



NORTHUMBERLAND
PARK

NORTH SHIELDS



Outdoor Learning and Environmental Education



Using local parks to deliver and
enrich the National Curriculum

Online Education Pack

Tel: (0191) 643 2245

Email: northumberland.park@northtyneside.gov.uk



North Tyneside Council

Our natural environment in North Tyneside is a valued resource that can support a broad range of school curriculum subjects. North Tyneside Parks provide diverse, safe and well maintained locations for interactive outdoor learning activities. They can present challenges and interactions that cannot be achieved within a classroom setting or in school grounds. Outdoor learning in parks is 'hands on' and creative, providing learners with real experiences and a chance to achieve beyond expectation.



Why choose us?

- Our fully qualified outdoor learning team are experienced and knowledgeable at facilitating activities outdoors.
- All of our warden-led sessions and sites are fully risk assessed.
- We offer half or full day sessions and will provide advice and recommendations to school staff planning a visit.
- We work with all ages in all weather conditions and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- We aim to promote environmental responsibility, sustainability and an understanding and appreciation of nature and wildlife at all times.
- Our services have a great reputation locally and regionally, with most schools booking repeat visits year-on-year.
- All of our parks follow Green Flag standards to ensure your pupils are visiting a safe, welcoming and well maintained public space.



NORTHUMBERLAND PARK

NORTH SHIELDS



- 1 Pet Cemetery
- 2 Medieval Hospital
- 3 Medieval Garden
- 4 Himalayan Dene
- 5 Visitor Centre and Tea Room
- 6 Bowling Green
- 7 Bandstand
- 8 Butterfly Meadow
- 9 Playsite



North Tyneside Council



LOTTERY FUNDED

How to find us

By road

The park's postcode is NE30 2ES.

1. Take the A1058 Coast Road towards Tynemouth
2. At the Billy Mill traffic lights, turn right onto the A1108 (Regent Terrace)
3. At the roundabout, take the first exit onto Regency Gardens
4. Continue forward onto Queen Alexandra Road West
5. Continue forward onto Queen Alexandra Road
6. Continue forward onto Trevor Terrace
7. Continue forward onto Linskill Terrace
8. Continue forward onto King Edward Road
9. Northumberland Park will be on your right

Public Transport

Metro: From Tynemouth Station, exit the station from Platform 1. Look to your left and you will see a gate – go through and follow the path. You will arrive at the park in less than five minutes. Search 'Tynemouth Metro to Northumberland Park' on YouTube.

Bus: There are several bus services which serve the park sites.

Please contact Nexus for all public transport details, at www.nexus.org.uk





General information

Heritage and a new focus

Nestled between Tynemouth and North Shields, Northumberland Park has recently been refurbished with a £2.2million Heritage Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' grant.

The park dates back to 1885 after the land was donated by the then Duke of Northumberland – Algernon George Percy – and paths were cut, trees planted and a lake constructed. Part of the park rests on the medieval site of St Leonard's Hospital and chapel, first referred to in records dating back to 1293, which has been explored during archaeological digs.

One of the park's unique features is the Verdun Tree – grown from a chestnut gathered in the ruins of Verdun, France, in autumn 1918. It was one of a number of seeds sent to this country by the Mayor of Verdun to commemorate peace. The tree links our local history to that of World War I, along with being a visual representation of the passage of time.

The Pet Cemetery is another historical site within the park, established in 1949 after a request from the RSPCA to the council of the time to set up a dedicated cemetery for pets. The cemetery is full, with over 200 headstones in place, including those which remember animals who were involved in work during World War II.

Today, Northumberland Park offers a tranquil green space with a variety of landscapes, providing a mixture of Victorian elegance and urban wilderness.

Situated in a dene, the park incorporates a play area, lake, sculpture trail, medieval herb garden, BMX pump track and a pavilion with tea room. With strong community links and volunteer involvement, the very social nature of this park makes it a welcoming place to visit and learn.





Menu of activities

The table below gives a brief summary of our most popular activities with curriculum links. Please be aware that a lot of our activities are cross curricular and meet many other targets in other subject areas. The list is not exhaustive and we are always willing to work with teachers to plan new sessions, ideas and activities. If there is a specific target you would like to be delivered outdoors in the park, please contact us to discuss possibilities.

Activity	Suitable for key stage	National Curriculum links
<p>Mini beasts Mini beast hunt and follow up activities. Activities vary depending on age and ability of the group.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Living things and their habitats • Animals
<p>Seasonal exploration Sensory activities relating to Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. Exploring the park, looking at the wildlife, plants and weather for the specific time of year.</p>	EYFS KS1	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Seasonal changes
<p>Plants Practical activities covering plants, trees and flowers. Seed dispersal, pollination, seasonal changes.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Plants • Seasonal changes • Living things and their habitats • Evolution and inheritance
<p>Habitats Practical and sensory activities looking at woodland and parkland habitats. Activities vary depending on age and ability of the group.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Plants • Animals • Living things and their habitats
<p>Maps A selection of different activities based on the age of the children. These can include making maps and/or simple trails – real or fantasy, following maps to find clues or points of interest, direction, compass skills.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical skills and fieldwork <p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry – position and direction

Menu of activities (continued)

Activity	Suitable for key stage	National Curriculum links
Orienteering A permanent course in place with 25 control points, each with four code series for use on successive visits.	KS1, 2 and above	Physical Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor and adventurous activity• GCSE PE Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geographical skills and fieldwork
Environmental art Creating small and large scale art outdoors using natural materials. We also look at the work of Andy Goldsworthy.	EYFS KS1, 2 and above	Art and Design <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce creative work• Become proficient in sculpture and other art techniques• Know about great artists



Prices for educational visits 2016/17

Bookings

All visiting groups who would like a warden-led visit must pre-book with us. Please contact us to check the availability of your preferred date. All bookings will be confirmed using our booking form - we ask all staff to bring a copy of this on the day of their visit.

Education visit - warden-led	Per child	Minimum charge (group of 20 or less)
North Tyneside School Half day (approx two hours)	£3.75	£60
North Tyneside School Full day (approx four hours)	£5.75	£80
Non North Tyneside School Half day	£4.50	£60
Non North Tyneside School Full day	£7.00	£100

Our range of prices are based on the facilities available for use at each site and also reflect the demographic make up of each area. If, for any reason you cannot make your booking, please contact us as soon as possible. There is a cancellation fee if the visit is cancelled within 10 working days of the booked date.

What's included?

- An Education Warden who will lead all planned activities, provide learning equipment and resources
- Access to a clean, dry space to meet in the morning, leave bags and eat lunch
- Access to the public toilets in the Glasshouse Tea Room
- Health and safety information and risk assessment summary

Payment

We only invoice for the number of children attending on the day. We will ask you for the number of children attending and send an invoice to your school/ department after your visit.

Typical visit itinerary

On arrival (9.45am – 10am)

You will be met by a member of staff who will show you where you can store packed lunches, bags etc. A member of the education team will give a short introductory talk to include staffing, health and safety, behaviour, session plan and a toilet visit if necessary. Children can change footwear and put on extra clothing at this point and have a snack. We allocate one Education Warden to no more than 30 children at a time.

Tour of the park/outdoor activities (10.15/30am – 12pm)

Each Education Warden will take a different route around the park. During the session the Education Warden will lead the walk around the park and all activities with the assistance of staff and parents. All activities take place outside in all weather conditions. The only exception would be if the weather was dangerous and the group were at risk. For example, in high winds.

Lunchtime 12pm – 12.45pm (minimum 45 minutes)

We aim to get back to the visitor centre for noon, depending on initial arrival times and weather. If you have booked a **half day** session, this is the end of your visit. Your Education Warden will make final checks with staff before leaving. You are welcome to have lunch inside the community room or outside in the park. Staff and visitors are welcome to purchase food and drinks from the Glasshouse Tea Room. You are welcome to leave bags etc in the Education Room. If you have booked a **full day** session your Education Warden will agree a time with you to return after lunch. Toilets are located in the Glasshouse Tea Room. We encourage all children to wash their hands thoroughly after their time outside.

Afternoon

If you have booked a **full day** visit, your Education Warden will return after lunch at the agreed time. The Education Warden will lead all agreed activities in the afternoon and return 5-10 minutes before your departure to collect bags and allow groups access to toilets.

Departure

On departure please ensure you have collected all belongings from the community room. We will ask all visiting groups for feedback either by a paper evaluation form or online survey. Feedback is very important to us, please take the time to fill it in.

Woods project

Suitable for EYFS. Please phone to discuss options for older children. Following the principles of Forest School education, we offer schools the opportunity to visit the park and work with us on a regular basis. Regular visits to the park allow hands on, real life experiences of the natural environment and seasonal changes. This is a very valuable and beneficial project for both staff and children to be involved in.



Booking procedure

1. Contact us by calling (0191) 643 2245, by emailing northumberland.park@northtyneside.gov.uk, or via the online enquiry form situated on the North Tyneside Parks website. Completing all fields will help us plan your visit efficiently from the very start.
2. We will contact you to discuss your requirements and to agree the details of the visit.
3. You will then receive a confirmation of booking via email which you must bring with you on the day of your visit. Please check that all the details on the letter are accurate.
4. Inform us of any changes as soon as possible by phone or email.
 - * If you have not received a confirmation of booking seven days before your visit, please contact us immediately.

Self-led visits

We welcome all groups into our parks to access our facilities and learning opportunities. If you are planning on bringing a group to the park on a self-led basis, there are some things you need to be aware of:

- Before your visit, if you could let us know how many children you are bringing and your travel arrangements we can make other park staff aware should you need assistance at any time.
- During busier times of year there may be other visiting school groups on site.
- You will not have access to an indoor space. However, you are welcome to use the Bandstand to shelter/eat lunch if the weather is bad. The Education Room is available to hire for a charge.
- We have some self-led activities available to download and print, available on the website.
- You must complete all of your own Risk Assessments for your visit to the park.
- Fires are not permitted at any time.

Outdoor Learning and Environmental Education Risk Management Summary

North Tyneside Council recognises the need for visiting groups to assure themselves of the quality and safety of our provision. The purpose of this document is to clearly state the roles and responsibilities of North Tyneside Council staff and visiting staff, taking into consideration Health and Safety requirements and the principles underpinning our service.

Risk Assessments have been undertaken for all activities carried out by the education service, which are reviewed and updated regularly. Schools and visiting groups can contact North Tyneside Council to view our detailed risk assessments. Alternatively, you can request our self-declaration form depending upon the requirements of your LEA or organisation. We do not send out Risk Assessments, however we do provide a summary of our risk assessments in this information pack.

Health and Safety systems in place include DBS checks on all park staff and volunteers working with children, following procedures consistent with North Tyneside Council's child protection policies. Park staff are trained in First Aid and emergency procedures are in place for gaining assistance while out on site.

North Tyneside Council Park staff will be responsible for	Visiting staff will be responsible for
Providing Risk Assessment for activities carried out under their supervision	Providing Risk Assessment for travel to and from the park, lunchtime and any self-led activity
Leading and organising activities within the agreed programme	Supporting the educational staff by managing the behaviour of the children to ensure maximum participation in activities
Leading the groups around site using the safest or most suitable routes depending upon the ages and abilities of the children	Ensuring staffing ratios are correct, that no child is left alone or wanders away from the group and carrying out regular head counts
Providing all the necessary equipment for agreed activities, unless previously discussed with the teacher bringing the group	Providing resources that may be required over lunchtime or extra equipment that may have been previously discussed with the park education staff
Providing an appropriate space for lunch, which is clean, dry and has good toilet facilities	Ensuring the children have a packed lunch and a drink
Offering first aid under the guidance of visiting staff, who should bring parental consent forms on visit	Providing parental consent forms and accurate information and advice on children's needs
	Ensuring parental permission is given for children to be photographed during visits

Risk Assessment Summary

North Tyneside Council parks have full Risk Assessments for all of the activities that are led by education staff in our parks. These are available to view online.

As recommended by the Department for Education (HASPEV,1998) we suggest that visiting school staff come and see the park beforehand to gain first-hand knowledge of the site and facilities.

Activity	Risk and associated hazards	Risk level	Controls in place and action required by park staff and visitors
Visit to the park - weather conditions	Hazards Exposure to the elements. Heat exposure, wind, getting 'wet', sunstroke, sunburn, colds and chills.	Low	It is the responsibility of visiting staff to ensure that all children have sufficient protection for all types of weather. Children/young people must be appropriately dressed for inclement weather. This includes suitable footwear (wellies/boots) and a waterproof coat. In hot sunny weather we advise sun hats and sun cream to be worn at all times.
Group supervision when travelling around the park	Rough, uneven terrain. Large unfamiliar (to the children) area open to public. Dogs off leads. Dog faeces on ground. Lost children. Open watercourse throughout some areas of the park. Park machinery may be in use at the time. Slips, trips and falls. Minor bumps and bruises. Bites and frights, infection from dog faeces. Children may wander off, get lost, stranger danger. Risk of falling in water and drowning. Ingesting water causing sickness. Getting soaking wet.	Low/medium	The supervision of the children remains the responsibility of the visiting teachers, parents and group leaders at all times during the visit to the park. Park Education Wardens lead all planned activities and will only take a group out on site if there are sufficient adults with the visiting group. See Health & Safety Executive guidelines for adult: child ratios. We would advise teachers to pay a preliminary visit to the park prior to their group visit.

continued on next page

Risk Assessment Summary

Activity	Risk and associated hazards	Risk level	Controls in place and action required by park staff and visitors
Group activities led by Education Warden	1. Mini beast hunt – bites and stings.	Low	1. The Education Warden will give a demonstration to the children of how to collect mini beasts without handling them where possible and also asked not to catch wasps or bees in their collecting pots.
	2. Mirror walk – loss of balance, motion sickness.	Low	2. Education Warden leads the group along terrain. Children reminded to take their time.
	3. Building woodland animal homes and nests – children choosing large sticks, waving them/hitting someone.	Low	3. Education Warden discusses the activity with the group before it starts and advises them to select small materials to use.
	4. Collecting natural materials – children may accidentally pick up dog faeces or sharp litter.	Low	4. Children reminded about looking out for dog-poo and not to pick up any litter. If they see something and they don't know what it is children are asked to tell their grown up or an adult with the group.
	5. Butterfly catching/ winged insects – using long handled nets the children may get injured from improper use.	Low	5. Children are given a demonstration of how to use the net safely and exercise caution when "swooping" the net.
	6. Duck feeding on the lake – children may eat the duck food. Risk of falling, slipping into the lake.	Low	6. Education Warden gives quick talk about the difference between human and animal food emphasising that it is not for human consumption. Procedure explained to group whereby all children throw the food into the lake at the same time and do not go past a point identified by the warden.

Northumberland Park Risk Benefit Statement

North Tyneside Council parks staff recognise the importance of allowing children and young people to access risk in the outdoor environment. Our well-planned activities and sessions allow participants to access risk in a managed environment with qualified, experienced staff. We recognise that risk cannot be removed completely, but take into account risk assessments and put in place control measures where necessary.

The main risk benefits we acknowledge from children accessing the natural environment in a parkland setting are:

- Exposure to fresh air, a relaxing environment, pleasure, fun, mental and social health and wellbeing improvements
- Opportunities for new unstructured and unpredictable physical challenges
- Enhanced subject knowledge through direct experience of the natural environment and natural elements
- Development of self confidence
- Learning through experience: learning from accidents
- Endless opportunities presented by the natural environment and the use of natural materials, allowing for creativity, problem solving and resourcefulness



What's on, where?

	Rising Sun Country Park	Wallsend Parks	Northumberland Park
Mini beasts	●	●	●
Pond dipping	●		
Seasonal visits	●	●	●
Plants	●	●	●
Habitats	●	●	●
Maps	●	●	●
GCSE PE Orienteering	●	●	●
Fire	●	●	
Outdoor cooking	●	●	
Iron Age/Stone Age	●		
Environmental art	●	●	●
Den building	●		
Change in land use	●		
Forest schools	●	●	●
Literacy	●	●	
Soft archery		●	
Team building	●	●	
Self led activities		●	●
Teacher training	●	●	

North Tyneside Parks



Rising Sun Country Park, Whitley Road, Benton, NE12 9SS
Telephone: (0191) 643 8115
Email: outdoorlearning@northtyneside.gov.uk

A large green oasis of 162 hectares featuring a nature reserve with dipping ponds, woodlands and grasslands. The Countryside Centre has beautiful views from the café and terrace over Swallow Pond, children's play areas and an exhibition room. This site has a deep industrial past to learn from, as well as an Iron Age Celtic village with fire pits, Giants Garden and Woodland Quarry.



Wallsend Parks, Richardson Dees Park Lodge
North Road, Wallsend, NE28 8RH
Telephone: (0191) 643 7797/7897
Email: wallsendparks@northtyneside.gov.uk

Three connected sites covering over 16 hectares of public parkland. The parks include woodland walks, sculpture trail, flower beds, streams and bridges, a lake and kitchen garden with orchard. Each park has a distinct character mixing wildlife with Victorian history alongside modern activities.



Northumberland Park Visitors Centre and Tea Room
King Edward Road, North Shields, NE30 2ES
Email: northumberlandpark@northtyneside.gov.uk



A beautiful green space of 12 hectares situated within a natural dene with bridges and a lake. The park was once the site of the medieval hospital which has been explored using archaeological digs. Today it hosts a vibrant herb garden, sculpture trail, children's play area and dirt bike track.

All of the parks include on site cafés, public toilets and a dedicated space for your visit in our community pavilions or education rooms. These provide somewhere to leave bags or take shelter in wet weather. All Education staff are experienced and knowledgeable at facilitating activities outdoors. We offer a wide range of activities to suit all ages. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.