



**Friends of
the Earth**

Youth and education training day - 24 September 2005

Getting into schools and youth clubs

What is your role?

Before you approach a school or youth club it will really help you to have thought through what your role is going to be. This will help you to clearly frame your offer, to help you plan and to ensure you get the most out of your experience.

Below are your thoughts which are spot on:

- One off talks leading onto further work by students or the local group.
- Putting the message across.
- Helping young people to become more aware of their local environment.
- Making the links locally and offering solutions.
- Utilise my current role. To provide information on best practise and link up with existing initiatives.
- To be creative and demonstrate new ways of thinking about the environment.
- Being effective in a short amount of time and bringing fresh ideas.
- Having positive messages.
- Working with teachers to develop projects.
- Working with training teachers to inspire them.
- Bring clearance to existing activities and build on what they are already doing
- Provide information on the local to global connections.

For a summary of potential roles compiled from previous training days see

<http://community.foe.co.uk/youth/>

Top tips on making contact

In some instances getting into schools seems to be very difficult. This could be down to a combination of things such as a very busy teacher or a teacher who does not understand or know of the benefits from having a Friends of the Earth speaker. It is important to be as clear as possible about what you can offer, the level of experience you have, what you want to get out of the visit.

Below are the basic stages to go through:

1. Write to – Head of Citizenship/Geography/youth leader and get their name.
2. Write first to introduce yourself, explain why you are contacting them and include an information pack about Friends of the Earth with a stamped address envelope. Create a response form (what topics, assembly or class room setting, availability).
3. Find a teacher, parent or Governor who is very enthusiastic. Some schools will have a Sustainable Education Governor.
4. If you don't get a response consider making a follow up phone call.



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Below are two great tips you came up with:

- Tap into existing communications i.e. the school newsletter which may reach teachers, pupils and parents.
- Contact our Local Education Authority (LEA) to find out who is responsible for the environment in the schools in your area.

Handout: For more information about the role of Local Education Authorities in helping you to make contact see *How to work with young people* <http://community.foe.co.uk/youth/>

National curriculum and citizenship

If you are planning to give a talk or run a session in a school then it will greatly increase your chances of a teacher agreeing to your visit if you can frame it in the context of the national curriculum. As Governments continue to introduce new recommendations to spend more time on certain subjects, teachers have less and less flexibility and now more than ever it is essential that our work links into the National curriculum, thereby supporting teachers, not increasing the pressure on them.

One school teacher said ‘often there aren’t enough hours in the day to fulfil the current National curriculum requirements and year on year this is becoming more the case with new targets being introduced... pressure on teachers is greater than ever’.

Citizenship provides an ideal link and being relatively new to the national curriculum, many teachers are keen to have support in delivering this subject particularly through external experts coming to speak about the outside world and the part that young people play in being good citizens. Through linking your activities to the National curriculum teachers will see that you are going to help them rather than hinder.

From looking at the Shout about pack climate you can see we have linked activities with the national curriculum to make it easy and clear for teachers to use. Using the National Curriculum handout and your own imagination you were able to come up with some other links for activities e.g. Religious studies, history and art/design.

Handout: National Curriculum <http://community.foe.co.uk/youth/>