

## Primary School Assembly Educator Guidance

Below is the accompanying teacher guidance for the Introduction to the National Education Nature Park Primary School Assembly. All the suggested wording for each slide is optional and you can adapt the script to suit your setting. Each slide has key messages to cover at the top of the section, to help you adapt the script if you would like.

Optional preparation:

- Take some photos of a few things on your school grounds (slide 3)
- Choose some quick calls-to-action for pupils and staff to get involved (slide 8)

### Slide 1 - What can you hear? (as pupils are arriving)

#### Key messages

- Listen to nature and observe what you can hear and how that makes you feel
- Nature makes us feel calm (or similar positive feeling) so it is important to protect it

As pupils are arriving at the assembly or for the first minute of the assembly- [play this video](#) 'the sound of biodiversity: Nature soundscapes at Knepp'.

Encourage pupils to take notice to what they can hear.

End the video with a quick plenary asking pupils what they could hear and how the sounds make them feel.

You could ask pupils to raise their hands and talk about what they heard and how they felt, or you could ask pupils to raise their hands if they heard birds, trees moving etc., and raise their hand if they felt calm, happy, relaxed and so on.

Transition into the introduction to the assembly by talking about how nature can make us feel and therefore how it is important that we do our bit to protect nature.

### Slide 2 - Nature is in trouble

#### Key messages

- Nature in England has declined over time and we are joining schools across England to protect it
- When we work together, we can have a big positive impact

#### Suggested wording

Nature in England is in trouble!

The UK has lost a lot of its nature over time and lots of animals and plants that live in our country are struggling. As a school, we are joining a new project that other schools across the whole of England are taking part in to help protect nature. [Insert your education setting name] are going to do our bit to make our school grounds a safe and happy home for living things.

Today we are going to talk about what we are going to do! It's exciting and it will get us out the classroom and into nature! Today you are all explorers and throughout this assembly, you will need to use your skills. Are you ready? Let's begin our Nature Park journey...

Optional: you may like to link this slide to your school's values. Teamwork, curiosity, creativity, well-being, responsibility, empathy, kindness, sense of community, determination, hope, compassion etc., all fit well with the aims of the National Education Nature Park.

*Example* "As a school we have a responsibility to help protect the living things that call our school grounds their home. We are going to work together as a whole school community, alongside other schools in England, to help nature in our local area to thrive. When we all come together and are determined and resilient, we can create a positive future for children and nature across the whole of England".

### **Slide 3 - Nature Investigators**

#### **Key messages**

- It's time to be nature investigators!
- Our school/nursery is home to lots of living things. Humans, animals, insects and plants all use this space!
- Our school/nursery has many different uses, and we benefit from nature. It helps us to relax, and it also provides areas for us to play.
- We want to make our grounds the best for humans, animals and plants!

For this slide, you can either:

Go outside in your school grounds and take photos of the following:

- A living thing you know the name of (or that pupils might know the name of). This doesn't have to be an animal! If not an animal/insect, you can introduce the concept that plants are living things too!
- A place to sit and relax
- A place to play

Or you can use the pre-prepared images of:

- A fern
- Pupils relaxing on a tyre
- A wooded play area

Show each image on the screen and ask pupils to put their hand up and share what they think it is. After they have guessed, you can tell some fun facts about the thing or talk about how nature can be a place to relax and play.

#### **Suggested wording**

Plants are living things too, just like animals and insects. Ferns are some of the oldest plants on the Earth and have been around for millions of years, even before dinosaurs were alive! There are over [10,000 different types of ferns!](#) Some ferns can live up to 100 years!

Being outside in nature is the perfect place to sit and relax. Plants can provide shade and a cool place to be when it is really hot and also help to block sounds and make areas quieter. Being surrounded by greenery can help us to feel calm. Did you know that [humans can see more shades of green](#) than any other colour? Our ancestors used to live in regions full of greenery and being able to detect the colour green helped us to know what food was safe and ready to eat. No one likes a green banana!

Nature is the perfect playground! We can use grass to play sports, wooded areas to play hide and seek, and climb!



## Slide 4 - The National Education Nature Park

### Key messages

- We are joining the National Education Nature Park, a network of education settings across England who are taking action to protect and improve their space for people, plants, animals and insects.
- Our education setting is our nature park, which is a part of the National Education Nature Park, involving schools across England. Small changes add up and we are all working together to make a positive difference.

### Suggested wording

To help make our grounds the best for humans, animals and plants, we are joining the National Education Nature Park, a network of schools, nurseries and colleges across England who are taking action to protect and improve their space for people, plants, animals and insects.

Our grounds are our Nature Park. Each school will be working to make their nature park better for people and wildlife, and together all the small changes we make will add up to make a positive difference for nature in England.

## Slide 5 - Our Nature Park

### Key messages

- In our Nature Park, we will be getting to know our site by understanding what lives there and how pupils, plants and animals use our site. Then we will be creating a plan to improve our site for nature.
- We will keep looking at what is living and growing on our site and investigate the difference we have made for nature over time.
- Everyone in our education setting can make a difference and the more of us who are involved the more impact we can have.

### Suggested wording

We will start by getting to know our site by understanding what lives there and how pupils, plants and animals use our site. A bit like what we have done already in this assembly being nature investigators!

Then we will create a plan to improve our site for nature. Examples of what we could do include creating ponds, planting flowers, growing fruit and vegetables, planting trees, creating a green wall and capturing rainwater in water butts (mention anything you have already done e.g 'We have already built a pond and we will continue to make a positive difference by....').

Then we will keep looking at what is living and growing on our site and investigate the difference we have made for nature.

Our Nature Park will create the most positive impact if everyone at [insert education setting name] gets involved.

## Slide 6 - How can we help at school?

### Key messages

- Everyone in our school has an important role to play in our Nature Park journey
- Every member of staff can contribute
- The National Education Nature Park will help meet existing goals for our school

### Suggested wording

We can help our Nature Park in our different lessons. In Maths, we could collect measurements about our outdoor space. In Science we could learn about animals, plants and wildlife, what their different roles are and what they need. In Geography, we could look at maps to understand how our site has been used. In P.E., we could get outside and explore nature in our site. In English, we could write creatively about what we want our grounds to be like. In Art, we could draw, paint, collage or take pictures of nature.

Our Nature Park journey will involve pupils and school staff! We will all come together to make the biggest difference for nature.

Staff, we need you too! On the screen are some suggestions about how you could get involved and use your expertise to help our nature park journey. Everyone has a part to play and you don't need any previous experience teaching about nature or climate change.

Teachers can use the free resources to meet curriculum goals and use the activities to develop confidence in building green and digital skills and delivering climate and nature content.

Headteachers can support our Nature Park by giving teachers time, providing permission to make changes to outdoor space and helping support pupils to make changes.

Caretakers and maintenance staff can help us make changes to our school ground and help us look after our site once we have made changes.

Teaching assistants can support teachers and pupils to get outside.

Members of the local community can provide us with expert knowledge and inspiration for how we can improve our site.

*Other examples you can include if relevant to your education setting:*

School council leads can use the Nature Park to improve pupil voice and give children the power to make decisions about their school.

Eco club leads can use the free resources to deliver sessions to the eco club and help channel climate anxiety into agency to tackle climate change.

Careers leads can use the National Education Nature Park to develop green skills and digital skills.

Outdoor leads can use the activities to help get more pupils outside into nature and help pupils develop a meaningful connection to nature that they will carry forward throughout their lives.

Sustainability leads can use the nature park to help support climate action plans and develop an approach to nature that satisfies the biodiversity elements of Climate Action Plans.

Wellbeing leads can use the nature park to help improve the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of our pupils and help our pupils to build agency and tackle eco anxiety.

Science leads can take part in real life scientific research on biodiversity.

## **Slide 7 - Let's get started!**

### **Suggested wording**

Let's get started on our Nature Park journey today!

If every school in England - that's 24,413 schools - did one small thing such as install plants for pollinators, we would create thousands of safe homes for insects and animals. Homes for bugs, bees, butterflies, birds, spiders, worms, frogs and more.

If every pupil in England - that's 9.1 million children - did one small thing such as plant a fruit tree, we would create millions of homes for wildlife, provide food for pollinators and people and help clean the air that we breathe.

Through taking part in the National Education Nature Park, we can create thriving school grounds that can be enjoyed by people, animals, insects and plants. Who knows what we might discover in our school grounds!

## **Slide 8 - Thank you [insert school name]**

On this slide, you can insert any specific information about how pupils and staff at your school can get involved. If you are a lead teacher, you could put your contact details down for other staff to contact you to get involved. You could insert information about how pupils could help. This slide could also include information about what the first thing you will be doing or what different year groups will be doing. If you are not sure yet, this slide can just be a closing thank you slide.



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Nature Park and  
Climate Action Awards



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