

## NOC Eco schools Visits, Q & A

What does the National Oceanography Centre do?

***The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) undertakes integrated ocean research and technology development from the coast to the deep ocean. It provides long-term marine science capability including: major facilities; sustained ocean observing, mapping and survey; data management, and scientific advice.***

Find out more about our research programmes on the about us page [xxxx]

Why do we run Eco school visits at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton?

Much of the research we conduct relates the Climate Change and the impact of upon activity on the Oceans. We run the eco schools programme to increase public awareness of this research and the need for carbon reduction. The outreach programme also allows us to improve links with local schools.

What is the Keep Britain Tidy Award Scheme?

We are supporting schools that are committed to reducing their own carbon footprint through the Keep Britain Tidy Award Scheme. This scheme recognises action taken by schools through a Bronze, Silver, Gold and Green award status. It is free for schools to register on this scheme. To find out more visit: <http://www2.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/>

Who is the NOC eco schools scheme aimed at?

The NOC eco schools scheme is aimed at Junior Schools in Hampshire. The visit content is designed around the KS2 curriculum and suited to children in years 5 and 6. The visit builds upon core learning about climate science covered in year 4.

Do you take schools from outside the Hampshire catchment?

We have a limited number of dates for visits therefore will prioritise schools within the Hampshire area. We will consider schools from outside Hampshire but only where we have an available date and the school can guarantee it is able to be onsite ready for the scheduled start time.

What are the main aims of the visit?

The visit combines teaching on climate research and practical environmental management. The aims of the visits are to:

- To introduce the need for carbon reduction
- To review the impact of climate change of the marine environment
- To review what NOC is doing to minimise its carbon footprint
- To encourage students to consider their own/their school carbon footprint

What times do the visits run from /to?

Standard visits run from 0900 hours to 1430 hours. This does not include travel time to and from the Centre. It does include for scheduled breaks and a lunch period.

What is included in the visit?

The visit includes an introduction to climate change, visit to the NOCS aquarium, site carbon tour and foot printing activities.

Can you accommodate children with disabilities?

Yes, where we can we will accommodate children with mental and physical disabilities. Please note that the visit does include a site tour and hands on activities. If you have a child/children with disabilities please note this on your booking form. Where a child requires one-to-one support or supervision, this will need to be provided by the school.

How many children can I bring?

The maximum number of children permitted per visit is 35. This is due to the small size of the aquarium area.

How many teachers/support staff can I bring?

Schools are requested to bring enough staff with them to manage the behaviour of the group and maintain teacher: student ration suggested for external visits, this is typically 6-8 teaching/support staff. Please note as part of the visit the children will be separated into two groups for the tours.

We will not accommodate large numbers of parents wishing to visit with their children; this can be detrimental to the visit. Parents are encouraged instead to visit the Centre with their children on our annual public open day [[link to Ocean and Earth Day page](#)].

Will photos be taken during the visit?

Yes, all schools attending are required to complete photo permission forms prior to the visit. Photos will be provided for use by the school.

What is the cost?

The NOC does not charge for these visits. Schools however will need to make allowances for transport to and from the Centre. You will need to bring lunch with you.

What are the pre-requirements for schools wishing to visit?

Schools are reasonable for completing their own risk assessment for this visit. To assist schools are recommended to complete a pre visit to the Centre to view the areas used. First Aid and Welfare facilities are provided by the Centre.

At least two weeks before the visit teachers are requested to run a [reminder session on Climate Change](#) with the children attending .This is to ensure a basic understanding of the Green House Effect and carbon footprints based on the year-4 science content. NOC can advise on the content and style of briefing.

At least one week before the visit the school will need to provide the following information to NOC:

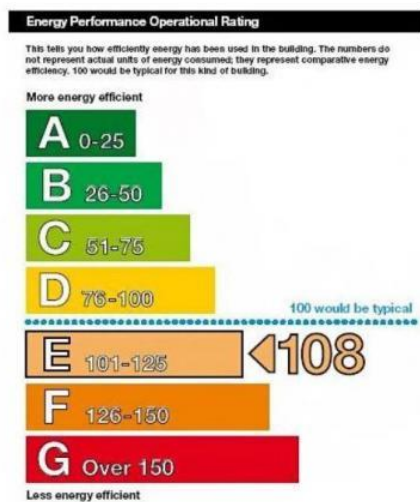
- Full list of attendees (children and adults)
- DEC – Display of Energy Certificate
- Travel arrangements
- Any child specific requirements

Can I visit the Centre before our visit?

Yes, this is recommended to familiarise yourself with the Centre.

What is a DEC?

A Display Energy Certificate (DEC) is legally required to be displayed in all medium to large schools. This requirement will shortly be extended to cover all small schools. A DEC tells you how much energy your school is using and overall energy performance (A-G)



What is the address for the Centre?

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton

European Way, Southampton, SO143ZH

How do we get to the Centre?

Travel information can be found here XXXX

What if we are running late on the day?

We will provide mobile numbers for local staff to contact if you are running late.

Can we leave a minibus onsite?

Yes, providing this is booked in advance of your visit

What are the requirements on the teaching/support staff during the visit?

Teaching/support staff are expected to manage the behaviour of the children during the visit. The following items will need to be brought on the day by the school for the visit:

- Clip boards and pens all children
- Name Labels for all children
- Photo permission forms
- High visibility jackets for teachers
- Grouping information for walk round (two groups) and afternoon activities (5 groups)

What will the children need to bring with them?

- A morning snack
- Lunch
- A jacket – the tours include some external areas

It is recommended that children wear flat shoes. There is a large amount of walking covered on the tour sections of the visit.

Will welfare facilities be provided onsite?

Yes, we have allow allowed for regular toilet breaks during the visit

Will a play break be provided?

The NOC has no playground. We will however lay on table based games for children at lunchtime.

What is the requirement post visit on the school?

All school groups that visit NOC are set the 'Eco-School Design Challenge' post visit. The challenge involves the schoolchildren in groups redesigning their own schools to improve its environmental performance. This allows application of knowledge gained on the visit. We request this is completed within one month of the visit date.

All submissions for this are to be returned to NOC for judging. Feedback and small prizes are provided to the school following judging. We will provide some guidance power point slides on the challenge for use by teachers.

What format do the eco school challenges need to be in?

Multiples of A3 sheets to allow for scanning. Groups are encouraged to draw, colour and annotate their designs.

How do we return our eco school challenges?

By post. Submissions can also be dropped to the Centre if agreed in advance.

Will we get copies of the photos post visit?

Yes

Will the eco school challenges completed by the children be returned to the school?

Yes. We will scan the submissions before returning them with feedback and prizes for the best submission. Scanned copies may be displayed at our open day.

*Feel free to suggest any additional questions that the schools might have.*