

We're a Wilder School PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

[INSERT SCHOOL NAME] IS A WILDER SCHOOL

[Insert school name] is becoming a wilder space for nature and its pupils.

[Insert school name] has earned the status of becoming a Wilder School, a programme by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, which encourages schools to recognise the enormous potential for school grounds to provide connected wildlife corridors and safe habitats across our landscapes. In addition, becoming a Wilder School offers an opportunity for young people to build a connection with nature and learn outside of the classroom, both in school time and beyond.

[Insert name of school] booked a visit from one of the Trust's Wilder School Champions to come to the school to see and celebrate what was being done already to help wildlife. The school then received a follow-up report with practical advice and low-cost options on actions they could take to make the school wilder.

As a result of the visit and becoming a Wilder School, [insert name of school] is:

- [Insert action from Wilder Schools Champion report]
- [Insert action from Wilder Schools Champion report]
- [Insert action from Wilder Schools Champion report]

[Insert name of Head Teacher or member of school staff giving quote] says:

"[Insert a quote from the school – Explain why the school got involved in the initiative and its benefits]"

Lea Ellis, Engagement Manager at Herts and Middlesex Trust says:

"We would like to congratulate [insert name of school] on becoming a Wilder School and thank our Wilder School Champion volunteers who are helping us to facilitate this.

"It's wonderful that [insert name of school] recognises that its grounds are a vital part of the green network and they can do their bit to up their value to wildlife and subsequently help to provide connected wildlife corridors. That's a fantastic learning opportunity for their students and will really help young people to connect with the natural world so that they will take care of it. We hope these steps to help wildlife at school will encourage the school's community to take action for nature at home too."

The Wilder Schools' initiative has been launched at a pivotal time in the nature crisis and forms part of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's strategy to see at least 30% of land connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030, working with landowners and managers, local authorities and individuals to give nature more space to thrive.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust – hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is a local conservation charity working to protect wildlife and help people connect with nature. The Trust believes that wildlife should have space to thrive alongside our everyday lives and that everyone benefits from having access to nature. The Trust's team works with more than 1000 volunteers to care for over 40 nature reserves. The Trust also works with land managers, local government and community groups amongst others to create more space for wildlife across Hertfordshire and Middlesex. By working alongside our communities, the Trust helps people learn about the wildlife on their doorstep and how they can take practical action to protect it.