**Secondary School Programme Plan**

**The value of a Junior Ranger Scheme**

* Educational: knowledge, skills and experience.
* Developing understanding and being inspired.
* Accessing a different opportunity.
* Connecting with their communities and understanding their local environment.
* Raising environmental awareness.
* Working alongside professionals.
* Provides links with external partnerships.
* Building confidence and self-esteem.
* Outdoor exercise and physical activity.
* Benefits physical and mental health.
* Improves coordination skills.
* Fun, environmental, learning experiences.
* Acquiring insights into possible career opportunities.
* Great for CV and employability.

**The Curriculum for Excellence links** are Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Effective Contributors and Responsible Citizens. Other links are with Outdoor Education, Science and Arts.

**Code of conduct:**

Individuals during their time here at Finlaystone Country Estate should behave in a dignified way that respects the religious, social and cultural beliefs and traditions of others and of the environment, staff and equipment.

**Your programme**

This programme is a suggested structure and can be amended or built upon in time as we work together.

* 10 weeks.
* Wednesday’s from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_
* Dates TBC
* \_\_\_ hours

The 10-week programme builds basic skills and knowledge required to be a Ranger and builds up confidence and trust in the group towards more detailed activities.

A Junior Ranger Certificate will be given to everyone on completion which can be presented on their last week here.

**Junior Ranger Weekly Programme**

Week 1

Aims to provide an overview of the estate which will include a walkaround to familiarise the group with their surroundings, introduce them to staff onsite, and to provide an overview of their programme.

* Induction
* Introduction to the Rangers and Estate and Garden
* Importance of Ranger and Junior Ranger role
* Natural heritage of the site
* Weekly Schedule of activities and outcomes
* Litter pick and toilets, laundry opening
* What’s on daily and prep

Week 2

Health and Safety are paramount so we will be teaching the group about our risk assessments, why and how we do them. We will also introduce them to our H&S checks on the play areas and what we do if anything needs re

paired. This provides the opportunity for tool handling.

* Health and Safety
* Risk assessments
* Play Areas checks and repairs
* Tool Handling

Week 3

Undertaking several activities to enhance and expand groups; communication skills, team work and problem solving.

Activities will be both Ranger led and self-led giving the ranger and teacher the opportunity to evaluate group and individual development throughout the event.

Following each activity, a short debrief will be carried out to allow for knowledge sharing and any questions that may arise.

* Team Building – Den build, Bushcraft (build up confidence and trust, getting to know you)

Week 4

It’s important for the Ranger Team to have knowledge of the estate’s biodiversity to be able to care for it. This session will teach the group how to complete a plants (flora) and animal (fauna) survey. .

* Survey of flora and fauna.

Week 5

Following on from the flora and fauna survey, we can work with the group to teach them about invasive species, what they are and why and how we remove them.

* Invasive species: Rhododendrons, knotweed.

Week 6

We will focus on specific conservation projects this week and have a hands-on approach. We are working in partnership with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. One of the projects we are involved in is protection of the Pipistrelle Bat. One of the activities we will be doing to help achieve this is to make bat boxes. **(This can change depending on what we go ahead with)**

* Specific conservation projects
* Example: Bat box making

Week 7

The students will be monitored and trained in preparation for a self-led walk on week 9.

Both sessions will involve a question and answer session where all students will be expected to participate test their knowledge of Trees, Habitats, Wildlife, Fungi and Parasites.

* Tree ID

Week 8

**TBC**

* Introduction to Gardening/Gardening for healthy food/living (TBC)
* Seasonal ID: Fungi, Lichen, Fauna

Week 9

This week gives the group a chance to choose the activity they would most like to focus on more.

* Self-Led – they choose what they’d like to focus on
* Arts and crafts – use natural materials
* Prep for next week

Week 10

This provides the opportunity for the group to present their experience their peers (possibly at school). It can include photos and description of their experience and include their favourite areas from the programme.

* Show and Tell:
* What did they enjoy most and why?
* What they didn’t enjoy and why?
* Completion Certificate