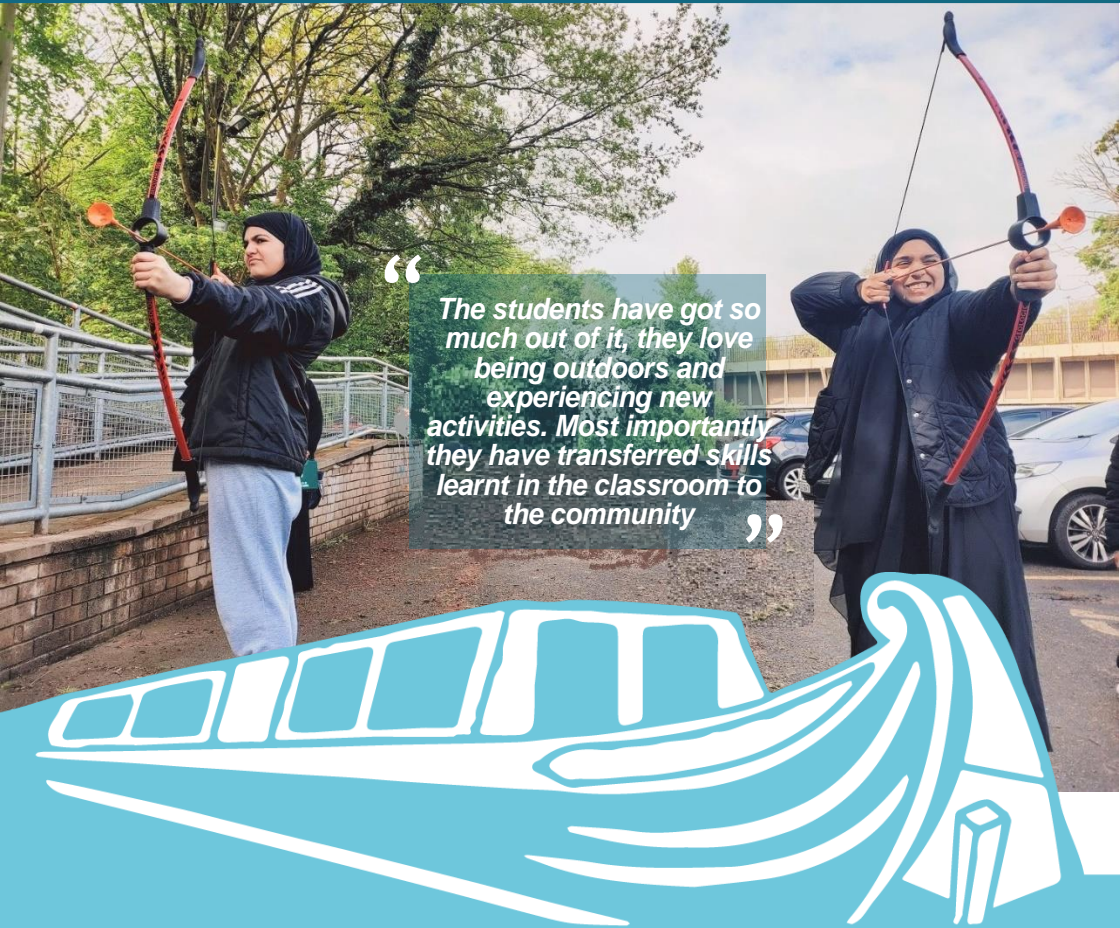


Enabling learners

Enhancing learning



# Natural Learning New Experiences



“

*The students have got so much out of it, they love being outdoors and experiencing new activities. Most importantly they have transferred skills learnt in the classroom to the community*

”

## A natural habitat for learning

The activities we offer at Wildside provide incredible opportunities for students of all ages to enhance their learning in a range of outdoor environments that offer a natural, stimulating extension to the teaching spaces within schools.

The unique mixture of woodland, water and grassland habitats that Wildside offers, allows teachers to utilise the natural world to expand their teaching environments and bring greater levels of understanding to subjects that are at the core of the National Curriculum.



### A world away from the classroom... on your doorstep

A green oasis situated in the middle of Wolverhampton, Wildside offers a range of environments that provide unique learning opportunities to bring classroom learning to life.

Ponds, woodland, canal-side and towpaths, shrubs and ferns offer varying habitats where local wildlife thrive. Bird and bat shelters, mammal track boxes, standing dead wood and bug hotels enable facilitators to develop creative lesson plans not just in the sciences and geography, but also in maths, English, history, art and PSHE.

Located in Whitmore Reans with ample parking for minibuses, Wildside is fully accessible to schools in the region that want to take advantage of its unique learning environments without having to factor in the logistics (and cost!) of travelling miles from school. Its close proximity has real advantages, allowing groups the option to walk to the centre or plan shorter half-day visits lessening disruption for students, teachers and parents alike.

# Curriculum areas supported by Wildside

## Science

- Investigating water, woodland, grassland habitats through mini beast hunts /pond dipping /nature walks
- Wildlife surveys – bugs / butterflies / water voles / otters / birds
- Life cycles / The Seven Life processes – explore the different life cycles of various creatures to be found in the local habits
- Sensory walks – how our senses build an understanding of the world
- Environmental issues and water pollution

## Maths

- Looking at number, shape and repeating patterns within nature
- Presenting and analysing habitat surveys through graphs / pie charts / frequency tables / statistics

## Geography

- Investigate the geological features of the local canal network - human and natural features; compare to river features
- Investigate the habitats of the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve
- Use of maps, compasses and geo-caching
- Weather and seasons – look at the impact of seasonal weather changes on the various habitats round the site

## History

- The history of the canals
- Canal heritage and lifestyles – create canal art and try on costumes

## Art

- Using the natural world as an inspiration for drawing, painting, photography
- Creating art from natural or recycled materials
- A palette from plants – producing natural dyes and inks

## PSHE

- Team building and social times
- Story telling around the camp fire
- Water safety and how to stay safe in nature

## Enhancing learning through extra-curricular activities

With scavenger trails, canoes, cycle and a host of problem-solving tasks available to suit all ages, Wildside can offer adventurous 'away days' without having to travel far *away!* We even have our own narrowboat for that extra special trip along the extensive canal network right here on our doorstep.

### Research shows that learning in nature...

- Enhances creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- Provides unique opportunities to boost reading, writing, maths, and science performance.
- Increases focus and attention while reducing symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- Increases enthusiasm for and engagement with learning.
- Improves relationship skills.



## Get in touch

For more information about coming to Wildside or how we can work together, please get in touch.

### Wildside Activity Centre

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