

# The Nature Premium



*Sarah Lawfull, FSA chair  
& co-lead of the Nature  
Premium, explains the aims  
of the campaign and why  
it's so important*

*"We are calling for a Nature Premium to fund regular nature experiences for every child, to improve children's mental and physical wellbeing after lockdown and demonstrate a positive investment in their future as part of the Green Recovery." Forest School Association*

## **Crisis**

As the first lockdown hit, polarisation of the 'haves and have nots' exploded. Too many children were trapped indoors, without safe places to play, no access to nature, the lack of technology isolating them further.

Before Covid19, schools and [Youth in Mind](#) warned of a growing mental health epidemic, services overstretched after a decade of austerity, amidst the toxicity of social media and environmental chaos.

The 2021 [Good Childhood Report](#) found 'roughly a ¼ million children did not cope well with changes during the pandemic' and states children 'deserve drastic change'.

The government's education recovery commissioner [Sir Kevan Collins](#) called for a 'landmark investment in education' to address the huge inequities of learning and experience, whilst the education secretary explains the government needs interventions they can "actually deliver today".

## **Answer**

The Nature Premium offers an immediate way to disrupt this 'health gap following the wealth gap', providing fresh, clean air, fun and rich learning. [Research](#), pre-pandemic, from the University of Edinburgh, showed time 'noticing in nature' benefits the disadvantaged most, whilst improving outcomes for all. According to Natural England's survey, 83% of children interviewed said being in nature made them happy, whilst the [Why Society Needs Nature](#) report found 60% of children are spending less time in nature than before coronavirus.

This simple idea is a radical one - to ensure nature threads through every part of every child's education, from Early Years to secondary school, for the health & wellbeing of a generation and their educators. For all children to grow up knowing their place in the world, understanding the connectedness of life on earth, and caring for the planet. Children will have the skills & knowledge to improve their local environment, promote biodiversity, think globally, and grow up greener through the Nature Premium.

Marthy Hill-Davis, aged 7, from Cheshire was so inspired by the Nature Premium campaign that she created this poster to support it - and gave us permission to share. Thanks Marthy!

**CHILDREN  
NEED  
NATURE**



## Who & how?

As with the Sports Premium, settings would have freedom to use Nature Premium funding for resources, grounds development, training and to bring in specialists.

There is a wealth of professional expertise readily available to support schools (see [Turning Learning Inside Out](#)). Through modelling nature connected behaviours, sharing knowledge and curiosity, these experts facilitate memorable learning, enable smaller class sizes, and build teacher confidence.

## Supporters

This campaign has been strategic and opportunistic. Started by volunteers at the Forest School Association it is gaining momentum, supported by a growing network of environmental, educational & youth climate organisations, high profile academics, economists, authors, artists, teachers, and members of both houses at Westminster.

Together we are framing responses to the DfE's draft Sustainability & Climate Change strategy, speaking with teaching unions, meeting with colleagues at the DfE, seeking funding mechanisms & and strategic partners in the business world.



To help us advocate for  
learning through nature &  
to transform a generation

Join the  
**Nature  
Premium**

