

Environment Day at St Mary's University Belfast

16th December 2011

Feedback Summary

Workshops provided by: Belfast City Council, Forest Service, T.A.C.T, and RSPB

Overall

The students had very positive comments on the entire day, they learned a lot from the experience and many of the ideas can be implemented into teaching practice, many said that they would certainly use the groups when they were out in the classroom themselves. Again many of the students don't realise there are as many groups on the ground teaching environmental education. A very worthwhile and productive day, well done to all the workshop leaders.

What did you learn from the day?

- ❖ Lots of learning opportunities for the classroom
- ❖ Didn't realise the organisations would come into schools
- ❖ Lots of ideas to use when teaching
- ❖ We need to reach 50% recycling by 2020
- ❖ At the minute we only recycle one third and we waste a third of what we buy
- ❖ The importance of looking after the environment
- ❖ Bringing the animals into the classroom is a great learning tool
- ❖ It is very easy to make these topics interactive
- ❖ Enjoyed the RSPB story mat

What were the good points of the day?

- ❖ TACT were outstanding
- ❖ The Belfast City Council Quiz
- ❖ Lots of ideas for teaching practice
- ❖ Talks were short and to the point
- ❖ Loved seeing the live animals
- ❖ Enjoyed the hands on approach
- ❖ Would never get to experience wild animals never mind touch them
- ❖ Got to go to all the workshops
- ❖ Didn't know all these organisations existed

What could be improved upon?

- ❖ A short break
- ❖ More interaction and activities
- ❖ Long day for the last day of term
- ❖ Nothing it was very enjoyable
- ❖ Quicker transition between workshops
- ❖ Bring in people from a variety of counties not just Belfast
- ❖ Timetable got a bit mixed up – some groups went to same room at same time
- ❖ All aspects of the day were thoroughly enjoyable

Did you find the speakers useful / interesting?

- ❖ Clear and concise information
- ❖ Extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable
- ❖ Very interesting

- ❖ Good how the subjects can be related into teaching about the Environment
- ❖ Really promoted their organisations well
- ❖ Did learn a lot from the whole experience

What would you like future training sessions to include?

- ❖ More resources to take away
- ❖ More animals
- ❖ No Irish medium resources
- ❖ More interactive activities
- ❖ Group work
- ❖ Longer workshops
- ❖ Lesson plan ideas on paper so we can remember
- ❖ Visit from Belfast Zoo
- ❖ Forest walk

Was getting to and from the workshops on time easy/ok/difficult?

- ❖ Slight mix-up with the timetable
- ❖ Good idea having the 10 minute slot in between
- ❖ One or two of the workshops ran over time – had to wait outside the classroom

Belfast City Council

The students loved the interactive quiz. Many didn't realise the importance of recycling and hadn't realised that some recycled materials are used to make things, pens, glass into new glass bottles etc. They also enjoyed the power point at the end testing them on what the workshop had covered. Well received workshop.

Overall score 4

Overall feedback from 30 students

Forest Service

The students liked the leaf identification activity and again could be something they would use in the classroom and really liked the way the forest can be used for storytelling. Many of the students said that they would take a group of children into the forest if one was local but could do a nature walk and bug hunt around the school grounds.

Overall score 4

Overall feedback from 30 students

T.A.C.T

As always the winners in this workshop were the animals themselves. The students loved the hands on experience and seeing the living animals. Many said they would love to bring TACT out to a school so the children could enjoy the experience. Many of the students would never have the opportunity to get up close to animals never mind being able to touch them.

Overall score 4.5

Overall feedback from 30 students

RSPB

The students loved the garden story mat and how it could be related to the different seasons of the year; the resources used were very simple and could easily be pulled together, a really simple idea but had a great message. Enjoyed the sunflower activity and again could be easily used in the classroom. Many of the students thought RSPB only worked with and helped birds.

Overall score 4

Overall feedback from 30 students