Polkemmet Country Park
Whitburn
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SOC School Visits

Educational Ethos

Our motto at the S.O.C. is Education, Inspiration, Conservation. We believe that owls can be great environmental educators and we hope that as children (and adults) come face-to-face with the beauty and variety of our owls and learn about the issues concerning their survival, they will be inspired to think more responsibly about wildlife and the wider environment as a whole.

Our senior staff (including a qualified teacher and experienced Pre-5 practitioner) are familiar with the relevant experiences and outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence, and our information boards, education features and Flying Displays can be used to cover the main issues in SCN 1a and SOC 8a at all levels, as well as aspects of SCN 2a, 5b, 14a, 20a, 20b and SOC 10a, 12a, 12b 13a, 13b. If required we can tailor-make your visit to suit your current topic.

We also now run combined owl and drama days in collaboration with Sho-Time Performing Arts, to cover the books *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo in Scots*. See separate price and schedules in Option 2 below.

Please note we no longer visit schools with our owls.

As a small family business we aim to be child-friendly and approachable and to make every visit entertaining as well as educational. We look forward to introducing you and your pupils to the wonderful world of owls and the wider environmental issues which concern them.

Kind regards,

Rod Angus BD (Hons) MEnvSt
Niccy Angus BA (Hons) PGCE

Opening Times for Schools

Monday to Friday
April – August: 10.00 – 16.00
(Flying Displays 11.30; 13.30; 15.30)
Feb, March, Sept, Oct: 10.00 – 16.00
(Flying displays 12.30; 14.30)
Jan, Nov, Dec: to suit you

Admission Prices for Schools

Pupil (3-15): £7.50
Pupil (16-18): £9.50
Nursery: 1 free adult per 4 pupils
Primary: 1 free adult per 6 pupils
Secondary: 1 free adult per 10 pupils
Extra adults: £10.50

N.B. Public opening times are as follows:
April-Aug 10.30-17.00; Feb, March, Sept, Oct 11.30-16.00; Jan, Nov weekends; Dec closed.

Option 1: School visit to the Scottish Owl Centre

Approx 10.00am Arrive and have snack (if desired) in our under cover picnic area. (Seats 48 children but Flying Arena available for larger groups.)

10.30am 'Hoot's for Dinner' presentation: a lucky dip game with 2 owls to learn about contrasting owl diets, habitats and hunting techniques.

10.45am Look around the Centre (approx. 45 mins): we can provide quiz sheets for children to complete on their way round. (Requires reading but not writing.)

11.30am(April-Aug) or 12.30pm(Sept-March) Flying Display (approx. 30 minutes) in our indoor Flying Arena. Age-appropriate and relevant to your current topic if required.

12.00(April to Aug) or 11.45am(Sept-March) Lunch in our under cover picnic area.

1.00pm Finish looking round, play on the big owl chute and/or visit the gift the shop. (Suggest £1 - £5 pocket money.)

1.30-2pm Home-time or finish up at the large adventure playground within Polkemmet Country Park.

N.B. The **toilets** are at the front of the main building before you come into the Owl Centre.

Quiz Sheets

Our quiz sheets (Prof. Hoot's Tough Test and Quick Quiz) are designed to be completed during the visit to ensure that the children visit all the main areas of the Centre and read the most important information. They have to go to the relevant area, find the answer and use the hole punch there to mark the correct box. Areas include the Wee Owl World, Boreal Boulevard, North Pole, African Avenue, Prof. Hoot's Owl School, Rainforest Realm.

Activity Sheets

We can provide age-appropriate activity sheets for you to copy and use in class either before or after your visit.

Option 2: Class visit to Owl Centre plus drama workshop

The Scottish Owl Centre and **Sho-Time Performing Arts** can provide an authentic owl experience along with professionally led drama workshops to bring to life one of these much loved stories: **The Owl who Was Afraid of the Dark**, **The Gruffalo** or **The Gruffalo in Scots**. The full day includes entry to the Scottish Owl Centre with its 150 owls, an entertaining educational flying display and two 30-45 minute drama workshops. The children will explore your chosen narrative through music, drama and storytelling.

All inclusive price: £420 + £41 VAT for a group of up to 35 pupils. (Additional pupils at £7 each.)

Schedule (April to August)

Approx 10am Arrive, have snack (if desired), look around the Centre (approx. 45 mins). We can provide quiz sheets for children to complete on their way round. (Requires reading but not writing.)

11-11.30am Drama workshop - part 1

11.30am - 12 Flying Display (approx. 30 minutes) in our indoor Flying Arena. Age-appropriate and relevant to your current topic if required.

12 – 12.45pm Lunch in our under cover picnic area.

12.45 – 1.30pm Drama workshop - part 2

1.30pm Finish looking round, play on the big owl chute, visit the gift shop or go to the big adventure playground in the country park.

2pm Home-time

Schedule (September to March)

Approx 10am Arrive, have snack (if desired), look around the Centre (approx. 45 mins). We can provide quiz sheets for children to complete on their way round. (Requires reading but not writing.)

11-11.45am Drama workshop - part 1

11.45am - 12.30pm - Lunch

12:30 - 1pm Flying Display (approx. 30 minutes) in our indoor Flying Arena. Age-appropriate and relevant to your current topic if required.

1 - 1.30pm Drama workshop - part 2

1.30pm Finish looking round, play on the big owl chute, visit the gift shop or go to the big adventure playground in the country park.

2pm Home-time

For all enquiries and bookings contact Niccy Angus on mail@scottishowlcentre.com or telephone on 01501 228722.