



Education Programme

For an unforgettable learning experience, bring your pupils to the Curraghs Wildlife Park! Choose from a wide variety of optional education sessions - or let us tailor one especially for your class.

- Over 70 species of animals in the stunning surroundings of Ballaugh Curraghs
- Fabulous indoor and outdoor playgrounds
- Cafe* and picnic areas
- Free education sessions
- Whole-day workshops during off-peak season
- Activity sheets/trails available for self-guided visits or to accompany education sessions

School admission price **£3.00** per pupil

Education sessions/workshops and accompanying adults **FREE** of charge

To book CONTACT:

693582 (direct line - Liz, Education Officer)

or email: liz.brunswick@gov.im

Main office 897323
www.curraghswildlifepark.im



*cafe open April to October

Education Programme

Reception Year

It's never too early to start learning about our amazing planet and the animals who share it! For Reception age children, a school trip to the Park is an exciting experience that they will remember for many years to come.

For many classes, a walk round the Park to look at the animals, with time to stop for a play on our adventure playgrounds, is the best option. However, see below for some of our education sessions and workshops which are especially geared to this age group.

Animals and Us

Approx 45 minutes

A close encounter with some creepy crawlies and a reptile, with fun facts about what makes them different from ourselves. Touching is permitted at the teacher's discretion. One of our most popular sessions!

Colour and Camouflage

Approx 45 minutes

Opening with a game in which the children hide colourful pretend "bugs", the children are then introduced to real bugs and a reptile to learn about staying hidden in the wild!

Teddy Bears' Outing

2 x 30 minute classroom sessions plus trail

This popular trip starts with a written invitation to your class, to bring their teddies to the Wildlife Park to learn about real bears. Bears are not allowed in without a passport, however, so you will need to use the template provided to make them! At the Park there will be a slide show, teddy hunt, and a very special story to keep children and their teddies busy.

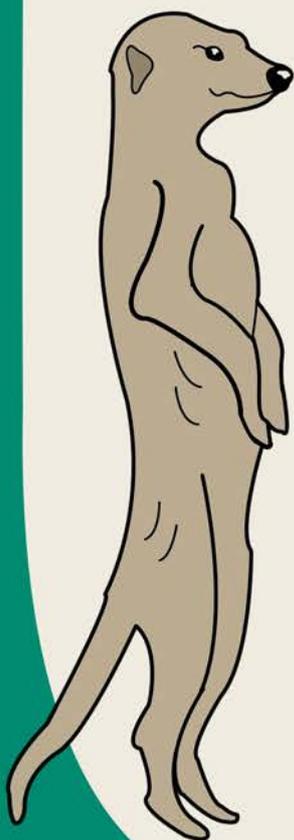
Discovery in the Secret Garden

Approx 45 minutes

New! The children will use all their senses to explore a variety of activities in the newly refurbished outdoor learning area behind the schoolroom. This session is dependent on the weather being fine, so an alternative option will be provided in the schoolroom if the day is too wet.

Oct and Nov only - "Colour-Me-Wild" - all-day event

Incorporating 10 exciting activities designed especially for this age group, Colour-Me-Wild is the Park's award-winning all day workshop, designed to teach about colour in the natural world. Watch out for details in September, or just ring or email to enquire about available dates. The day runs from 10:30 to 2:30 and goes ahead in all weather.



Education Programme

Key Stage One

Children in this age group benefit enormously from a trip to the wildlife Park. So much of what they will encounter is new to them, yet they are old enough to engage with what they see and to ask lots of questions. We know from teacher feedback that a visit makes a big impact on their learning, providing many opportunities for meaningful follow-up work.

See below for some of our most popular options. (**See also the Key Stage Two topics**, as most of these can be adapted for younger groups.)

Animal Close Encounter

Approx 55 minutes

Our most popular Year One session! Getting close-up and personal to a collection of big bugs and a reptile, children learn some fascinating facts, and get chance to touch some of the creatures. This session can be adapted to focus just on minibeasts, or to fit in with whatever animal topic you have been studying at school (e.g. "round the world", habitats, scary animals, etc). The emphasis, however, is on meeting the live animals.

Discovery in the Secret Garden

Approx 55 minutes

New! The area behind the classroom has been given a facelift, and is now an exciting outdoor learning area. Working in groups, children use their senses to explore a variety of activities, and get to meet a friendly snake or lizard. Dependent on fine weather, an alternative option will be provided in the classroom if too wet.

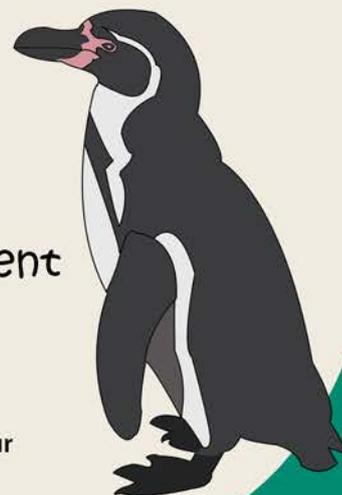
Rainforest Experience

Approx 90 minutes with 10 min break

This popular session takes pupils on an imaginary journey to the rainforest, to learn about the amazing plants and animals that live there. It was introduced to cater for schools that are studying rainforests but are unable to bring just a single group for the whole day to the "Rainforest Magic" workshop in the spring term. You can book 2 or 3 groups on the same date (the session will be shorter if 3 groups).

Feb and Mar only - "Rainforest Magic" all-day event

The carefully planned presentations and activities in this full day workshop have been designed to teach young children about rainforests in an exciting and inspiring way. A selection of options is offered for the afternoon so that you can tailor the day to suit your class. Watch out for details in January, or contact Liz to enquire about available dates.



Education Programme

Key Stage Two

With their growing awareness of the natural world, children in this key stage will always benefit from having the curriculum brought to life by a visit to the Wildlife Park! Listed on the following pages you will find a wide range of topics for this age group; however if you don't see something that is perfect for your group, please get in touch to discuss how we can tailor a session to your exact requirements.

Animal Close Encounter

Approx 55 minutes

In this very popular session, a collection of creepy crawlies and a reptile is brought along to the classroom so that children can get close up and hands-on as they learn some amazing facts. The session can be planned with a particular focus, to fit in with whatever animal topic you are studying, at your request.

Habitats

Approx 55 minutes

This session has been planned to develop a clear understanding of why and how different animals have adapted to different habitats. Using various props and live animals, we discuss how animals can live in places where we ourselves could not survive.

Movement and Growth

Approx 55 minutes

Through the use of live animals and biofacts we will look at how different species move around and how they grow and develop throughout their lives. The differences between vertebrates and invertebrates are explored.

Amazing Africa

Approx 55 minutes

Alongside a slide show of Africa's spectacular wildlife, children are shown some amazing biofacts, including an elephant's tooth and an ostrich egg. Live African invertebrates and a python ensure an unforgettable session!



Skull Detectives

Approx 55 minutes

New! Using the Park's collection of detailed replica skulls, the children are taught how to determine what sort of animal each of the skulls might have belonged to. Working in groups, they will try to identify a selection of skulls from rainforest animals and figure out what they ate.

Education Programme

Secondary Schools

Liven up your timetable with a trip out to the Curraghs Wildlife Park! If you don't see a topic that suits you in the list below, please talk to us about what you would like to do and we will do our best to accommodate you. The topics below can all be pitched at a level to suit the age/abilities of students in Key Stages Three and Four. Sessions for sixth form can be arranged on request.

Biodiversity Rocks!

Approx 55 minutes

What is biodiversity and why does it matter to us? We take a look at the scope of the earth's biodiversity, the threats it faces, and how it can be conserved for future generations.

Tropical Rainforests

Approx 55 minutes

This session focusses on the richest and most complex ecosystems on the planet, exploring the complex relationship between living things, and how destructive human behaviour has been in recent decades.

Modern Arks

Approx 55 minutes

We examine the threats that are facing wildlife today and the role that zoos and wildlife parks can play in protecting it for future generations. We look at the challenges that modern zoos face and their place in today's world.

Animal Adaptation

Approx 55 minutes

This session looks at the process of evolution and how it has led to the huge diversity of life on earth. We examine how some of the Wildlife Park's inhabitants have adapted to survive in a range of different habitats.

Skull Detectives

Approx 55 minutes

Students investigate our extensive range of replica skulls, using clues to work out which animals they might have come from and estimate their place in a food web.

TEAM BUILDING

if you would like to bring groups of students for a trip with an enrichment/team-building, rather than a curriculum focus, we can provide trails and quizzes, plus hands-on animal encounters. Please note that you will need to book these well in advance if your trip is during the very busy last weeks of the summer term.



Key Stage Two - continued

Animal S.o.S.

Approx 45 minutes

Many of the world's animals are currently facing extinction. In this thought-provoking session we explore the many threats that animals are up against. A selection of biofacts, props, and a slide show are used to help pupils to gain a clear understanding of the problems that need to be tackled.

All About Zoos

Approx 55 minutes

In this session we examine the role of zoos and wildlife parks, and question whether it is justifiable to keep wild animals in captivity. We then move on to look at the challenges zoos face when designing animal enclosures. Apart from the animals' comfort, what other things need to be considered?

Animal Supersenses

Approx 55 minutes

Anything we can do, animals can often do better! In this session the children explore their own senses and compare them to some of the most amazing senses in the animal kingdom. With the help of live invertebrates and a snake we go on to take a focussed look at how these creatures sense their surroundings.

Discovery in the Secret Garden

Approx 55 minutes

New! The area behind the schoolroom has been given a facelift to turn it into an outdoor learning space where activities can be set up. Working in groups, children explore a variety of things to enrich their knowledge of wildlife whilst having fun in the outdoors! This option is dependent on fine weather; an alternative option will be provided if it is very wet.

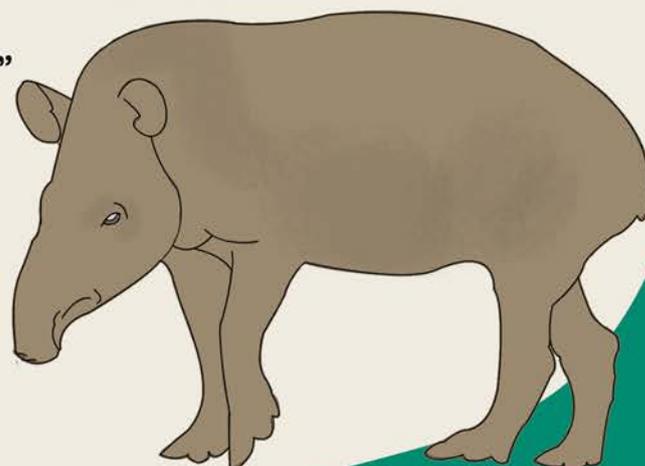
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Feb and Mar - "Rainforest Magic"

This all-day workshop aims to teach about the importance of tropical rainforests in an exciting and inspiring way, and offers a choice of options for the afternoon. Watch out for details in January or contact Liz to enquire about available dates.



Education Programme

Students with Special Needs

The excitement of a trip to the Wildlife Park, with so many new and interesting things to see, can often make a big impression on a child with special needs. Teachers tell us that the trip proves to be a talking point for days after the visit, and that animals can spark an unprecedented level of engagement in some students.

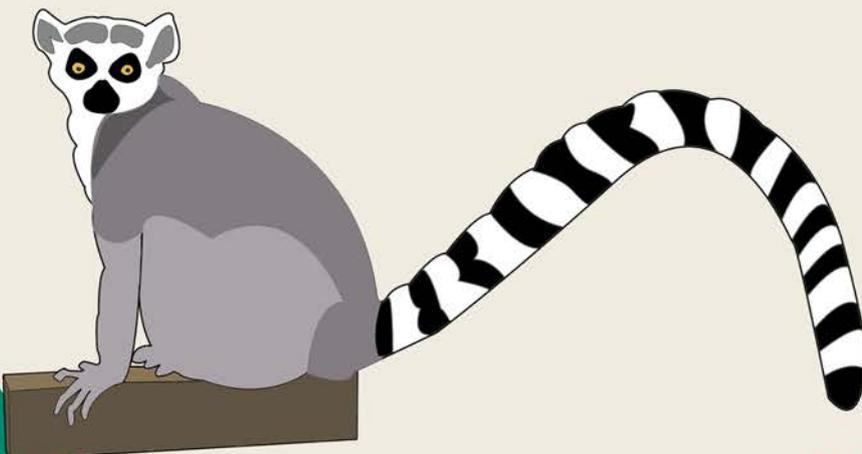
We recognise that the “special needs” umbrella covers a very diverse range of different individual needs so we will always try to meet your particular requirements when you visit. Even students with severe and complex needs can benefit from contact with animals, and every attempt will be made to accommodate them. It is advisable to chat to our education officer when you book, to ensure that we understand exactly what you want.

Education Sessions

Any of the topics listed on other pages of this programme are available to special needs students, and will be pitched as appropriate. However it is often best to plan an individual session especially for your group. Hands-on animal encounters with invertebrates and reptiles, sensory exploration, guided tours and “I spy” trails can be incorporated at your request. We will always take the lead from your staff - so feel free to change the pace of a session, take students out, or do something completely unplanned! Our aim is that all children will feel enriched by their experience.

Photos and invitation

If you like, we can email you a selection of photographs of animals, the play areas, Park entrance, cafe, etc to help you prepare children for the trip. You can also arrange for a written invitation to arrive the week before your trip, outlining what the children will see and do. Please request these from Liz in writing when you book.



Education Programme

F.A.Q.s

What time should we arrive?

At whatever time suits you, but please inform us if you plan to be here before 10:00 or you will not be able to get in! As a guide, most schools arrive between 10:00 and 10:30 and leave around 14:30. If you have pre-booked an education session please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to allow time to walk to the schoolroom.

How do we pay the pupil admission fee?

The Wildlife Park will invoice your school office after your trip, for the number of pupils who turn up on the day.

Where can we have lunch?

There are plenty of picnic areas around the Park, including covered ones in Close Beg (the playbarn area). A useful tip is to bring packed lunches in NAMED disposable carrier bags (recycled of course!) so that you won't have to carry lunch boxes around afterwards. The cafe* is under separate management, and, as with most cafes, does not allow you to eat your own food in there. This also applies to the cafe verandah.

Where are the toilets?

Toilets are next to the cafe (adjacent to the schoolroom) and just by the playbarn. They both have hand-driers, so some teachers prefer to bring a pack of paper towels to speed up hand-washing. (Please dispose of in the bins)

Can the Wildlife Park send me a risk assessment?

Schools should write their own risk assessment for the trip. If you would like guidelines on some of the specific risks you are likely to encounter, please refer to "Guidelines for Preparing Risk Assessments" available to download from the Wildlife Park wiki on the sch.im site, or by request by emailing Liz.

How do I book, or just find out more?

Phone or email Liz Brunswick, the Park's Education Officer (contact details on page 1) at any time. A useful document "Information for School Visits to the CWP" is downloadable from the Wildlife Park's wiki on the sch.im site, or available by request.

Will photographs be taken?

A class photo may be taken after your session, so please check beforehand if any children do not have permission for photos. Let Liz know if you do not wish photos taken during your trip to be used for publicity purposes.

