



A Report for the Nineveh Charitable Trust

January 2022

Background to Fishing for Schools

Fishing for Schools is an educational and skills development programme with over 14 years' experience of working with young people. Delivered by The Countryside Alliance Foundation, we help young people build confidence, develop life skills and rediscover a joy in learning through fishing.

Fishing for Schools offers young people a stimulating outdoor experience, encouraging an interest in the countryside and the natural environment. Almost 3,500 children from 120 schools have benefited from learning outdoors and connecting with nature via Fishing for Schools.

Fishing for Schools 2021

Whilst the pandemic has impacted our work, particularly face to face delivery during the national lockdowns, we have been able to continue to deliver our unique offer to young people.

- Young people at 20 schools participated in areas including Sheffield, Maidstone, Gravesend, Deal and Portsmouth.
- Schools include mainstream secondary schools, primary schools, schools for pupils with learning difficulties, and schools for students with complex behavioural, social and emotional difficulties.
- Our work with mental health groups in the south east took place during the summer. They include Choice Support, a charity supporting people with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health needs.



Our Impact

St Nicholas and St Mary School , Shoreham

Fishing for Schools coaches Rob Doyle and Julie Wicks travelled to West Sussex to introduce the world of fishing to pupils at St Nicholas and St Mary School in Shoreham by Sea.

Pupils had a fantastic time learning outdoors, working as a team and a cooking session - trying out new recipes with Julie and Rob. The students thrived being in an outdoor environment and enjoyed learning to fish.

“Thank you so much for teaching our children about fishing and taking them fishing this week. The impact upon them has been massive and it has been a life-changing experience for many of the children.”

“Yesterday was a massive hit for them all and they were extremely animated and excited to tell their fellow classmates all about the fantastic day they had.” – St Nicholas and St Mary School.



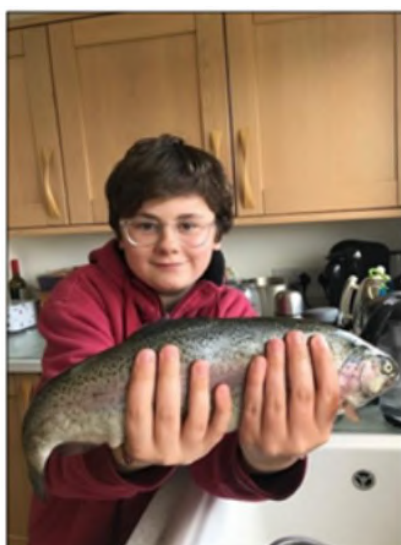
Purbrook Park School, Portsmouth

Over four sessions pupils at Purbrook Park School gained a wealth of knowledge and skills including fish habitat and behaviour, fish biology and cooking, culminating in a day's fly fishing at Meon Springs.

Martyn Rafferty, Alternative Provision Co-ordinator at Purbrook Park School explains the impact of the programme back at school:

“The buzz around the school with the pupils leading up to the course is great. The pupils love showing what they have learned, and pupils enjoyed passing on the knowledge from the sessions.

“Fishing for Schools not only teaches the participants about fishing, but installs confidence, maturity and a sense of adventure.”



Meadowfield School, Sittingbourne

Six Meadowfield pupils took part in Fishing for Schools during September-October 2021. The school supports pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs. Students face many barriers to learning due to their disabilities.

The group managed to fish in all weathers. All pupils gained their Cast Level 1 Award and were awarded their certificate during the final session.

Outcomes

- Confidence building – Fishing for Schools offered a positive learning experience and the opportunity to try something new in a supportive environment.
- Increased wellbeing – direct feedback from pupils highlighted the impact on their wellbeing; *“I like everything about fishing, especially the wildlife and the calmness”, I like being outside” “I liked catching five fish and the outside”*.
- Positive impact on learning in the classroom – The sessions provided opportunities for students taking part to develop a range of life skills including teamwork, problem solving, communication



Cornwallis Academy

Ten students took part in Fishing for Schools during June – September 2021. The covid pandemic had an impact on delivery this year and combined with a very poor period of weather during June/July, resulted in the final session being delayed until the start of the Autumn term. Despite the delay, the students remained enthusiastic and keen to participate.



- Fishing for Schools encouraged a belief in their ability to learn, to achieve in a new task and the confidence to try something new. The pupils taking part were proud to achieve the Cast Level 1 Award and have shared their experiences at school (school assembly, newsletters).
- We were delighted that a number of young people taking part have continued to fish as a hobby on completion of the programme, specifically re-engaging their parent or grandparent to take up fishing again.