

ENGLAND EDUCATION REPORT 2018-2019

JOHN MUIR TRUST



JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

FUNDING SUPPORT FROM:

Lake District National Park, Hays Travel, DS Smith Foundation, The Nineveh Trust, Alan Baxter Foundation, Education Services Trust, Swire Charitable Trust

During 2018-2019:



16,139 Awards

were achieved by pupils and staff in educational settings.

(24% increase on previous academic year)



4,986 Awards

were achieved by students from groups often underrepresented in conservation activity



562

Educational settings in England were involved in delivering the John Muir Award

(21% increase on previous academic year)



(c) Visit Wales

The John Muir Trust is a membership based conservation charity dedicated to the experience, repair and protection of wild places. In 1997 we launched our main engagement initiative, the John Muir Award to encourage people to connect with, enjoy and care for nature.

This report summarises John Muir Award activity which took place in educational settings[1] in England during the 2018-2019 academic year.

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme, comprising of four challenges (Discover a wild place, Explore it, take action to Conserve it and Share your experiences). Each challenge promotes outdoor activity, learning, and development opportunities for Award participants as well as positive action for wild places and nature.

During 2018-19 more young people than ever achieved an Award in England with a 24% increase in young participants from the previous academic year. This increase in involvement points to the Award's relevance at a time of growing awareness of the value of connecting with nature in our everyday lives.

[1] Educational settings include; primary and secondary schools, special schools, further education colleges, universities, alternative provision and home education groups.

“I have always liked being in nature but now I have a new respect for it, like I’m looking at it with new eyes.”

Joel - Pannal Primary School, North Yorkshire

“It is more important than ever that children question what the adults are doing about the way we treat the earth. I think the John Muir Award is a great opportunity for children to talk about what is happening and what they can do to help.”

Teacher at Timberley Academy, Birmingham

Supporting Educational Opportunities

We know from our communication with teachers that educational priorities such as progress, developing character and increasing engagement can all be supported through the John Muir Award, taking learning outside the classroom to meet curriculum objectives and develop transferable skills. The new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, launched in September 2019 emphasises the importance of a “broad and rich” curriculum along with high quality extra-curricular opportunities.

“The Award has given our school a real focus and drive to offer our students experience above and beyond the classroom. The students are determined to complete all the visits and experiences that are offered to them and they gain an understanding of new environments and the importance of conserving them for others to enjoy in the future.”

Teacher, Neston High School, Cheshire.

Promoting Youth Social Action

As part of the Government’s 2019 Year of Green Action, The John Muir Trust has been working with the #iwill4nature campaign to promote and celebrate youth social action. In 2019 John Muir Award participants across the UK took part in approximately 375,700 hours of practical conservation and environmental social action through their Award activity. Read more on our Young People & Nature webpages at www.johnmuiraward.org





The John Muir Trust remains a partner of the Learning Away consortium #BrilliantResidentials campaign; 8,429 Awards (52%) of Award activity with schools throughout 2018-19 involved a residential element.

Health & Wellbeing

The Award is frequently used by schools to promote health and wellbeing. We have produced a freely available guide^[2] highlighting how the four challenges of the Award support engagement with the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing', a simple evidence based tool for improving personal wellbeing, widely promoted via public health organisations and the NHS.

'Spending time in wild places helps me release all of my fears and worries and they all just jump off the edge of the hill! When I am out discovering and exploring, I just focus on the beauty and the subtle smells of the outdoors; it helps me to feel happy and feel very worry-free. The soft and gentle colours all help with feeling calm and safe.'

Emily – Award participant, Clavering Primary School, Hartlepool

An Inclusive Approach

The flexible format of the Award is effective with many young people who have additional educational needs. It can be used to engage and challenge students a level suitable to them whilst remaining achievable and meaningful to learners. This inclusive approach means the Award is used successfully in a wide range of settings.

For further information about the John Muir Award or how you can support the work of the John Muir Trust please visit www.johnmuirtrust.org or email info@johnmuiraward.org.



96 special schools & alternative provisions were supported to use the John Muir Award in 2018-2019

Many schools have recognised the benefits of the Award as a way of engaging and supporting Pupil Premium students. John Muir Trust staff supported Pevensey and Westham Primary School in East Sussex to use the Award as the basis of activities for the school 'Green Team,' a group of Pupil Premium and other targeted students. The Green Team worked hard, taking responsibility for looking after wild places in the school grounds. The group leader reported that participating in the project had a "positive impact on the group's general mood and wellbeing.". In the post project evaluation one of the children commented that "I felt like a different person and that I could be more helpful to others and nature."

[2] <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/about/resources/358-five-ways-to-wellbeing>