

Environment Day at St Mary's University Belfast 19th December 2008

Feedback Summary

Workshops provided by: The National Trust, T.A.C.T, RSPB,

Overall

The day was very much enjoyed by all the students. They enjoyed the hands on activities with the seasonal theme and the ideas that they could take away from the day. Many pointed out that they now see clearly how ESD links with the curriculum. Again many did not realise that there are so many organisations out there will so much information that is readily available.

What did you learn from the day?

- ❖ ESD is all about cross-curricular links
- ❖ How to do many creative art activities with things found in nature
- ❖ The bird food ideas
- ❖ That you don't have to use just books to teach about the Environment
- ❖ Doing some of the things already with even realising it
- ❖ Didn't realise there are so many groups out there with help and information
- ❖ To give children the experience of animals etc that they wouldn't see
- ❖ How to bring the outdoors into the classroom

What were the good points of the day?

- ❖ Enjoyed the practical element
- ❖ Great to see the live animals
- ❖ Interactive workshops
- ❖ Very helpful and friendly speakers
- ❖ Connected learning – learning through doing
- ❖ Not kept in the same place for too long
- ❖ Lots of ideas to use in the future
- ❖ Can see how the children would enjoy this type of work

What could be improved upon?

- ❖ Maybe longer in each session
- ❖ Not the last day of term
- ❖ A small break to allow for a tea/coffee
- ❖ A bit more interaction/explanation

Did you find the speakers useful / interesting?

- ❖ Speakers were very enthusiastic about their work
- ❖ National Trust was excellent
- ❖ Very informative, friendly and approachable
- ❖ Delivered workshops in a way that kept you interested
- ❖ Their energy and enthusiasm rubbed off

What would you like future training sessions to include?

- ❖ Tea breaks
- ❖ Different organisations
- ❖ More ideas and teaching methods
- ❖ Maybe a whole day with even more groups
- ❖ Habitats, litter and recycling
- ❖ Examples of lessons
- ❖ More activities for younger children
- ❖ Longer session with the animals

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

- ❖ Easy as they were close together

How would you rate the introduction/s to the day?

- ❖ The introduction to the day was well received and seemed to hit the right notes with the students. It set the scene for the workshops very well and the quiz at the beginning was mentioned as being memorable.

Overall score 4

Overall feedback from 32 students

The National Trust

Overall feedback from 32 students

This workshop was very highly rated especially for the Christmas Decorations made from gathering materials from the woodland floor. Was good to hear information on Strangford Lough and the work that's going on there. A well presented and fun workshop which was enjoyed by all the students.

Overall score 4

T.A.C.T

Overall feedback from 32 students

As usual the winners in this workshop were the animals themselves. The students enjoyed interacting with the fox/owls and liked the idea of being able to get the centre to visit the school with the animals. Very positive feedback from this workshop.

Overall score 4

RSPB

Overall feedback from 32 students

The students enjoyed making the bird feeders and the mini beast homes and actually taking them outside to the garden. It was good to learn how we can help the birds, and enjoyed hearing about the Breathing Places project.

Overall score 4