

The Nature Premium

Children need to
grow up greener...



BACKGROUND

[Government research shows](#) that **87% of children** have stated that being in nature makes them **'very happy'**. Connecting with nature improves mental and physical health as well as educational, emotional and personal development (you can see government commissioned results in Fig 1). In a recent [Natural England report](#), the forecast Social Return on Investment (SROI) for schools that have embedded learning outside the classroom in natural environments as a whole school approach is **£4.32 for every £1 invested**. In addition, research shows that a close relationship with nature is **4 times more important** than your purchasing power for **generating feelings that your life is worthwhile**.

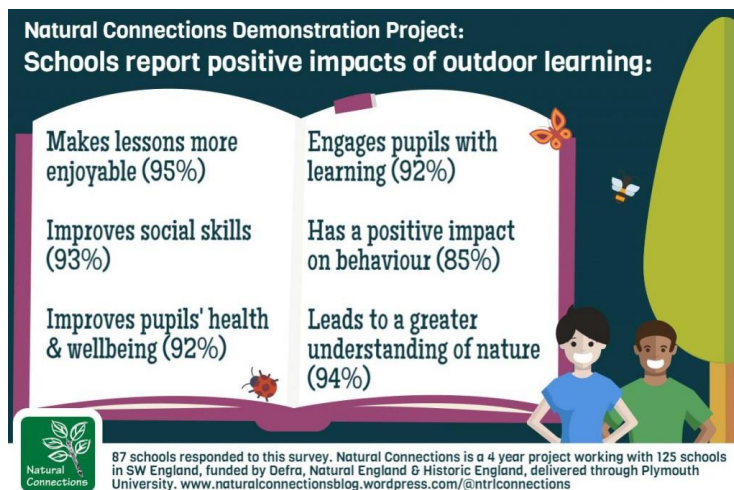


Fig 1

WHAT IS THE NATURE PREMIUM?

The [Nature Premium](#) is an education proposal to guarantee regular and ongoing time in nature for **all** children and young people with additional funding and support to level up those with least access to nature.

The Nature Premium would:

- Improve children and young people's **mental and physical wellbeing** via regular nature connection.
- Give children and young people **agency** and **hope** to deal with the climate and biodiversity emergencies, providing opportunities to address these in practical ways.
- Encourage **healthier alternative habits** to addictive electronic devices.
- Develop **skills** in support of the green economy and a sustainable future.
- Help to achieve the objectives of the Government's [Sustainability and Climate Change strategy](#).

HOW IS THE CAMPAIGN GOING?

- We have a **corker of an idea**. We believe the Nature Premium could transform a generation and become a positive **legacy** to grow out of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In January 2023 the campaign became the **Nature Premium Specialist Sector Group** within the [Institute for Outdoor Learning](#). We have a constituted [Steering Group](#) who act as '**custodians**' of the NP idea and a broad base of expertise in nature and education, including three headteachers. The new structure provides **governance and accountability**.
- We have a growing **broad base of support** that we regularly report to through in our 'Gathering of Minds' meetings, we always welcome critical friends.
- We have a **practical proposal** to implement the Nature Premium and a **funding model** based on Social Bridging Finance (SBF). [Social Bridging Finance Trials](#) are designed to change policy at scale. In SBF trials funders agree to fund the trial on the basis that if key outcomes are achieved the government sustainably funds the policy change. The Nature Premium SBF trials would provide a **risk-free** mechanism for the DfE to explore a concept that they already **accept benefits children's mental wellbeing**. The SBF trial will ensure that the DfE can introduce evidence-based/informed policy supporting government ambition during an economic crisis.
- We are building an ambitious **funding coalition** to work together to fund the Nature Premium Social Bridging Finance trial.

We are always looking for individuals and organisations to support the Nature Premium idea.

Please contact us via saracollins@naturepremium.org to discuss how we might work together and **share** our proposal with anyone you think would also be interested in supporting us to empower our children to **Grow up Greener**.

THE NATURE PREMIUM PROPOSAL IN DETAIL.

Please click the link or scan this QR Code for more information about the [Nature Premium Social Bridging Finance trial](#)

