Durrell’s Secondary School Programme
Gerald Durrell’s legacy

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, or ‘Durrell’ as it is affectionately known, is named after the author and naturalist, Gerald Durrell. Durrell is an international wildlife conservation charity committed to saving species from extinction.

“Gerald Durrell often said that if he had the gift of Merlin, he would give everyone the magical childhood he had on the island of Corfu, where he discovered his passion for wild animals, from earwigs to eagle owls, and studied their habits and habitats.

He never lost that fascination and many years later, when he and I worked together on that wonderful book, The Amateur Naturalist. We urged our readers from schoolchildren to grandparents, to “go out and greet the natural world with curiosity and delight”.

“As Gerry wanted the Trust to become a “mini-university” for conservation, he also looked upon the wildlife park as a “classroom”. Durrell’s enchanting animal collection has become a place for young people to learn about animals and the environment in a fun, practical and productive way.”

Dr Lee Durrell (MBE)
Honorary Director, Durrell
April 2011
Our education ethos

- Engage children with the natural world and the species it contains.
- Foster enthusiasm for wildlife and specifically the species Durrell works to save.
- Increase awareness of global conservation issues and Durrell’s role in tackling them.
- Nurture young conservationists of the future and encourage young people to take action in support of Durrell’s conservation goals.

We use complementary approaches to extend a student’s understanding as they grow up and move through the educational system.

**Foundation and Key Stage 1 - Animal-based, biological approach.**
We aim to support children’s understanding of animals and inspire a sense of awe at the variety of animals on Earth.

**Key Stage 2 - Eco-system approach.**
We aim to explore the inter-dependence between animals and the eco-systems they live in, the connections which hold them together and to begin to uncover the implications of animals being removed through extinction.

**Key Stage 3 - Conservation-based approach.**
We aim to further develop the ideas introduced at Key Stage 2 and start to consider solutions to conservation problems, including the management of animals in captivity as well as in-situ conservation work.

**GCSE and A-Level - Sustainability approach.**
We aim to promote an understanding of how human populations are linked with the wider environment and some of the issues raised by exploitation of natural resources. We also aim to encourage debate about the concept of sustainability, what it means for the environment and issues surrounding it.

We aim to marry teachers’ need to follow a prescribed curriculum with our desire to engage students with the natural world, develop their conservation conscience and encourage sustainable living.

Sessions are developed to engage students and use their natural curiosity to discover more about the natural world and consider their place within it.

“I really value the input that Durrell makes to the educational development of the students... the exceptional level of teaching that you offer, make trips to Durrell irreplaceable.”

**Jersey secondary teacher**

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**The benefits of a Durrell trip**

We are able to offer:

- a world-class animal collection containing unusual and endangered species,
- hands-on experiences with live animals,
- unique biological artefacts,
- expert insights.

**Our taught sessions:**

- broaden the scope of school-based topics,
- demonstrate ‘real-world’ application of ideas
- provide opportunities for speaking and listening in a different environment and other social skills
- are great fun

Sessions are usually lively and can take place in our dedicated classroom or out in the grounds. They can facilitate new learning, act as reinforcement of a topic and be a useful assessment tools for teachers.

‘We hope that there will still be the extraordinary varieites of creatures sharing the land of the planet with you to enchant you and enrich your lives as they have done for us.

We hope that you will be grateful for having been born into such a magical world.’

**Gerald Durrell**
Biology and beyond!
The education team at Durrell can help provide an engaging learning experience for many subjects, not just biology!

History
The evolution of zoos, Gerald Durrell’s life and experiences, the history of Les Augrès Manor.

Design & Technology
From a bear enclosure to a bat feeder, endless opportunities to design and develop new products.

Philosophy and Ethics
Wildlife conservation provides many moral dilemmas from the ethics of zoos to choosing animals for reintroduction.

Maths
Analysing the nutrition of diets, reviewing statistics from behaviour studies and stud books, calculating crate and enclosure dimensions.

Religious Education
From evolution to the ethics of the bushmeat trade, endless case studies for discussion.

Art, design & photography
The colours and patterns of animals provide endless inspiration.

Psychology
Comparing primate behaviour or investigating the role of enrichment and training in animal management.

PSHE & citizenship
Our responsibilities as global citizens, sustainable living.

Geography
Our overseas projects provide case studies and links to other countries. Bioblitz to develop practical skills.

Music
Animal calls and rhythms of habitats inspire musicians to tell conservation stories.

Drama
Role-playing the bushmeat trade or performing a traditional story from Madagascar.

Modern languages
Opportunities to chat to our overseas visitors in French, Spanish or Portuguese. Translate wildlife and conservation information.

Science
See synopsis of sessions available. Further sessions can be developed.

ICT
Enclosure use and other topics can be the focus for a variety of IT skills.

Business and media studies
Our marketing, fundraising and finance departments offer a variety of case studies.

English
My Family and Other Animals provides many opportunities for study as do many of Gerald Durrell’s other books.
Teaching sessions

Keystage 3 science curriculum links
• Humans as organisms (2g, 2r, 2s and potentially 1a-c and 1e)
• Variation, classification and inheritance (4a-e)
• Living things in their environment (5a-g)

Keystage 4 science curriculum links
• Variation, inheritance and living things (4a-c and 4j)
• Adaptation and competition (5a)

Beyond Keystage 4, there are further opportunities to explore biological and conservation topics in greater detail as well as other subjects.

Below are examples of existing sessions we run for secondary schools. Many topics link best to a particular Keystage but the pitch and level of detail within each session can be adjusted to suit other year groups as requested.

Gerald Durrell
Combining elements of both Biology and English, this interactive session challenges students to think about how zoos can contribute to conservation, the impact that humans can have on animals in the wild and how Durrell really is saving species from extinction. With sections on Gerald Durrell’s books, food chains and how the role of zoos has changed, the focus of this session can be altered to suit your requirements.

Enrichment – animal food
A fun practical session where students make food parcels for one of our animals and learn about the role of enrichment in the management of captive animals. Can also be linked to session on ethics, enclosure design, diet and nutrition or the role of our organic farm.

Enclosure design
An opportunity for students to research particular species, study their behaviour and needs and use this research to develop their own recommendations for designing an enclosure. Students are encouraged to consider not only the needs of the animals but also the keepers and the visitors. Can stand alone or be linked to a series of activities such as behaviour studies and research into sustainable building materials. Maths and IT skills can be incorporated into the project and extension activities could involve designing educational signage linking to English, Art and/or Design Technology.

The ethics of zoos
Keeping animals in captivity inevitably throws up a variety of moral dilemmas and we facilitate discussions and debate around topics such as the five freedoms, what is the difference between a good zoo and a bad zoo and the role and risks of reintroductions. Students will be able to form their own opinions, learn more through discussions and then reassess to see if their ideas have changed.

Bushmeat role-play
Students will gain a deeper understanding of the varying needs of different groups of people and how these needs can bring them into conflict with wildlife. The bushmeat provides an ideal case study for students to role play key groups and at the end suggest potential solutions to the problem.

Study of animal behaviour and enclosure use
Ethology, or the study of animal behaviour, is a key tool used by Durrell staff in the wildlife park and overseas. Students are given the opportunity to undertake their own behaviour study, developing their skills in observation, behaviour identification and data handling. These can be run as one visit or as a series of visits to collect more data. Comparative studies between our apes or analysis of their enclosure use can be an interesting focus for the study. Primate studies can link very well with A-level psychology.

Conservation - how and why
Students will learn about why we conserve animal and plant species as well as the advantages and disadvantages of in-situ and ex-situ conservation as illustrated by Durrell field projects. Students will also be able to learn about CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the impact of Climate change and the role of environmental impact assessments.

Species prioritisation
How do you choose one species from all those that need help? Students are challenged to represent 4 different critically endangered species and to work together to try and identify which species to save. Students will have to...
identify objective factors to compare the four, argue the case for their species and gain an insight into some of the tricky decisions conservationists have to make.

**Captive breeding studbooks**

Students get an insight into how breeding programmes operate when they are set the challenge of running their own studbook. Using extracts from real studbooks, students will analyse the relationships and make their own recommendations for breeding pairs. The session can also be linked with others such as the primate behaviour study and conservation: how and why.

**Nature is an artist/photography**

The colours and patterns of animals provide endless inspiration and teachers and students are welcome to use the wildlife collection and grounds as a focus for art or photography work. If you have a particular focus we can advise when animals will be most visible. We also have a variety of skins, skulls, stuffed animals and feathers as well as live reptiles and invertebrates in our classroom which we can arrange for you to view during your visit.

**Evolution and classification**

What are the similarities and differences between different groups of plants and animals and how can they be used to classify them? Students will be asked to interpret and construct their own cladograms, make their own assessment of the strengths and limitations of the fossil record and consider the role of adaptive radiation.

**Animal Communication**

Students will consider how and why animals communicate with each other and contrast it with human communication techniques.

**Microbiology/Science in the workplace**

We have a working veterinary laboratory at Durrell and our Veterinary Biologist can work with students to prepare samples and identify parasites under the microscope, see how we identify the best treatment for a sick animal or work with agar plates or other equipment to perform tests. The lab can only hold small groups, but this can be combined with other behind the scenes activities so that large groups can be broken up. We can also arrange this in conjunction with a view of the vet centre. This will only be available in the afternoon and will require significant notice to arrange with the vet dept. In the future, it may be possible for our biologist to visit schools with slides and other resources for students to investigate if this were a more practical format.

**Modern Languages**

Durrell has overseas students and professionals working and studying here on a regular basis including French, Spanish or Portuguese speakers who might be willing to discuss their conservation work and daily lives with language students. We will post details in our termly bulletins to schools as different visitors arrive.

**English**

Taking inspiration from traditional Malagasy or Mauritian stories, students can consider how stories can be used as a tool for conservation and how that purpose may influence the structure and language of the piece. Follow-up work could include researching a species or conservation issue to write for a specific audience.
Eco Active Sustainable Schools Framework

The States of Jersey developed the Sustainable Schools Framework to assist schools in planning year-round experiences that can benefit the school environment, the community as a whole and bring important local and global issues of sustainable development to life.

Durrell is one of 30 organisations offering partnership and support to schools to work within the framework on both local and global dimensions. There are Eco-Active awards available for active participation and funding is available by application to cover trips or equipment.

Durrell is uniquely placed to help a school deliver the Sustainable Schools Framework Global Dimension doorway and can also support other elements as a school works towards their Eco-School accreditation.

As well as curriculum-linked topics, Durrell has developed a team-building workshop specifically for eco-teams which can be run at Durrell or at school.

‘ECO-ACTIVE Sustainable Schools acknowledge the links between environmental degradation, poverty and world development and give young people a perspective from which to understand their own roles and responsibilities within the challenges of 21st Century’

For further information visit:
http://www.gov.je/Environment/Greener-Lifestyles/GreenerSchools/Accreditation/Pages/index.aspx
http://vle.jeron.je/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=27496
Saving species from extinction

Durrell is committed to wildlife conservation around the globe and our conservation approach is characterised by three key elements.

Durrell Conservation Academy
Based at the wildlife park in Jersey, the academy has provided training for more than 3,300 conservationists from 135 countries. We run courses for everyone from enthusiastic amateurs to professional conservationists both here in Jersey and around the world.

Wildlife Park
The headquarters of Durrell since it opened in 1959, the wildlife park is home to more than 130 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The animal collection supports conservation through breeding programmes, training courses for conservationists and as an important vehicle for sharing conservation messages with our visitors.

Field programmes
We currently manage 45 projects located in 15 countries and one third of Durrell's staff are based overseas. Madagascar is the Trust's largest overseas programme; we also have projects in the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Galapagos archipelago, South East Asia and Jersey.
Catering to your needs

- Sessions can be booked singly or developed as a series of linked learning opportunities.
- We can cater for small groups, individual classes or entire year groups.
- We can create sessions with cross-curricular links – sometimes it is easier to bring students off-timetable when it will benefit more than one subject.
- In some circumstances, when it is difficult to bring students to Durrell, we can arrange for education staff to visit your school and run a session there.
- For small groups, it is sometimes possible to arrange visits behind the scenes at the wildlife park or to hear directly from our keeping and conservation staff.
- For schools without a wildlife garden, we can offer the use of our outside classroom including a pond for pond-dipping – this is best in dry weather!

We are constantly reviewing what we can offer schools and are happy to work with you to develop new initiatives.

Special Educational Needs
For individuals or small groups of students with specific needs, we can adapt various lessons to suit their abilities. Where appropriate, teachers are also welcome to choose sessions from the primary schools programme when these would be more suitable for students. Details can be found on our website: www.durrell.org/schools

Assemblies
As part of our outreach programme, we are developing assemblies on key topics which Durrell staff or volunteers can come and present to students at school.

Cans for Corridors
The aluminium can recycling scheme which donates money towards replanting trees in Brazil for the black lion tamarin is still going strong and schools are welcome to get involved. For more details, contact: sarah.nugent@durrell.org

Fundraising
As a charity, we are always very grateful for donations from schools and love to hear about their fundraising efforts. When appropriate, we can arrange for a Durrell staff member to visit the school to accept a donation and explain how it will help save species from extinction. Animal adoptions can be a nice way for students to feel a connection with their animals and appreciate how the money they raise helps. We also appreciate the support offered by those schools, such as Grainville School and Victoria College, who develop closer links and donate significant amounts of money annually. Our fundraising staff are always happy to develop new relationships or offer suggestions for new fundraising initiatives.
Booking a visit

Booking is essential for a teaching session with the education centre. For independent visits, it can be beneficial to let staff know so they can update you on any events or suggest particular species or activities to include.

To book your session, contact Chris Siouville e-mail chris.siouville@durrell.org or telephone 01534 860034 with the following information:

• possible dates & times
• topic (including any particular focus preferred)
• number of students & adults expected to attend
• contact details for school and name of staff member organising the trip
• any particular needs of the group/individuals
• approximate duration of visit, if known

Chris will verify which of the requested dates is available and confirm the start time and other details.

Teachers are welcome to bring groups to visit the wildlife park at any time of the year. Opening hours are: 9.30am – 6pm in the summer, 9.30am – 5pm in the winter.

Jersey teachers are also offered a free planning visit to Durrell, if you would like to discuss opportunities with education staff please email Chris or Naomi.

Costs

All Jersey schools are entitled to free entry and free teaching.

Non-Jersey school groups are welcome to book a session and should contact: Naomi Webster (naomi.webster@durrell.org) for prices of entry and teaching. Accommodation is also available on site for visiting groups.

For further information about your trip or more details about different topics, please visit: www.durrell.org/schools

The website also has lots of information about the species we are saving and our overseas conservation projects, please sign up to our e-news to be kept abreast of all the new developments.

On the day

Please park coaches, minibuses or cars appropriately and supervise students moving around the car park.

At the entrance, please sign your group in. The visitor centre staff will show you where.

The education centre is located in the Princess Royal Pavilion, between the bear enclosure and the reptile house. When visiting the education centre for a teaching session, please use the school’s entrance at the right hand side of the building. Students are welcome to leave their coats or lunches in the meerkat lobby inside.

If staff are not in the lobby to greet you, please use the telephone to alert them to your arrival.

When attending classroom-based sessions at Durrell we recommend allowing ample time for wider exploration of the wildlife park. Studying the animals reinforces the relevance of taught sessions as well as being very enjoyable, particularly for students who do not visit Durrell regularly.
Weather
Whilst some areas of the wildlife park are under cover many areas are open to the elements. Please ask students to dress appropriately for the weather.

Walking
Paths can be uneven and some motorised vehicles will occasionally be in operation. Visitors are welcome to walk across lawns, although the weather can make this impractical. Wheelchairs and motorised scooters can be borrowed from the visitor centre for those with difficulty walking, but these should be booked in advance to ensure they are available.

Animals
The animals in the wildlife park should not be touched. Some are free-ranging but will get scared if approached or chased. Animal droppings may be present in public areas. Hand sanitiser is available in the education centre and will be used after handling the animals with students in taught sessions.

Food
Students may eat food purchased on site in the cafes or bring their own packed lunch to eat in one of our many picnic areas. The education centre can be made available as a wet weather picnic area, but this should be arranged in advance with the education staff.

Toilets
Toilets are available around the site in the education centre, at both cafés, near the bears and near the fruitbats.

First Aid
Staff with first-aid training are available on site and any of our staff can obtain assistance for you if required.

Missing students
The Visitor Centre at the entrance is the main point of contact for reporting and re-uniting missing children with adults. Many staff are in radio contact and can assist throughout the grounds if needed.

Allergies
We have a wide variety of cultivated plants and ‘wild’ areas of long grass. In some taught sessions students may handle animals, plants or food stuffs. Please make teaching staff aware of any relevant allergies among the students.

Acknowledgements
With thanks to the Jersey and Guernsey secondary school teachers who took part in consultation sessions at Durrell have guided us in developing our provision.


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For further information visit:
www.durrell.org/schools