



ACTION
FOR CONSERVATION

WildED Guide
2019/2020



What is WildED?

With 53% of UK species now in decline, there is an urgent need to motivate the next generation of nature conservationists to take action today. Unfortunately, only 21% of children in the UK have an adequate level of connection to nature. As children and young people lose contact with the natural world, they are less likely to fight to protect it as they grow older. But all is not lost! We believe that young people can and want to make a difference, but need the skills and confidence to do so.

WildED is a school programme designed to connect students to the natural world whilst showing them how to take action on the issues they care about. We partner with young conservation professionals to support students over the course of a term as they research, design and lead environmental change projects and campaigns that benefit their school community and local area.

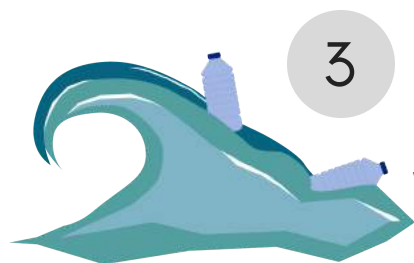
Students who participate in the WildED journey develop vital skills, knowledge and character traits that enable them to tackle conservation issues in their everyday lives and become the environmental leaders of the future!



"WildED taught me that little things can impact the environment in a big way."

WildED Participant

What does WildED Involve?



3

Inspirational conservation workshops run by our team



6

Student-led action projects & campaigns at your school



1

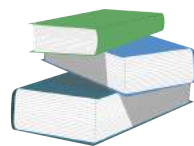
Winning team crowned at the regional Dragons' Den event



"Action for Conservation has not just inspired our students but has also given them practical ways of acting on their inspiration."

Mr Jones, Brentside High School, Ealing

What do students get out of WildED?



Knowledge

- 93% of WildED participants have a better understanding of what conservation is and why it is important.
- 81% of WildED participants have a better understanding of environmental issues and solutions for tackling them.



Skills

- 97% of WildED projects demonstrate the attainment of new skills including communication, project management, teamwork, technological and hands-on conservation skills.



Character Traits

- 81% of WildED participants are more considerate of how their behaviour impacts the natural world.
- 71% of WildED participants feel more inspired to take an interest in conservation in their everyday lives or as a career.

Curriculum Links

The WildED programme has been designed to support the curriculum. While WildED can be taught to GCSE students and younger years, we have identified the following GCSE-specific curriculum links:

- Human interactions within ecosystems and our impact on biodiversity (Geography, Biology)
- Issues relating to ecosystems, their sustainable use and management (Geography)
- Benefits and challenges of maintaining local and global biodiversity (Geography, Biology)
- Planning practical citizenship actions aimed to deliver benefits for others in society (Citizenship)
- Presenting information and ideas and responding to questions and feedback (English)



WildED case studies



Whitefield School, London

In Autumn 2017, 'Team No Nam3' won the London WildED final with their project designed to enhance bird populations on their school grounds, whilst tackling waste at their school.

They started by leading workshops to teach 40 students from their school's Green Team how to build simple bird feeders out of recycled water bottles and waste from their school's bins. Once installed, the bird feeders resulted in a 50% increase in bird sightings at the school! The team then worked with Barnett Council to resolve a longstanding recycling issue at their school and led a school-wide birdhouse building competition.



Team No Nam3
Winners of last autumn's Dragon's Den event



The plastic dolphin sculpture made by team "Babes In The Wild"

Steiner Academy, Bristol

In Spring 2018, 'Babes In The Wild' were crowned the winners of the Bristol WildED final with their creative and innovative project designed to tackle plastic pollution in their community by raising awareness amongst their peers and leading hands-on action.

The team organised litter picks in their local area with 50 of their classmates and used the plastic they collected to create a series of sculptures (left) with Year 7 students. They also ran workshops across their school and organised a screening of 'A Plastic Ocean' that was attended by their classmates, parents and teachers alike. All proceeds from the film night were donated to 4Ocean, an organisation dedicated to ending plastic pollution.



Your Commitment

We ask that WildED schools select a teacher who will lead the programme along with the AFC team. The lead teacher will:

- Select 30 students in years 8, 9 and/or 10 to take part in the programme.
- Allocate time within or outside of school hours for those students to attend all three workshops and work on their projects in groups of five.
- Work closely with AFC to mentor and support the students as they plan and lead their projects.
- Coordinate various elements of the programme.

Pricing

Thanks to the support of numerous partners, we are very pleased to offer WildED **free of charge**. However, please note that we are unable to cover the cost of student-led projects or support travel to and from the Dragons' Den final.

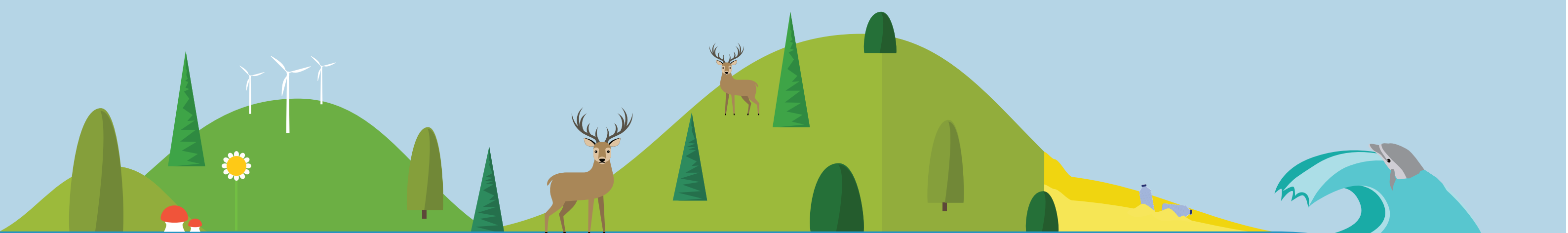
Who is Action for Conservation?

Action for Conservation is a UK charity which uses pioneering approaches to engage and inspire young people, between the ages of 12 and 18, to become the next generation of nature conservationists. To us, being a 'conservationist' doesn't just mean following a career as a field biologist or a campaigner - we believe that a passion for conservation can flow through anyone's life, whatever their day-job. Our vision is that every young person in the UK is moved and empowered to protect the natural world.



The next steps...

If you are ready to join the growing network of WildED schools, please email wilded@actionforconservation.org or call **07375 644 004** today and chat with our Programme Manager, who will arrange an introductory meeting with you and your staff to explain the programme in more detail.



The WildED Journey:
The AFC team meets with
your school



Week 1
AFC Workshop 1:
What is Conservation?



Week 1
Students choose their
themes and actions



Week 2
Students
research
their themes
and actions



Week 4 - 5
AFC team
check-ins



Week 3
Students seek permissions
for their actions and
gather resources



Week 3
AFC Workshop 2:
How to Take Action for
Conservation



Week 5
Students
TAKE
action



Week 6
Students
TAKE
action



Week 6
Students plan and
practice their
presentations



End of Week 6
AFC Workshop 3:
Perfect the Pitch



**Regional
Dragons' Den event**