

Welcome to the Field Studies Council (FSC)



Nature Friendly Schools Officer with FSC Head Office, Nr Shrewsbury, Shropshire

This is fixed term position due to start in April 2019 and end on 31st March 2020.

Imagine a job where you can use your environmental knowledge every day, helping to shape the minds of the new generation; a job where you work as part of a team in the great outdoors, inspiring others and developing passions for the future. Teaching with FSC gives you a role with both challenge and opportunity, and a chance to start young people on a journey of discovery that can last a lifetime. FSC are looking for people with a curiosity for the world around us, a passion for the natural history of the British Isles and an ability to enthuse and inspire others.

Included in this pack is the key information relating to our **Nature Friendly Schools Officer** vacancy:

- Job Description and Person Specification
- Summary of the main terms and conditions for the post
- Information about FSC and FSC Head Office (also visit www.field-studies-council.org)

How to apply:

For all recruitment information and relevant application forms please go to our vacancies web page at: www.field-studies-council.org/vacancies

To apply for this position please download and complete in full the [EDUCATION application form](#). You must ensure that your application includes examples of how you have demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience in meeting the requirements of the post detailed in both the job description and person specification.

Send your completed application form to: recruitment@field-studies-council.org **OR**

Human Resources, FSC Head Office, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1HW

Please note we do not accept CV's without a completed application form.

The closing date for receipt of your completed application is 12 noon on Wednesday 24th April 2019

Interviews are scheduled to take place at Head Office on Friday 3rd May 2019

If you have any queries regarding this vacancy please call Sam Rudd on 01743 852100 We look forward to receiving your application in due course.

Michael Bolton
Director of Policy & Commercial Development

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Nature Friendly Schools Officer
Grade:	Team Member
Based at:	FSC Head Office, Shrewsbury, with significant UK travel
Reports to:	Education Development Officer, as FSC project manager This post holds no line management responsibility

Overall Job purpose:

FSC is a partner in a consortium of organisations to deliver the Nature Friendly Schools Project. This large-scale project (£6.3m) is one of three within the Children and Nature Programme, a flagship programme for the 25 Year Environment Plan, led jointly by Natural England Defra and Department for Education and with a budget of £10m. The project will deliver natural environment interventions for schools with an aim to improving pupils' mental health and wellbeing, school engagement, plus their physical health, behaviour, attendance and care & concern for the environment. All partners will work with schools to build resilience. Approaches to be used include supporting children to find places of calm, improved problem solving skills and developing social skills and teamwork. Project partners are: Wildlife Trusts, Young Minds, Groundwork, The Sensory Trust and FSC.

We are now looking for a Nature Friendly Schools Officer to support the successful delivery of the FSC's project delivery outcomes. **You will implement and deliver residential sessions and webinars supporting teachers, to ensure teachers feel confident to deliver outdoor learning rather than just delivering direct to the students.** The post-holder will be expected to lead groups of all abilities in the natural environment with the ability to provide an appropriate standard of care for our learners. You will also contribute to all other aspects of the Head Office Education Development Function.

This is essentially an active role and will require the post-holder to be able to carry out duties associated with effectively managing groups in outdoor learning locations, which may be remote, whilst ensuring the health and safety of the group at all times, including carrying safety sacks.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supporting the design and delivery of teacher training on line webinars.
- Supporting the design and delivery of FSC residential sessions for teachers and their classes at all ages from 8-16 years plus special schools and alternative provision settings. The focus is upon supporting and mentoring the teachers to feel confident to deliver outdoor learning rather than just delivering direct to the students.
- Supporting the design and delivery of off site visits to FSC locations, mentoring and supporting teachers to use outdoor learning. This is referred to as 'progressive visits'. Schools will be in the following English regions: Manchester-Leeds corridor, West Midlands, East Midlands, NE London and Essex, and the South West.
- Under the direction of the Education Development Officer, working in partnership with the Project Partners' officers to deliver progressive visits.
- Under the direction of the Education Development Officer, working in partnership with the deliverers of the Care Farming and Community Forests projects within Children and Nature to support and advise on outdoor and environmental learning and seek mutually beneficial outreach work.
- Working with the Education Development Officer to ensure reports to the funder and requests for evaluation are delivered on time and are of high quality.
- Being aware of the evaluation opportunities offered through this project and the future potential for FSC to pursue impact evaluation trials to supports its own aims beyond this funded project.
- Effectively integrating ICT into pre-planned activities (GIS, Excel, Smartboards and PowerPoints).
- Working closely with teachers involved in the project to co-design and co-deliver outdoor learning to promote mental health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Demonstrating the ability to coach and mentor school staff throughout their progressive visits.

- Supporting the teacher to identify individual learning needs and plan and adapt courses to meet the needs of learners and respond to the needs of the group by changing the pace and/or style of delivery as appropriate.
- Delivering activities in a safe, effective and engaging manner, carrying out Risk Assessments and adapting activities where appropriate, e.g. due to sudden changes in weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- You will be required to travel and work at other locations, in the following English regions: Manchester-Leeds corridor, West Midlands, East Midlands, NE London and Essex, and the South West.

General

- Complying with all relevant legislation / FSC Operating Codes of Practice (OCOPs) / FSC Health and Safety Handbook and FSC procedures
- Delivering a high standard of customer service and customer care
- Ensuring the highest standards of quality are achieved in all duties carried out
- Working closely with other staff to ensure that appropriate levels of service are maintained during absences and periods of high workload
- Maintaining professional standards at all times in accordance with FSC policies
- Fulfilling your obligations under FSC's Behaviour Partnership to ensure a happy, productive working environment
- Attending staff meetings as well as FSC internal and external training as required, in order to share best practice and improve team and learning location performance, and participating fully in staff development activities (sometimes this may involve travel to other learning locations with the occasional overnight stay)
- Driving: We have a number of vehicles which you may be asked to drive. To do so, you will need to be 21 years or over, have a full valid driving licence, to have been driving for at least two years, and undertake an internal assessment on commencement in the role
- Undertaking any other duties that may reasonably be required to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the learning location

Key Expectations:

The expectations of every employee that we regard as essential include:

- A positive and passionate work attitude
- A desire to show pride in all aspects of their work
- A flexible approach with a willingness to adapt to changes
- An ability to work using your own initiative both independently and as a competent, effective team member
- An ability to work under pressure and prioritise work to meet tight deadlines
- Always treating others with courtesy, dignity and respect
- A commitment and contribution to improving FSC's environmental performance
- A committed and proactive approach to personal development; motivated to learn new skills and overcome new challenges

This job description should be seen as enabling rather than restrictive, and will be subject to regular review.

Date of issue: April 2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Post Title: NATURE FRIENDLY SCHOOLS OFFICER	Learning Location: FSC HEAD OFFICE
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ESSENTIAL/DESIRABLE FACTORS FOR THE POST	E	D	How is this identified?
1. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE			
Degree in either Geography, Biology, Ecology, Environmental Science or closely allied discipline	✓		Application
Previous experience of teaching/tutoring	✓		Application/Interview Presentation
Previous experience of fieldwork / teaching learning activities outdoors	✓		Application/Interview
Previous experience of the production and preparation of teaching resources	✓		Application/Interview
Experience of using interactive whiteboards, GiS, presentation software and spreadsheets	✓		Application/Interview Presentation
Experience of delivering to teachers, including in schools as well as outdoors at field centres / parks / etc.	✓		Application/Interview
Full valid Driving Licence	✓		Application
Full D1 entitlement with minibus driving experience / certification		✓	Application
PGCE / PGDE or teacher training (such as the FSC Trainee Tutor Scheme)		✓	Application
Experience of undertaking risk assessments		✓	Application/Interview
First Aid qualification		✓	Application/Interview
2. KNOWLEDGE			
Knowledge of National Curriculum, Health & Wellbeing agenda in schools	✓		Application/Interview
Knowledge of CPD design & requirements		✓	Application/Interview
3. SKILLS			
Ability to focus and stay on task in a busy environment or when working alone	✓		Application/Interview
Excellent communication skills, sensitive to the needs of others	✓		Application/Interview/Presentation
Coaching and mentoring skills.	✓		Application/Interview

SUMMARY OF MAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Contract Term:

This is a fixed term position and is due to start in April 2019 and end on 31st March 2020 in the first instance.

Remuneration:

FSC Grade: Team Member

FSC Salary Grade: Scale Points 11 - 14, currently £19,726 - £22,511 per annum

The point of entry within the salary grade will be dependent upon qualifications and experience. Due to the fixed term nature of the contract the post holder will be appointed to a fixed point salary in the first instance.

The salary is paid monthly in arrears by BACS transfer. The salary scale is reviewed annually.

Hours of work:

The post is based on a notional average of 40 hours per week, this would equate to a total of 2080 hours of work annualised over a full year. The weekly hours are based on a flexible shift pattern, this **will** fluctuate throughout the duration of your contract according to business needs. This means that the post holder may be required to work additional hours per week during busy periods and considerably less in other weeks to compensate. Evening, weekend and Bank Holiday working will be required.

Annual & Bank Holidays:

The holiday year runs from 1 January to 31 December each year. You will accrue an entitlement to paid annual holidays equivalent to 5.6 working weeks during a complete holiday year. This entitlement includes the Public/Bank holidays or substitute days (as defined in FSC's Employee Handbook) when they fall on a contractual or scheduled day of work. For anyone who joins part way through the year they will receive a pro-rata entitlement of the 28 days.

In addition to the above, we recognise and reward staff loyalty by awarding additional paid leave days, based on length of service, up to a maximum cumulative total of 5 additional days paid leave.

Pension:

The post-holder will be eligible to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Sickness:

During periods of certified sickness the post-holder will be eligible to receive sick pay in accordance with FSC's sickness absence procedures. The payment of sick pay is subject to compliance with FSC's rules for the notification and verification of sickness absence, details of which will be provided to the successful applicant upon commencement of employment.

Additional Employee Benefits:

These include an Employee Assistance Programme, Life Assurance* and Health Cash Plan with Westfield Health* (*exclusions apply). Further details are given on appointment, as applicable, or are available by contacting Human Resources at FSC Head Office on 01743 852119.

Probationary Period:

This post has a six month probationary period, during which your suitability for the post will be assessed.

Post Classification / Criminal Records Check Requirements:

This post has been classified as **Category A** (as defined in the FSC Code of Conduct) which means it is **exempt** from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013). Applicants will therefore be required to disclose any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings which are NOT protected as defined under the Act, and the successful candidate will also be required to undertake an **Enhanced plus Children's barred list check** with the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).

FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore, and understand the environment.

Our Mission is to bring environmental understanding to all.

Our Vision is inspiring environmental understanding through first-hand experience

What we believe -

FSC believes that the more we understand about, and take inspiration from, the world around us the more we can appreciate its needs and protect its diversity and beauty for future generations. In all we do, we are committed to:

- **Delivering first hand experiences.** FSC uses the environment to inspire. Taking in its sights, sounds and smells has the ability to motivate, deepen knowledge and broaden horizons.
- **Providing opportunities for everyone.** FSC strives to provide opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, ability or background.
- **Sustainability for the future.** A commitment to the environment is at the heart of everything FSC does: how we run the charity, what people learn on our courses and through our publications.
- **A caring attitude.** From the way we treat our customers, our staff, the environments we work in and the feel of our locations, FSC demonstrates a personal approach with great care taken in everything we do.

What we do -

For more than 70 years, FSC has touched the hearts and minds of people of all ages through courses at our network of learning locations, work overseas and the production of resources. Each year over 150,000 people experience FSC, many through a visit to one of our learning locations:

- Learning outside the classroom experiences with their school, college or university
- Professional training courses for environmentalists and teachers
- Natural history courses
- Identification guides and free resources
- Funded projects, both in the UK and abroad
- Art courses
- Family holidays
- Campaigns for the right to outdoor learning and fieldwork

Some of the FSC's proudest moments have arrived when trying to reach those who would not be able to have an FSC experience without some help. Thanks to FSC members and donations from individuals and Trust Funds, each year we are able to provide support for over 1000 young people who otherwise would not be able to take part.

Despite all that we have achieved so far, we hope to provide even more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore and understand the natural world. However, as an Investors in People charity, we realise we cannot achieve this without staff that have a real passion for the work of the charity and a pride in their role within it. Every role in the charity is vital to delivering its mission and vision – if this inspires you and you meet the requirements of the post we would love to hear from you.

FSC Head Office

FSC Head Office is based in a rural location 4 miles west of Shrewsbury, close to FSC's Preston Montford Field Centre, near Montford Bridge. FSC Head Office provides a number of central functions to support the work of the charity and to support our Learning Locations: these include Digital Services, Education, Finance, Human Resources and Marketing. The Chief Executive and Directors are based at Head Office and provide the strategic and organisational direction for this successful charity. There are currently approximately 50 staff based at FSC Head Office.

For more information on the FSC please visit our website: www.field-studies-council.org