



PRESS RELEASE

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Gloucestershire charity backs Nature Premium campaign

A leading Gloucestershire educational charity has thrown its weight behind a national campaign to persuade the Government to enable all children to have access to the outdoors during their school years.

The Ernest Cook Trust is backing the Nature Premium campaign, which is calling for the Government to guarantee that all children will benefit from having access to nature while in education, with additional funding and support to level up access for those who need it most.

The large majority (73%) of people in Britain agree that greater access to nature in school can improve children's happiness and wellbeing. The Nature Premium would ensure fairness to all children and remove the iniquity of access to nature that has become apparent during coronavirus lockdowns.

Some 65% of the public support the Nature Premium, which will improve children's connection to nature by guaranteeing funding and resourcing for nature-based activities such as tree-growing, community gardening, visits into nature and Forest School while in education settings.

The Ernest Cook Trust is a UK-wide landowning charity, based in Fairford, which uses its extensive estates to provide learning opportunities for children, young people and their families. It also runs learning programmes on partner estates, and gives grants to promote outdoor learning, particularly for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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Dr Victoria Edwards OBE, CEO of The Ernest Cook Trust, now in its 70th year, said:

“We believe that everything is better outdoors and fully support the call for a Nature Premium to guarantee regular time in nature for all children and young people. Inspiring a love and understanding of the natural world is at the heart of The Ernest Cook Trust.

“Through our programmes we try to nurture a lifelong journey of learning, appreciation and respect for the countryside, particularly amongst those who are from disadvantaged groups. We know this deeper affinity with the natural world creates a myriad of benefits at an individual, societal and planetary level. ”

Members of the public can find out more about the Nature Premium campaign at <https://www.naturepremium.org/>. For more information about The Ernest Cook Trust, visit <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>.

