

# Participants Information Sheet (parents)

## **Connecting schools to nature in North-East England**

Your son/daughter's school is taking part in the 'Connecting schools to nature in North-East England' project which is being run by the British Ecological Society in partnership with Durham University. You can read more about the project, including the benefits to all participants, by going to [www.britishecologicalsociety.org/connecting-schools-with-nature/](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/connecting-schools-with-nature/).

We wish to evaluate the positive benefits this project has on pupil's who take part by asking pupil's to fill in a series of questionnaires / worksheets. This information sheet will give you more information about what will be involved as it is important, why we are collecting this information, and what to do if you wish to opt-out on behalf of your son / daughter. Please take time to read the following information carefully. You can contact a member of the team if you have any questions or if there is anything that is not clear by emailing Alexa Roditi [alexa@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:alexa@britishecologicalsociety.org) or Sammy Mason [sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org).

### ***Purpose of the study***

The purpose of this study is to assess the impact of our 'Connecting schools to nature in North-East England' project on people's understanding of, and connection to, nature as well as gather general feedback from the project. The anonymised results will be shared with our project funders and research partners.

### ***Why have I been chosen?***

Your son / daughter's school applied to take part in this project and is one of 50 schools that has been selected. Participating schools will receive a large number of benefits including equipment and resources for school grounds, teacher training opportunities, and classroom workshops.

### ***Does my son / daughter have to take part?***

Every pupil in each of the participating schools will take part in the project as part of their normal school teaching as teachers have chosen to take part in this project. Every pupil will also answer short questionnaires / worksheets before, during, or after the project's activities. Information from these questionnaires / worksheets will be anonymised by the teacher and then collected by us for analysis. However, you are able to opt-out of us collecting the information, in which case your son / daughter's responses to the questionnaires / worksheets will be destroyed by the teacher.

### ***What information are you collecting on the questionnaires / worksheets?***

Your son / daughter will answer a few questions about their current connection to nature, knowledge of nature / ecology, and general wellbeing. All the questions will be tailored to their age group, and many (including the connection to nature scores and wellbeing measures) are commonly used standardised approaches. The questionnaires / worksheets will vary in length but will never take more than 15 minutes to complete.

### ***Are there any possible disadvantages and/or risks in taking part?***

There are no known risks or disadvantages to taking part in these questionnaires.

### ***What are the possible benefits of taking part?***

You will contribute to a better understanding of how engaging with nature and incorporating nature-related teaching in schools can affect knowledge of, and connection to nature, as well as people's mental health and wellbeing. Your contributions will also help us to plan and obtain funding for future projects and to ensure these projects are as beneficial as possible for participants.

***Will my son / daughter's taking part in this study be kept confidential?***

We will work to keep any information collected via project evaluation methods as confidential as possible. All children's responses to questionnaires / worksheets will be anonymised by their teachers and individual identifiable data will not be available to ourselves. Please refer to our [Connecting Schools to Nature Privacy Policy](#) for further details.

***What will happen to the results of this research project?***

Overall results of this project will be presented and shared amongst project partners, project participants (via BES / school communications), and the wider community (in talks, at conferences, and in research papers). Individual data of specific people taking part in the study will not be presented.

***Who is organising and funding the research?***

The project is funded by the UK Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The associated research is being conducted in association with Durham University.

***Ethical review of the study***

This project has received ethical approval from the Department of Biosciences Ethics Committee.

***How do I opt-out?***

If you do not wish for us to collect data from your son / daughter the you can opt-out now or at any point in the project. Please fill in the form attached and return it to your school to pass on to us. Alternatively, you can let one of the project team know via email (contact details above).

***Contact for further information***

Please contact either Alexa Roditi ([alexa@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:alexa@britishecologicalsociety.org)) or Sammy Mason ([sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org)).

## Parents Opt-Out Form

**Opt-out of your son / daughter filling in the questionnaires to evaluate the impact of the British Ecological Society's 'Connecting schools to nature in North-East England' outreach project.**

Please tick each statement to indicate your understanding. If you need any further information please e-mail [alexa@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:alexa@britishecologicalsociety.org) or [sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org):

- I confirm that I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions and had them answered
- I understand that information gathered in this study will be stored anonymously and securely and may be used for future research
- I understand that I am free to withdraw from my son / daughter's information being collected at any time without giving a reason
- I understand that all personal information will remain confidential, and all efforts will be made to ensure my son /daughter cannot be identified

**I wish to opt-out of my son / daughter filling in questionnaires for this project.**

Name:

Date: