



Virtual Fisheries Forum 28/06/2023 (Reel Education: The Journey So Far).

Q&A session

Q. Any push back from the anti-angling sphere regarding teaching fishing?

A. (Neil) Only once from a school who were not keen to promote it but it has not been a big problem for the scheme progressing.

Q. Has it been suggested to the 8 schools who participated in the Reel Education fishing match to get involved with events like the national celebration of young people and fishing which has a schools component as part of the weekend's events?

A. (Neil) Not yet but if you would like to send this information to either myself or Chris, we would welcome it. We want to make fishing participation as much of an option for young people to do on a weekend as say playing football and events like this one you mention and the Angling Trust's 'Get Fishing' events where we can direct children towards to put into practice their classroom learning are important.

Statement. Everybody Can Fish Just recently attended our first two schools in Whittlesey. What a week we had. Engagement was fantastic from both the staff and the children. Children said how much they enjoyed it and we received some thank you cards from the younger children

A. (Neil) Great to hear! We have not had a single bit of critical feedback from any of the schools where we have run the sessions in so far.

Q. Any chance this could make it on to the national curriculum?

A. (Neil) Not yet but we have been recognised by the department of education which led to an increase in bookings & interest.

Q. Why was the press release so quiet?

A. (Neil) We wanted to advertise the project much more but because we are funded by Shakespeare, we needed to wait for them to catch up with their marketing and product release as there was a whole marketing campaign from them that was contracted to run alongside the project involving entry level ranges of tackle/starter kits and such. They had supply chain issues which slowed this down but now we are ready to push the project far & wide!

Statement. I have run youth angling matches since the 1990's and if there had been some basic skills sessions like these around before it would have definitely been helpful, so I think this is a great project!

Q. It is not Just Schools that can benefit from this Scouts also need help to get their badges. As a fishing club we hold teaching twice a year to two local Scout groups we are LAPS club?

A. (Neil) We do hear of a lot of scout groups fishing but this project is not designed for scout groups. The aim of this project is to develop an interest in fishing rather than actually taking people fishing.

Statement. I've delivered sessions to schools in the North East, and the feedback has been excellent. I push the environmental side as well as the fishing element. The kids really get enthusiastic about it and bring me lots of rubbish from the school playground!

Q. At what point do you introduce angling during the lesson plans we saw earlier?

A. (Neil) The angling component comes into the equation in the school playground games. The lesson plans are purely the academic side but the work for the angling coaches comes in for delivering the games/activities outside using real angling equipment such as in casting games.

Q. What key learnings have you taken from the project since rollout and what would you change?

A. (Neil) It is clear how excited kids are by the idea of actually going fishing and we need to capitalise more on this. We know we need to be as proactive as possible in reaching schools across the country. There are still barriers that need to be broken down to help us reach more schools

of different cultures & ethnic communities for broadening the inclusivity and diversity of the project.

Q. Are we pointing teachers and pupils to local angling clubs?

A. (Neil) Yep, any coaches getting involved have strong links usually to local angling clubs, so they are well placed to direct interested participants to local clubs & fisheries. We also will have up-to-date information available about local angling participation events.

Q. A big thank you. Really informative and a great project. I hope the funding is solid and have you approached district councils, they all have charitable grant panels and love this sort of thing?

A. (Neil) If you think the project is valuable firstly, please do let the Angling Trust know as this will help the ongoing support of the project remain in place. We have not yet approached district councils.

Key contacts from this forum meeting:

- Alex Clegg (Angling Trust National Angler Engagement Manager)
alex.clegg@anglingtrust.net
- Sam Hubbard (Angling Trust National Angler Engagement Officer)
sam.hubbard@anglingtrust.net
- Neil Wylie (Angling Trust Reel Education Southern Schools Coordinator)
neil.wylie@anglingtrust.net
- Chris Holden (Angling Trust Reel Education Northern Schools Coordinator)
chris.holden@anglingtrust.net

Funded by fishing licence income and delivered in partnership with the



If you haven't already done so, buy your licence [here](#)