

Rivers in the Classroom

KS2 EDUCATION PROGRAMME
INFORMATION PACK



Bringing the river to your classroom and your class to their river.





“The children were given experiences and learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom which enriched and enhanced their understanding of the local area. They were given an insight into environmental issues through first-hand experience.”

- Year 4 teacher, Clitheroe

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WHAT IS RIVERS IN THE CLASSROOM?

Explore your local river as a teaching resource. The Ribble Rivers Trust will help to unlock its potential through a flexible menu of classroom- and field-based workshops.



“Children are inspired to promote looking after the local environment and know the dangers facing wildlife and rivers. Most children in our school would never experience anything like this. The support was excellent.”

- Year 4 teacher, Preston

As part of the Ribble Life Together project, Ribble Rivers Trust has developed the *Rivers in the Classroom* education programme to bring freshwater science into schools across the Ribble Catchment.

By encouraging pupils to expand their knowledge of their local rivers, we hope to promote the value of the Ribble's natural heritage and improve its condition for people and wildlife.

Rivers in the Classroom offers a broad range of activities, tailored to suit your teaching requirements and time commitments.

Through field- and classroom-based, practical activities, pupils learn about the relationships between living things and their environment. They discover how we can help to protect our rivers into the future by making small behavioural changes at home.



- * Activities link to the **National Curriculum** for **Key Stage 2**.
- * Pupils develop **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural** (SMSC) values, recognised by **Ofsted** as important components in an outstanding school.
- * **Choose** from individual workshops, combining workshops to create a full activity day, or an exciting project for the spring term.
- * Equipment and training provided by Ribble Rivers Trust.
- * Led by experienced, DBS checked education officers.
- * Risk assessments provided.

Read on to discover what exciting activities your school could get involved with...

RIVER-FRIENDLY SCHOOL AWARD

The River-Friendly School Award is something that can be proudly displayed in your school for all to see. To achieve this, your class will need to:

- ◇ Take part in a full day of activities (all in one day or as two half-day sessions) OR take part in the Trout in the Classroom project.
- ◇ Carry out one self-chosen challenge for the school to have a lasting positive impact on the environment. Pupils should be able to monitor the progress of this challenge and use before/after data (e.g. photos or statistics) to show completion.
- ◇ Communicate what they have learnt and achieved through Rivers in the Classroom to the rest of the school and/or wider community.
- ◇ Develop a river-code or pledge for the school.



SELF-CHOSEN CHALLENGE

To be awarded River-Friendly School status, the pupils in your class must decide on a challenge that will help their school have a lasting positive impact on the environment. This should be something new to the school and pupils should be able to monitor this challenge and show when it is in progress or has been completed. Below are some challenge ideas: your pupils can choose one of these or come up with their own.

- ◆ All the sinks in our school have push taps and are regularly checked for leaks.
- ◆ Our school gets milk delivered in glass bottles rather than plastic ones.
- ◆ Our school has water fountains to refill reusable water bottles.
- ◆ Our school has a 'walking bus' or encourages pupils to walk/cycle/scoot to school.
- ◆ Our school has an Eco-Committee.
- ◆ Our school has banned the use of nasty chemicals and uses eco-friendly ones instead.
- ◆ Our school has a natural area to work and play in.
- ◆ Our school offers training on using bikes and scooters safely.
- ◆ We have trees, plenty of grass and some flower beds in our school grounds.
- ◆ Our school grounds have a wildlife pond.
- ◆ Our school has banned single-use plastics.



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Experience the magical world of brown trout from your own classroom!

Ribble Rivers Trust will install a tank and provide you with eggs. Study them as they grow and then release the young fish into your local river.



"The trout tank, and the final ceremony for the release of them. Easily one of the top ten experiences of a long teaching career."

- Head of KS2, Clitheroe

ACTIVITY CONTENT

Ribble Rivers Trust staff will set up your trout tank with all the equipment needed to create a river habitat in your classroom before delivering 100 brown trout eggs after the Christmas break.

On the day we introduce the eggs, we will also deliver a lesson to your class. This will give them an introduction to the brown trout and provide them with all the information they need to care for their new classmates as they develop from egg to fry (young fish).

Before the Easter holiday, a member of the RRT team will help you release the fry into your local river, where they will continue to grow and may eventually venture out to sea.

We will help you enhance your pupils' learning experience by linking Trout in the Classroom to the National Curriculum.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Observe each stage of the trout's life cycle as it unfolds in your own classroom.

Learn to care for the young fish and what conditions they need to survive in the wild.

Find out about food chains: what the trout eat and what eats them.

Search for other fascinating freshwater creatures when you release the fish, using a kick-sampling method.



RIVERSIDE WORKSHOPS

Through engaging riverside workshops, pupils develop a sense of curiosity about the natural environment.



“My favourite thing about today is being able to spend time on learning activities outside with the class”

- KS2 teacher

ACTIVITY CONTENT

This programme encourages pupils to develop key fieldwork skills of observation, problem-solving and understanding. The workshops are delivered in riverside locations local to your school. Covering everything from river geography to species adaptations and identification, these riverside workshops fit in with your school curriculum.

WATER SAFETY SESSION

Each of our riverside activities will include a session on water safety. Through this, pupils will find out about the dangers of river environments and learn easy to remember rules to stay safe by the river. Our education staff will give a demonstration before pupils have a go at safe rescue methods (all on dry land!).

RIVER EXPEDITION

Take a tour along your local riverbank and learn about river features, what organisms live in rivers and what they need to survive, and why trees are important to rivers. We will look at tree structure and function, discuss the impacts of pollution on our rivers and talk about how we can help conserve river habitats from home.

FRESHWATER MICRO-SAFARI

Pupils will discover how and why we collect river invertebrates using kick sampling, then use an identification key to find out what they have caught. They will find out how these organisms survive in freshwater habitats and learn about freshwater food chains.

ANGLING COACHING

Pupils can try a new sport whilst learning about river habitats. Please contact us to enquire about the availability of this activity.



FIELD-BASED WORKSHOPS

Through taking part in activities to create and conserve freshwater habitats, pupils can contribute to the future of the Ribble Catchment for wildlife and people.



"I have learnt lots of new river words and about how rivers work. Now I know that we need to help rivers become more natural and do things like planting trees."

- Year 5 pupil

ACTIVITY CONTENT

These habitat creation and conservation workshops get pupils out of the classroom and working to directly benefit freshwater habitats . They will learn that they have the power to make a huge positive difference to our rivers and seas.

HABITAT CREATION: TREE PLANTING

Pupils will get hands-on and learn a practical outdoor skill while making a positive difference to the environment. They will learn why trees are so important to rivers, wildlife and people, and discover what trees need for life and growth.

HABITAT CONSERVATION: LITTER PICKING

Combine a walk along your local river with a big clean up of all the litter dropped there to prevent it from finding its way into the river. Pupils will learn about the problem of microplastics and how a simple piece of litter can have devastating effects for wildlife both in rivers and out at sea. Add in a bit of friendly competition to see who can pick the most litter!

All tools and equipment needed for these workshops are provided by Ribble Rivers Trust.

Please note that tree planting runs November-March only and is subject to local opportunities.



CLASSROOM-BASED WORKSHOPS

These engaging and informative indoor workshops cover a range of subjects, including science, geography, English, music and art.



*"I liked looking through the microscope and seeing
all the invertebrates"*

- KS2 pupil

ACTIVITY CONTENT

If you don't have a river near you or would prefer indoor, freshwater-themed fun, you can choose from our classroom-based workshops.

INDOOR FRESHWATER MICRO-SAFARI

We'll bring the invertebrates to you! Pupils will discover what creatures live under the water and sort them into groups using ID keys. We will also cover freshwater food chains.

EXPLORING THE RIVER LANDSCAPE

Using our interactive river table, pupils will learn about the water cycle and river formation, watch the force of water erode river banks and develop meanders, and see the impacts of climate change and pollution. Pupils will also find out how to conserve rivers from home and then race to restore the Ribble!

RIVER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

We have a variety of interactive activities and workshops available, including 'Gifts to the River', which we will discuss during the booking process to ensure that they meet the needs and abilities of your pupils. Pupils will learn about rivers, why they are important and what they can do to help protect them. We try to link all activities to your school's curriculum as much as possible so please let us know if there are any specific topics you would like us to cover.



DAY PACKAGES

Combine our riverside, field-based and classroom-based workshops to create a full, action-packed activity day with Ribble Rivers Trust.



Having worked with the trust for two years now, it is one of the most positive and valuable experiences for our children. Having the chance to get out of the classroom and explore their own local geography has not only helped them with their learning and understanding but supported their mental health and wellbeing"

- Year 5 teacher, Burnley

ACTIVITY CONTENT

REMARKABLE RIVERS

Spend a whole day learning about just how remarkable our rivers are. An action-packed day with us could see you discovering your local river and learning about all the life it supports. Meet some of these creatures close up by taking a sample of invertebrates from below the water's surface. Return to the classroom for the afternoon where pupils could explore the river landscape with our interactive river table and learn about all the things we can do to protect our rivers for people and wildlife.

See an example running orders of a full day package on the next page. Timings can be agreed to fit your school day and we are always open to suggestions for making the days more tailored towards the needs of your pupils.



REMARKABLE RIVERS
We are adventurous

Morning

Whole class walks to the local river

Launch-in

Introduction to the day

Water Safety Session

Snack and drink

River Expedition

Take a tour along your local riverbank and learn about river features, what organisms live in rivers and what they need to survive.

Freshwater Micro-Safari

Discover a hidden world, just beneath the water's surface.

Lunch (1 hour)

Outside - weather permitting!

Walk back to school

Afternoon

Class divided into two groups

GROUP 1

Exploring the River Landscape

Use the interactive river table to learn how to conserve rivers and restore the Ribble.

River-related activities

Choose from a variety of classroom-based sessions to help pupils engage with rivers.

GROUP 2

River-related activities

Choose from a variety of classroom-based sessions to help pupils engage with rivers.

Exploring the River Landscape

Use the interactive river table to learn how to conserve rivers and restore the Ribble.

Afternoon break

River Reflections

Whole class comes together to recap on the day and discuss their thoughts and feelings of the experience.

"Activities were local and meaningful to our children ensuring that our children, staff and helpers thoroughly enjoyed the session"

- KS2 teacher, Chatburn



"The river table is possibly the best teaching aid that I have ever seen and, in terms of doing a river topic, definitely the best."

*- Head of KS2,
Clitheroe*



"I am sure that the children's experiences today will stay with them and encourage them to respect our rivers in general and the Ribble Catchment in particular."

- KS2 teacher, Chatburn

"Excellent 'hands on' approach with magnifying glasses and identification tables. Very well organised with knowledgeable staff who inspired the children."

*- Year 5/6 teacher,
Gisburn*



WATER + WELLNESS

Following the success of running Water + Wellness as a six-session programme as part of the HEAL project, we have repackaged it into a shorter project to run over three half days the summer term.



"The children's learning was much more meaningful through the enrichment of the Water + Wellness programme"

- Year 3 teacher, Nelson

ACTIVITY CONTENT

RIVER HEALTH WALK

Pupils will explore their local area from the classroom using an OS map before walking a pre-planned route, learning how to read a map and lead a group on the way.

WATER SAFETY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Pupils will cover water safety and the Countryside Code, invaluable skills when enjoying our green and blue spaces.

SEEDS AND CYCLES

Pupils will learn about seed dispersal and the life cycle of trees and river life, as well as why trees are so important to rivers. They will also discover how to feel connected to nature for all the benefits it brings to well-being.



RIVERS IN THE CLASSROOM AND OFSTED

Rivers in the Classroom can help your pupils develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) values—recognised by Ofsted as important components of an Outstanding school.



Value		Rivers in the Classroom
Spiritual	<i>Sense of enjoyment and fascination about the world around them.</i>	First-hand experiences of the natural world. Students are engaged in the ecology and conservation of local habitats using fun and memorable experiences.
	<i>Use of imagination and creativity in learning.</i>	Some workshops include using arts, crafts or music to aid with learning about rivers. Pupils will use their imagination to design a way to persuade others to help their river.
	<i>Willingness to reflect on their own experiences.</i>	Space and time is offered throughout for reflection, including at the beginning and end of a session.
Moral	<i>Recognise the difference between right and wrong and apply it to their own lives through making responsible and reasoned judgements.</i>	Pupils develop and appreciation of why we should respect and be mindful of the environment.
	<i>Understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions.</i>	Pupils build and understanding of how humankind's impact on the environment is unsustainable and explore how our behaviour may be made more sustainable.
	<i>Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues.</i>	Pupils recognise our moral and ethical responsibility to protect the environment and discuss human and environmental impacts on rivers.

	Value	Rivers in the Classroom
Social	<i>Working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.</i>	Activities include working in mixed groups to carry out practical investigations and participate in activities relevant to their community.
	<i>Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.</i>	Pupils feel empowered to exercise their individual liberty when selecting their 'one amazing thing' to do for rivers. Mutual respect is promoted when others are sharing thoughts and opinions.
Cultural	<i>Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic opportunities.</i>	Various workshops that we offer challenge each pupil to use their imagination to experiment with creative thinking techniques. In the more creativity-focussed workshops, pupils use creative expression to explore their thoughts about the river environment.



RIVERS IN THE CLASSROOM AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

How can Rivers in the Classroom enhance you pupils' learning across the National Curriculum?



Subject	KS2 National Curriculum	Links to Rivers in the Classroom
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Working scientifically ◆ Plants ◆ Animals, including humans ◆ Living things and their habitats ◆ States of matter ◆ Evolution and inheritance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Systematic and careful observations over time ◆ Using scientific evidence to support or refute ideas ◆ Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth ◆ Identify that animals get nutrition from what they eat; food chains ◆ Living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; classification keys ◆ Environments can change and this can pose dangers to living things ◆ Life cycle of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird ◆ Evaporation and condensation as stages of the water cycle ◆ Animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Human and physical geography ◆ Geographical skills and fieldwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The water cycle and its role in freshwater ecosystems ◆ Formation and flow of rivers including erosion and deposition processes (using the river table) ◆ Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Numbers ◆ Measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Taking and recording measurements and counts

Subject	KS2 National Curriculum	Links to Rivers in the Classroom
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reading (words and comprehension) ◆ Writing (composition, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation) ◆ Discuss non-fiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Listening to and discussion non-fiction ◆ Prepare poems and play scripts to perform ◆ Provide reasoned justifications for their views ◆ Participate in discussions about what they are learning ◆ Reading and spelling scientific vocabulary ◆ Plan, draft, write, evaluate and edit writing
Art and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use a range of materials to creatively design and make products ◆ Create sketch books to record their observations
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils learn to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others ◆ Pupils understand and explore how music is created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use their voices expressively and creatively ◆ Play tuned and untuned instruments musically ◆ Experiment with, create and combine sounds ◆ Play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts ◆ Improvise and compose music ◆ Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds
Physical education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils are physically active for sustained periods of time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Outdoor and adventurous activities both individually and within a team

THE RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME TO BRING FRESHWATER SCIENCE TO SCHOOLS ACROSS THE RIBBLE CATCHMENT.

Why book Rivers in the Classroom?

- ✓ Engaging and interactive hands-on experience.
- ✓ Linked to the ***National Curriculum*** and tailored to suit your teaching requirements and time commitments.
- ✓ Enables children's ***Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural*** development, recognised by ***Ofsted*** as important components of an Outstanding school.
- ✓ Delivered by our *experienced education team* who are all ***fully DBS checked***.

Here's what teachers say:

"An excellent experience for children to see the river at first-hand. This was a great programme, finely-tuned for children, very well-pitched and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it."

"Very educational—links to many KS2 science and geography units. The staff were exceptional."

"A truly remarkable learning experience."

How do I book?

For more information, contact Ribble Rivers Trust:

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