

**THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST CIO**  
Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1199697

**Schools Programme – Progress Update January 2026**

**Winton Primary School**

In September Winton School near Kings Cross presented a proposal to the Trust for funding to create a sustainable rainwater harvesting system at the school as Phase 1 of a project designed to utilize the harvested rainwater to deliver increased water related science and environmental learning, increased biodiversity, and create a lasting sustainable, green legacy at Winton by providing outdoor educational opportunities inaccessible to many of their families.



**Winton Primary School**

This initiative is a core component of their commitment to a Sustainable Climate Action Plan required by Islington LA, and it aligns with the broader goals of increasing green spaces and enhancing biodiversity at schools, as recommended in the DFE's 'Sustainability and Climate Change' strategy and the national schools "National Education Nature Park" initiative. Winton School is part of the Learning Quarter Partnership along with Hugh Myddelton School. Winton is a state school with a high percentage of children from disadvantaged backgrounds and SEND needs and was recently assessed as Outstanding by Ofsted. It is a one form entry school with around 230 pupils on school role with a very limited budget, and this project offers an opportunity to significantly increase the facilities for the children.

To date the Trust has funded £2500 for 12 water butts and installation has commenced as detailed in the last report. At our November Trust meeting Trustees agreed a further £10,000 funding to complete Phase 2 of the project (for detailed costings see last report) creating three new, dedicated growing and learning spaces across the school site. These projects are designed to utilize the harvested rainwater, deliver hands-on learning, increase biodiversity, and create a lasting sustainable, green legacy at

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Winton by providing outdoor educational opportunities inaccessible to many of their families.

The Key Aims of Stage 2 are as follows:-

- Educational Equity: Establish high-quality, practical growing spaces to teach children about botany, ecology, food chains, and water management—skills and experiences many do not have access to at home.
- Biodiversity and Air Quality: Transform underused areas into vibrant ecosystems, increasing vegetation cover to improve biodiversity, offer shade, and reduce air pollution across the school site.
- Curriculum Integration: Provide dedicated outdoor learning areas that directly support the science, mathematics, and well-being curriculums.

The school children have been invited to present their proposals to utilise the newly created green spaces at the Livery Climate Action Group Annual Conference on 26th January 2026 at Merchant Taylor's Hall as a demonstration of how schools can contribute to climate action plus increase biodiversity and environmental learning utilising school grounds.

**London Museum of Water And Steam**

**STEAM EXPLORERS STEM CLUB**



The museum concluded the third STEAM Explorer course this summer. Six explorers completed the course this time around, three have signed up as volunteers, and one completed a week of work experience at the Museum. The museum thanks the Water Conservation Trust as their support made this course possible. Below is some of the feedback received from course participants and parents:-

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*“The hands-on approach to working with the engines was an enjoyable and memorable experience, and I learned many valuable skills that will help in future with similar tasks. The staff at the museum were very knowledgeable and I learned some really fascinating stories about the engines themselves and the history of the museum”  
“I am grateful that my daughter could take part in something that she could not access anywhere else. Such a unique location, history and practical hands-on learning - just perfect, thank you!”*

*“Well organised course with very knowledgeable and experienced staff, children being given the confidence to work with the machinery in a safe but exciting way.”*

The museum are planning to run Steam Explorers two times in 2026, once in Spring and once in Autumn. The total the cost will be £3000 minus the £113.33 they have in the fund already. As agreed at the September 2025 meeting WCT has funded £2,886.67 to run Steam Explorers in 2026.

#### LMWS BURSARY SCHEME

Currently the museum offers a variety of learning sessions to children from Early Years up to Key Stage 3, including a special SEND session, with costs varying between £250 to £270 per visit for class sizes up to 30 pupils, and the Trust offers bursaries to support visits by schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged children. Currently there is £2,270 funding remaining in the bursary budget for school educational visits. It was agreed at the September 2025 Trust meeting to remove the requirement of being local to Hounslow for 100% coverage of the visit cost. We hope this will allow schools farther afield in London to visit the site and that we can facilitate more visits in 2026. Over 400 children have benefited from the bursary scheme to date.

#### **River Holme Connections**

Each year the Water Conservation Trust provides £5000 to support River Holme Connections (RHC) to deliver environmental education and riverfly monitoring with local schools in the Huddersfield area via funding for their Year In Industry student. We have received the following request from Lynva Russell at RHC regards funding for the 2025/26 Year In Industry Student for Trustees to consider:-

*We have enjoyed a wonderful year with and for our Year in Industry placements. Thanks so much once more for the support of the Water Conservation Trust, financial and other. We would love to have this programme continue through 2026 in much the same way and would appreciate the Trust considering an award of £5000 towards this. The role is a fantastic learning experience for the successful candidate and as we have seen, helps them into employment beyond their degree. It also helps to get so many young people from all backgrounds involved with nature and particularly all things water. The impact on so many youngsters is great and much appreciated by the schools and staff.*

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Click on the icons below for a summary of the benefits and the two reports from RHC's "Year in industry" student placements (previous student Rachel 2024/25 and current student Kyal 2025/26) for these past 12 months.



YII%20Engagement%  
20Round%20Up%20202



Report%20YII%20Wa  
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### **Spitalfields City Farm**

Our bursary scheme supports educational visits to the Farm at low cost (£85 -£200). The children learn about food production, growing vegetables and fruit, pollination, natural pest control and animal welfare. To date there have been 13 visits with 5 this year resulting in an expenditure to date of approx. £2400 out of the £4000 Trust funding. Winton School visited the farm this summer and we received the following feedback from Riverside Bridge School in Barking, a special school that supports pupils with a range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) :-

*"Everything was perfect. We had a really lovely time at the farm and staff were so excellent with our students. The area for lunch and the designated area for us to use as a regulation space were both excellent. It was an educational and enjoyable day".  
"The students were calm and relaxed after their visit to the farm. Some students were talking about the animals they'd met."*

I am currently planning to discuss with the Farm a future programme for visits in 2026.

### **Quentin Blake Centre For Illustration**

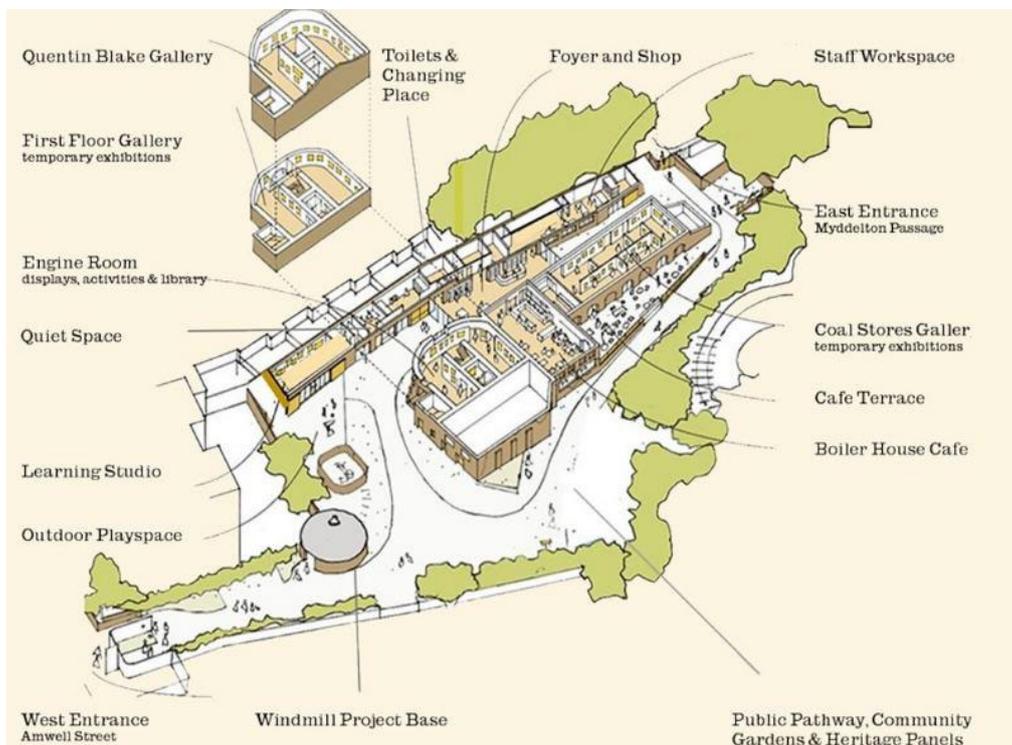
Construction work at the new Quentin Blake Centre of Illustration at New River Head is progressing well, including the learning studio they are developing especially for children to learn about the history and development of water technology utilising the power of illustration. The Trust agreed to £6225 of funding to develop the pilot course with a few selected schools (now completed) which would then be rolled out to other schools, when the centre is opened.

I have received a further request from Emily Curran at centre for funding support of £5695 to deliver 12 STEAM workshops in the Learning Studio at the centre reaching 360 pupils throughout 2026. For further details on the funding request click on the icon below:-



QBCI STEAM  
Proposal 2026 for Wa

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I also received the following note from Emily Curran at the centre :-

*We are delighted to announce that Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration will be opening its doors in May 2026. We can't wait to show you how we have realised Quentin's long-held vision for a permanent national space where the "extraordinary wealth of illustration" can be exhibited, discussed and celebrated.*

### **Northeast Manor School**

Northeast Manor is a special educational needs school based in Rodmell, near Lewes on a Grade II listed site, where the students are neurodiverse, most of whom have diagnoses of autism/ADHD.

The Trust has so far provided £1,350 towards stage 1 of a project to restore their horticultural garden, to match the £1,300 raised by the school so far. These funds have been used by the school to buy top soil, turf, sleepers, paving and two solar water pumps for the raised beds/ watering.

The school have made good progress on restoring the garden. The plant beds have new wooden edgings, all the old rotting sleepers have been removed and the students and staff are all saying how good the area looks now. Also, a layer of topsoil has been added to the beds by the students themselves.

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At our November 2025 meeting Trustees agreed to a further £4961 of funding to purchase a greenhouse for the horticultural garden and I received the following response from Tri Townsend at the school:-

*Thank you so much for your email - this is absolutely fantastic news. I've just shared it with our horticulture teacher, who is completely over the moon. She's already planning what the students will be able to grow now with the significantly-extended growing season for Spring and Autumn; I've heard mention of early-harvest tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and even a little banana tree that was donated to the school but hasn't had anywhere warm enough to live until now! We will keep you updated on what additional species they are learning about and the impact that this has had on their horticulture study in the Spring term.*

*We'll also be using this as a chance to teach the students about water conservation. The water butts mean the whole setup can run as a closed loop, with everything grown in the greenhouse being watered entirely from harvested rainwater. The students will also learn more about how to manage our use of water sustainably - how to recycle it and use it efficiently.*

*We'll make sure to take photos throughout the process, from installation through to filling it with plants and to the first harvest. We are happy to continue sending photos over time. Installing a plaque to recognise this wonderful contribution to the school is a great idea.*

### **Cranborne Primary School**

Progress is continuing to develop the pond and wildlife area at the school.

### **St John Bosco College**

On 10/11/25 I received an email via the Trust Chairman from St John Bosco College, a secondary school located in Battersea who are interested to learn about the work of the Trust in promoting environmental education and supporting schools to develop both curriculum-linked learning and practical eco-projects with a focus on water ecology, sustainability, and the development of hands-on learning experiences, such as ponds, aquariums, eco-gardening, and outdoor study. I will be contacting them by email with a view to setting up an initial zoom meeting and to then visit them in the coming weeks.

Rob Casey, Water Conservation Trust – 18/01/26