils investigate where energy is being wasted in the school, learn why saving energy matters and make practical suggestions as to the next steps. This can lead into a topic on saving energy, improvements to school grounds or environmental issues.

## Doorway Days

Spend half a day focussing on one of the eight Sustainable Schools doorways – or a whole day looking at two. Each doorway session is packed with fun, thought-provoking activities to improve your school. Better still, book all eight Doorway Days to cover all the doorways and your final doorway session is free! These sessions support the City of York Council's Sustainable Schools Strategy.

## Climate Change

Pupils learn about climate change, what the causes and effects are around the world and what they can do to make the planet a better place. This workshop deals with some of the tough issues we are facing as humans, but in a positive and uplifting way.

## Waste Audit

Sort and weigh the school's waste from one day to see what can be tackled and reduced. Finish the session with meaningful figures to be able to share with the rest of the school, and the beginnings of an action plan to help reduce landfill waste. This activity works best if a second session is booked several months after, to see whether there has been any improvement.

“ The children absolutely loved the climate change stuff and it was brilliant to see them so totally engaged. In fact, they spent the rest of the day trying to get me to turn off my computer to save energy! ”

Grace Coles, Year 4 teacher  
St Lawrence's Primary, York



## Waste Not Want Not

Activities around waste, recycling and composting. Hands-on fun workshops looking into the problems of landfill and how we can reduce what we throw away thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Great as an additional activity to the Waste Audit.

## Energy Experts

Find out all about energy; how electricity is generated and how we can use it most efficiently. Spread the word to the rest of the school about how to be energy savers.

## Radical Renewables

Investigate alternatives to fossil fuels, with renewables kits to explore solar and wind power. A fun session that covers scientific aspects of renewable technologies and helps apply them to real situations.

## The Great Wind Debate

Explore wind power and the controversy surrounding new wind farm developments. Use our huge interactive model to decide, and take on different characters to explore opinions. Packed with Speaking & Listening opportunities, this will provide a stimulus that will embed your science work across the curriculum.

The children should have some prior knowledge of renewable and non-renewable energies, so this would be an ideal partner activity to 'Energy Experts' or 'Radical Renewables' to make a whole day's work on energy futures.



**“ Thank you so much for delivering the sessions. I thought the hands-on resources e.g. wind turbine were excellent and something above and beyond what I could normally achieve in the classroom. ”**

Rachel Morgan, Year 5/6 teacher  
Stockton-on-the-Forest Primary

## Recycled Art \*

Produce a fantastic recycled piece of art as a class or individually. Excellent as an afternoon activity after a morning of Waste Not, Want Not. As a full day session, delve into the world of waste and recycling and how it's never been truer that 'Where there's muck there's brass'!

## Trashion Refashion \*

Ideal for older pupils to express their creativity in planning, researching and producing a piece of 'trashion' for a catwalk show at the end of the day. Take a look at the clothing industry and how we can look after the planet with the clothes we buy. Children 'refashion' an old item of clothing they no longer want into something more glamorous.

## Terrific Trees

Learn about the amazing trees on your patch, or at St Nicks, peer into their fascinating lives and find out why they really are man's best friends.

## Habitats

Explore the wildlife to be found on StNicks or the school campus and the different habitats they call home. If done at St Nicks, pond dipping can be included. Play the food web game to learn about interdependence of species. Can form an introduction to a unit on habitats, nature study or improving the school grounds.



## Land Art

Inspired by the art of Andy Goldsworthy and Marc Pouyet, we will investigate the textures, colours and shapes we see in our school's green space, before working together in groups or as a class to create our pieces of ephemeral art. Best done as an afternoon session so parents can be invited to view the art at the end of the day.

## Living Willow Fences \*

Nov - March only

Construct a piece of practical living sculpture for the school, either as a fence to create a quiet area in the school grounds, or to provide protection for the school veg patch. An ideal winter workshop.

## Our Edible School 1

Investigate the food you eat both at home and at school. Where does it come from? Is it good for us and the planet? How can we use our school grounds to grow food? Activities that tackle concepts such as food miles and seasonality are combined in a fun workshop that includes real food!

## Our Edible School 2 \*

Get your Edible School growing off to a flying start by planning a veg patch and planting a container for veg (made from recycled or salvaged materials) for the school grounds. Learn about what to grow and when, and make a plan to keep the site going – and growing.

York Edible Schools is a network of York schools striving to grow more fruit and vegetables on site. Local schools booking 'Our Edible Schools' sessions may wish to help the project grow. Non-York schools could even set up their own network!



**“ We now put more fruit waste into our compost bins and when we go to assemblies we make sure we turn our lights off. ”**

Emily, Year 4  
Osbalwick Primary School, York

“ **The activities delivered were child friendly, relevant and encouraged lots of discussion and team work. All sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils and staff.** ”

Amy Magee, Year 4 teacher  
Osbaldwick Primary School, York



## Wild Food

1st Half of Autumn Term only

Take a trip around St Nicholas Fields and find nature's larder brimming with different wild foods. Pick apples and berries (in season) and make a hot autumn fruit punch for everyone to enjoy.

## A Land Through Time

See how St Nicholas Fields nature reserve has changed over time. Explore the fascinating history of this patch of land through the ages, from its dark days as a rubbish tip to its present use as a haven for wildlife and people. Consider the balance between managing the site for nature and for people and plan how the reserve might look in the future.

## Make A Difference

What is sustainability? Hunt for clues at the environment centre to find out how we try to look after our world and why we think it's important. Consider how we can make a difference as individuals, as schools and as a nation.

## Team Building

Take part in fun activities designed to promote interdependence and communication in a team. Smaller groups and whole class activities are included and the session will finish with a discussion of what they have learned about themselves and each other.



## Conservation activities for secondary schools

**There is always plenty to do at St Nicks 24-acre nature reserve. Our Youth Ranger will introduce students to inspiring practical tasks and environmental activities which help us to develop and maintain nature reserve. In return for their help, your students will gain new skills and knowledge of work in the field of conservation. Our Youth Ranger has experience leading a wide range of groups and is CRB checked.**

### Group Conservation Workshops

Our group conservation workshops are a fantastic way for your pupils to find out more about our nature reserve and build up skills and knowledge in ecology and conservation work. We offer bespoke projects that are catered to the needs and abilities of your students. Activities are varied, and can include bramble bashing and tree rescue in summer, or coppicing and pruning in winter. Sessions are charged and available to book on Mondays and Fridays.

### Conservation for Individual Students

We offer free two-hour sessions in environmental studies and conservation for 14-16 year olds during holiday breaks. All projects are carried out within the confines of our nature reserve and are a wonderful way to meet new people and learn exciting skills. Sessions can include environmental projects such as wildlife photography, recycled art and wildlife identification, as well as practical conservation tasks such as bramble bashing and tree rescue. Sessions take place on Mondays during school holidays between 2-4 pm. If students are interested in coming after school during term time, please get in touch.

“ Well worth it. Thanks again for a really productive and useful day. ”

David Harrison, Head of Design Technology  
York High School



## Prices 2011 – 12

### St Nicks

#### Sessions at St Nicks – all schools and community groups

<b>1 Hour Session</b>	£2.50 per pupil (minimum charge £50)
<b>Half Day Session</b>	£4.50 per pupil (minimum charge £90)
<b>Full Day Session</b>	£7.50 per pupil (minimum charge £150)
<b>Evening Session - up to 1 ½ hours</b>	£3 per child (minimum charge £50)

### in school

#### Sessions in Schools

<b>One Class</b> (up to 30 pupils)	Half Day £150 / Full Day £250
<b>Two / three Classes</b> (up to 90 pupils)	Half Day £190 / Full Day £290
<b>Large Year Group</b> (up to 200 pupils)	Half Day £250 / Full Day £450

Please note that sessions marked with \* may incur an extra charge for materials

## More info & booking

### Education Activities

Rachel Bell

01904 427641

education@stnicksfields.org.uk

### Conservation Tasks

Jonathan Dent

01904 411821

volunteer@stnicksfields.org.uk

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

York Environment Centre

Rawdon Avenue

York YO10 3ST

If possible, please walk, cycle or take a bus to get to St Nicholas Fields.

