

Students, family and teacher, trainee beekeepers © YDNPA

Case Study
Cracoe and Rylstone CE Primary School

With just 34 pupils on roll, Cracoe and Rylstone Primary School is part of the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation – a consortium of four schools.



Checking on the bees at Cracoe and Rylstone Primary School @ YDNPA

The school has been an active participant in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) Ambassador School Programme.

We spoke to Glenda Cumberland, Base Leader & Class 2 teacher, along with some of her pupils, about their experience.

How it began…

On a field trip YDNPA saw the pupils' enthusiasm for nature and wildlife, and we were asked if we'd like to become an Ambassador School. YDNPA led a number of visits, including a woodland investigation at Grass Woods, exploring summer meadows at Lower Winskill Farm and looking at geology and tourism impact in Malham. The training and support we received enabled us to model good practice to make improvements to the school gardens, sowing vegetable and planting wildflowers for pollinators to create a better environment for the school beehives.

The older children also documented their learning to complete the John Muir Award and the whole class made a presentation to the Upper Wharfedale Field Society at the Octagon Theatre in Grassington, which was a really proud moment.

The programme is so inspirational in encouraging children to love the countryside around them and understand the importance of protecting and nurturing it.

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/learning-and-engagement

Left
Students and teacher, trainee beekeepers
© YDNPA

Right
Honey Bee





"We're really keen to share our knowledge with younger children and pupils from other schools."

"I learn something different every time we go outside. It's exciting and a bit of an adventure to get outside and afterwards we all feel happy and calm."

The outcomes and benefits

For Pupils

- Make connections between what they are doing in outdoor learning and their classroom-based studies.
- Understanding the role of YDNPA in protecting the environment and the positive role they can play.
- Immensely proud of the garden, vegetables, bees – eager to share their understanding and enthusiasm for the countryside and nature.
- Some children who struggle in a classroom really come into their own when they head outside; they find it easier to focus and engage and can really shine outdoors.

For Teaching Staff

- It has made me more confident in delivering environmental education and leading fieldwork.
- I feel much more confident and empowered to lead outdoor learning sessions now and also to share this knowledge with other schools.
- We have been able to extend our links with other schools within the federation and further afield and shared learnings and best practice with our colleagues.

10
Primary Ambassador schools

1
Secondary Ambassador school

40,000
Honey bees on average in a typical hive

YORKSHIRE DALES National Park
AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The YDNPA Team can support schools who have already engaged with environmental education and outdoor learning to further embed their practice and be in a position where they can support other schools on this journey. The programme is open to schools within or close to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, who have taken part in a number of sessions led by the Education Team and wish to develop and embed their practice around environmental education and outdoor learning.

Support includes advice from the YDNPA education team, staff training sessions, links to other environmental organisations and access to resources

For further information, please contact: learning@yorkshiredales.org