EDUCATION AND LEARNING

www.belfastzoo.co.uk
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School child with George the bearded dragon
Belfast Zoo aims to inspire future generations to discover the world around us. With interactive, discussion-led education, Belfast Zoo is the perfect place to bring your learning to life in a unique and memorable way.

Since opening in 1934, Belfast Zoo has raised awareness and understanding of the natural environment and conservation issues.

We host a range of educational programmes that meet current curriculum requirements, with options to suit all ages and abilities.

Contact the zoo’s education team to discuss how we can inspire your students.

028 9077 6277 (ext 204 or 228)
education@belfastzoo.co.uk
Discovery sessions
Bring your students on an interactive adventure at Belfast Zoo with our new Discovery Sessions. Discovery Sessions include an interactive learning session in a classroom setting, worksheets and meeting some of our zoo family. Each session hosts a maximum of 35 students. You can choose from Super Saver, Summer, or Enhanced Discovery Sessions!

Super Saver discovery session
These classroom sessions last for 45 minutes or 1 hour, depending on the age group.
These sessions are available from September to March.
Choose from sessions starting at:
10.15am  11.15am  12.15pm  1.15pm.

Summer discovery session
These classroom sessions last for 45 minutes or 1 hour, depending on the age group.
These sessions are available from April to August.
Choose from sessions starting at:
10.15am  11.15am  12.15pm  1.15pm.

Enhanced discovery session
These sessions combine enhanced classroom learning with interactive learning on the zoo site. These sessions last between one and two hours, depending on age group.
These sessions are available from September to March.

Morning and afternoon sessions are available with flexibility to suit your schedule. We offer various themes for each Key Stage. To choose your theme, please see page 11 for full details of curriculum content and learning outcomes for each Discovery Session.
Self-guided learning visits are available all year for those who are unable to book a Discovery Session but want additional educational inspiration from the zoo.

Self-guided learning visits include educational material that can be downloaded at www.belfastzoo.co.uk/education.

Services from a zoo education officer are not provided with self-guided learning visits.
Outreach

If you can’t make it to Belfast Zoo for your learning experience, then let us bring the zoo to you. Our education team can provide off-site visits at a venue of your choice.

Outreach sessions are available from September to March and last from 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on age group. The sessions include interactive learning with a selection of small animals.

Two sessions are available per outreach visit, with a maximum of 35 students per session. We can provide additional sessions per visit if required.
Prices for discovery sessions and self-guided learning also include admission to Belfast Zoo on the same date.

Each student will receive a branded wristband on arrival at Belfast Zoo, allowing you to easily identify members of your group.

We are delighted to offer complimentary teacher access as follows*:

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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Complimentary Access</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>1 teacher up to every 6 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation (P1/P2)</td>
<td>1 teacher up to every 10 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Stage 1 and 2</td>
<td>1 teacher up to every 15 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Stage 3 and 4</td>
<td>1 teacher up to every 20 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-16</td>
<td>1 teacher up to every 20 students</td>
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*Complimentary access for three teachers is provided as standard for Super Saver Discovery Sessions.

Prices are valid from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.
Rewards pass

Belfast Zoo is delighted that you are joining us on this journey of discovery. To say a little thank you for choosing to learn with us, we have introduced a brand new Education Rewards Pass.

For every four education sessions* booked within one academic year (September to August), Belfast Zoo will reward your school or organisation with a free self-guided learning visit.

The free rewards visit must take place in the same academic year as the four paid sessions. A maximum number of 30 students and 3 teachers will receive a free rewards visit, additional students and teachers will be charged at the advertised self-guided price.

*Education sessions include all discovery sessions, self-guided learning and outreach visits.
Lockers are provided at the Visitor Centre for a £1 fee. These cannot be reserved in advance and are subject to availability.

Please note that Belfast Zoo currently does not provide wet weather facilities. However, some of the animal houses provide shelter alongside small shelters located throughout the zoo site.

Goodie Bags

You can pre-book goodie bags for your students, which can be collected at the end of your visit.

Prices start from £3.00 for an animal-themed stationary set. Contact the zoo’s education team to request goodie bag offers.

Catering

You can pre-book your lunch in the Lion’s Den Café, choosing from sandwiches or a hot meal. Prices start from £4.25.

Contact the zoo’s education team to request a menu.

Storage facilities

Lockers are provided at the Visitor Centre for a £1 fee. These cannot be reserved in advance and are subject to availability.

Wet weather facilities

Please note that Belfast Zoo currently does not provide wet weather facilities. However, some of the animal houses provide shelter alongside small shelters located throughout the zoo site.
How to book...

Contact Belfast Zoo’s education team today to discuss which learning session will best suit your class.

All education services must be booked in advance. We recommend booking as far in advance as possible so we can try to accommodate your selected date.

Once you have completed a booking form and your selected dates and times have been confirmed, the education team will send pre-visit information to help make your session as straightforward as possible.

Payment

**Cheque**
Please make your cheque payable to Belfast City Council. You can pay by cheque in advance or on the date of your visit. We only accept company or school cheques; personal cheques will not be accepted.

**Cash**
You can pay by cash on the date of your visit.

**Credit/debit card**
You can pay by card in advance or on the date of your visit.

**Invoice**
Some groups may have to inform us at least six weeks in advance of your visit if you wish to be invoiced. This is subject to completion of relevant documentation and financial approval by Belfast City Council.
SUMMER SESSION

The world around us: animals - where do they live?

Pupils will appreciate the basic needs of animals: shelter, food, water and discover the diversity of homes and habitats that animals have become adapted to. Through the use of images, bio-facts and close observation of live animals, the children will discover the variety of animal homes and habitats and how the animals are adapted to live in those habitats by camouflage, hibernation and migration. Habitat loss, destruction and conservation of local habitats will be discussed.

Curriculum Content

Interdependence
- The variety of living things in the world and how we can take care of them

Place
- How animals adapt to their natural environment
- Animals that hibernate and the materials they use

Movement and energy
- Where do people and animals move to?
- Animals that migrate

Change over time
- Changes in the local natural environment and how they can affect living things.

Learning Outcomes:
- Understand the basic needs of animals
- Learn that animals live in a variety of different homes and habitats
- Discover how animals have adapted to live in different habitats
- Recognise that human activities are changing habitats
- Consider how we can protect animals under threat.
SUPPER SAVER SESSION OR ENHANCED SESSION

The world around us: home and habitats

Pupils will discover that there is a large variety of habitats. They will investigate what animals need to live: food, shelter, a safe place to live. Pupils will be introduced to a range of animals, establish the essentials for an animal to survive and flourish in its own niche and look at the range of habitats that animals are found in.

Curriculum Content

Interdependence
- The basic needs of animals to survive including a home, and the relationship between their life and the wide range of habitats in which they are found

Place
- How animals are adapted or change to live in an environment which meets the demands of their survival requirements and physical adaptations.

Learning Outcomes:
- Discover the difference between a habitat and a home
- Understand what a habitat must provide for comfortable living: a safe home, places to hide, good food source
- Explore the different habitats animals live in and what they provide
SUPER SAVER SESSION OR ENHANCED SESSION

The world around us: sorting animals

Pupils will realise that there are many ways we can put animals into groups. They will be introduced to different types of animal. Through the use of images and close observation of live animals, the children will sort animals into groups using different methods including colour, movement and habitat.

Curriculum Content

Interdependence
- The variety of living things in the world

Place
- How animals use colour to adapt to their natural environment

Learning Outcomes:
- Discover there is a wide variety of animals
- Understand some of the many ways that animals can be grouped together
SUMMER SESSION

The world around us: In danger!
Pupils will discover that animals are endangered, the reason for the problems and what we can do to help endangered animals.

Curriculum Content

Interdependence
• How people’s actions can affect many animals in environments close by, and throughout the world;
• The importance of living a lifestyle that allows us to live in harmony with all the animals we find throughout the world.

Change over time
• The changes that have taken place on a world wide scale, what are the drivers behind the change and the consequences for many different animals.

Learning Outcomes:
• Discover that many animals are endangered.
• Understand how human activity is increasing the problem.
• Recognise the role of zoos in conservation.
• Realise the role we can all play in conservation.
Super Saver or Enhanced Session

The world around us: variety of life

Pupils will discover, through close observation, the range of animal diversity within the animal kingdom and ways of classification. This is an introduction to different types and classification of animals. The children get to observe at close quarters, examples of an invertebrate and several different vertebrates and look at body covering, breathing, and breeding as characteristics. Other ways of grouping, e.g. by diet (carnivore, herbivore etc.) are also introduced. Children are presented with different animals (real, pictures, bio-facts) and asked to use their knowledge to sort into groups.

Curriculum Content

Interdependence
- The variety of living things in the world

Place
- Animals that hibernate

Movement and energy
- Animals that migrate

Learning Outcomes:
- Recognise that there is a wide diversity of animal life on Earth
- Discover that animals have some characteristics in common and some features that are different
- Use these features to acquire knowledge of a vast range of different species in the animal kingdom
- Understand that grouping helps us make sense of animal life
- Identify key characteristics and sort animals into groups
The world around us: rainforest explorer
Discover the amazing diversity of life in the rainforest and explore our relationship with it.

Curriculum Content

Interdependence
• The interdependence of plants, animals and people in the environment; how people effect the environment over time; how place influences animal life

Place
• Positive and negative effects on habitats and environment as a result of behaviour and demands; the influence of the environment on nature; how animals adapt and survive in the environments

Movement and energy
• Why animals move; causes that affect the movement of animals

Change over time
• how to make change; the responsibility of society to global issues; the consequences of change

Learning Outcomes:
• Examine the structure of rainforests and where they are found.
• Discover the wide range of diversity in the rainforest.
• Explore the relationship between humans and the environment.
• Understand what can be done to help protect wildlife and the environment.
SUMMER SESSION

The world around us: conservation challenge
Discussion on a conservation problem on a national or international scale, working as a group and suggesting a conservation programme to halt or reverse the problem. The students will identify a range of animals and habitats under threat. Each group will choose a topic such as: the trade in wild animals, hunting, monocrops etc., discuss the problem and its potential solution in groups and then with the whole class.

Curriculum Content

Developing pupils as individuals
• Identify how skills developed through this study will be useful to a wide range of careers, jobs involving animal welfare, ICT or conservation work at both graduate and vocational level

Developing pupils as Contributors to the Economy and the Environment
• Pupils have the opportunity to: Explore the importance of the range of animals in the animal kingdom, how they add to biodiversity and their impact on our lives

Learning Outcomes:
• Understand some of the major conservation issues of the 21st century.
• Explore the interdependence of human activity and the environment.
Students look in detail at classification of vertebrates and at a selection of invertebrates.

Students will explore the similarities and differences of a range of vertebrate and invertebrate animals and discover the features that will allow them to classify the animals into groups.

Curriculum Content

Developing pupils as individuals
• Pupils have the opportunity to respect and co-operate with others in the process of scientific enquiry on classification of animals, explore the complexity, diversity and interdependence of living things

Developing pupils as contributors to society
• Pupils have an opportunity to consider how the development of scientific ideas or theories relate to historical information, scientific data or cultural fact

Developing pupils as contributors to the economy and the environment
• Pupils have the opportunity to explore the importance of the range of animals in the animal kingdom, how they add to biodiversity and their impact on our lives through the uses of those animals for food, medicine etc

Learning Outcomes:
• Discover the features that will allow them to classify the five vertebrate groups.
• Understand the similarities and differences of a range of invertebrate animals
• Classify a range of live animals by observing these features and characteristics.
Leisure, travel, tourism and customer care

Through discussion, students will realise the roles of Belfast Zoo and its staff. They will explore the need for good customer service for both internal and external customers and how this is achieved in both the public and private sectors.

Curriculum Content

Developing pupils as individuals
- communicating meaning, feelings and viewpoints in a logical and coherent manner
- participating in discussions and debate
- listening actively to others and influencing group thinking and decision-making, taking account of others’ opinions

Learning Outcomes:
- Discover the main roles of Belfast Zoo.
- Identify the zoo’s external and internal customer base.
- Explore the need for good customer service in the zoo.
- Identify the benefits and disadvantages of public and private sector.
- Establish the main health and safety concerns in the zoo.
GET INVOLVED...

Become a member
Join the Belfast Zoo family by becoming a member and get a whole year of FREE entry and other great benefits!

Birthday parties
Celebrate your birthday with Belfast Zoo’s party animals.
*You must book a party in advance. This is subject to availability.

Adopt an animal
You can support the work that we do and the animals that we care for by adopting an animal. From the tiny pygmy marmoset to the giant Asian elephant, there’s more than 150 species to choose from and a package to suit every budget.

Animal experiences & keeper for a day
Walk on the wild side and make your day out even more memorable, with one of our animal experiences. Go behind the scenes at the lemurs, giraffes or penguins, meet the keepers and help out at feeding time!*
*You must book an experience in advance. Experiences are subject to availability.

If you are interested in any of these packages visit our website or call 028 9077 6277.

www.belfastzoo.co.uk
Opening hours

Belfast Zoo is open all year, except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

April to September
10am to 6pm (the last entry into the zoo is at 5pm).
The animal houses close at 6pm.

October to March
10am to 4pm (the last entry into the zoo is at 2.30pm).
The animal houses close at 3.30pm.

Contact

Belfast Zoological Gardens
Antrim Road
Belfast
BT36 7PN

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Fax: 028 9037 0578
Email: education@belfastzoo.co.uk
www.belfastzoo.co.uk/photocomp

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