

School Visit Information 2026/2027

A school trip is often one of the highlights of the school year, creating lasting memories for both students and teachers. With the right information, planning it can be straightforward and stress-free. We have compiled some information in this document that will hopefully help you organise and run your trip effectively, however if you need any further information, please contact our Education Officer at communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com or call on 01665 660317.

Learning Outside the (LOtC) Quality Badge

At The Alnwick Garden and Lilidorei, we have achieved national recognition for our educational visits and have been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) quality badge.

The LOtC Quality Badge is the only scheme that recognises quality of learning and effectiveness of risk management and is awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.



In the DfE document '**Health and safety on educational visits**' it states, schools using an outside organisation to provide an activity must check the organisation has appropriate safety standards and public liability insurance. The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) awards the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge to organisations that meet nationally recognised standards.

For more information about the LOtC Quality Badge click [here](#).

Opening Times

Before deciding on your visit date, please check our website for open days and times [here](#). The times do vary throughout the year.

School Visit Bookings

Please read through all the information in this booklet before you book your visit.

Costs of visiting The Alnwick Garden for school visits are priced at a reduced educational rate, during Northumberland Schools' term dates. All visits to The Alnwick Garden are self-led.

Pupils are charged at a rate of £4.00 each, with accompanying adults free in a ratio of 1:5. Additional adult tickets are priced at £5.50 each.

Booking Form

All groups need to pre-book their visit before attending. You can do so by completing the attached booking form [here](#). Once you have completed the booking form, please send it back via email to communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com or post it to Community and Education, The Alnwick Garden, Gardeners Cottage, Greenwell Road, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1HB.

There are additional extras that you can book that are listed in more detail at the end of this document.

Final Numbers

Final numbers must be confirmed **7** days before your visit and you will be contacted by our bookings team at this time.

SEND

Please advise on your booking form if you have any children with additional needs that you would like to make us aware of.

The Alnwick Garden Social Story can be found [here](#).

Free Learning Resources

There are several learning resources on The Alnwick Garden website, all linked with elements of your visit and the National Curriculum. Click [here](#) for our educational resources and activities.

Subsidised Travel

The Alnwick Garden travel subsidy is offered to all state schools (EYFS – Year 6) to encourage visits to The Alnwick Garden and Lilidorei in support of curriculum learning. It provides financial assistance with transport costs between the school and The Alnwick Garden and Lilidorei for self-led visits. Funding is limited and our contribution is £250 for each successful application.

Priority will be given to schools with more than 22% of pupils eligible for free school meals. At present, a school can apply for funding once and money can only be allocated whilst funding is available. To find out more or to apply, please contact:

communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com

If your application is successful, you can claim your £250 towards your travel to Lilidorei and/or The Alnwick Garden after your visit.

Why not combine your visit with Lilidorei?

A combined ticket to The Alnwick Garden and Lilidorei is charged at £7.50 per child, with accompanying adults free in a ratio of 1:5. Additional adult tickets are priced at £8.00 each.

Click [here](#) to find out more information about Lilidorei.

Why not become a school member of The Alnwick Garden?

For only £250 over the academic year, by becoming a member of The Alnwick Garden you will enjoy the following benefits:

- Unlimited access to The Alnwick Garden for up to a whole year group at a time and accompanying school staff during your school term time, including The Poison Garden and The Apiary.
- A visit from a member of our Education Team in the new academic year to discuss resources and match your schools' needs.
- We will aim to match your curriculum requirements and your schools' needs for your own teacher led sessions on site. We offer a full day site visit and one day outreach to you, both led by The Alnwick Garden team.
- Access to our online resources.
- Invitation in advance to any of The Theme Days that may be held in Lilidorei or The Alnwick Garden over the academic year.

Please contact our Community and Education Team at communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com for more details.

Pre-Visits & Risk Management

Please be aware that The Alnwick Garden is a self-led initiative with learning resources linked to the National Curriculum. We strongly recommend that school staff visit The Alnwick Garden ahead of your school's trip. You will receive an invitation for up to two staff members to visit us when you confirm your booking.

This will help you to familiarise yourself with the environment. You know your pupils better than us so you may want to look at the activities offered and how you think your children should be supervised throughout these activities. Additionally, it also helps to plan for pupils with specific needs or medical requirements.

Please click [here](#) for a generic risk assessment for The Alnwick Garden.

Arrival at The Alnwick Garden

Coach/Minibus/Foot

If arriving by coach or minibus, your coach or mini-bus should use the following postcode to navigate to the drop off point – **NE66 1FJ**. This is the Priority Car Park next to The Treehouse. Your coach/minibus will then be directed to park in the main car park during your visit.

Please make your way to the main gates of The Garden and quote your reference number (found on your booking confirmation email) to the member of staff on the gate. School Staff will be handed an on-site learning pack if you have indicated that you would like these on your booking form. This will consist of pencils and the Reg the Hedge Garden Challenge.

Weather

The Alnwick Garden is an outdoor area that has limited covered space. Visitors should come prepared for all weather – sun, wind, rain and snow! We try and remain open regardless of the weather. However, we do need to follow our risk assessments in certain types of weather. Please be assured your safety is our main concern. If we need to close The Garden on your visit day, you will be informed by one of our team.

First Aid

We always have trained first aiders on site. We would like to remind you that DfE guidelines do state that all visiting schools are responsible for providing a teacher or adult helper with good up to date knowledge of first aid and is in possession of an adequate first aid kit.

Lunch

There are **no** designated seating areas for groups to eat packed lunches. However, you are welcome to enjoy your lunch in any suitable area within The Garden.

Incident Recording

Please ensure that a member of TAG/Lilidorei staff is informed if any one in your group has an injury or a near miss whilst visiting so an incident form can be filled in, and it is recorded.

Storage

There is no designated space to store bags at The Garden.

Photography

Photography is encouraged in The Garden. However, if you do take photographs, you must ensure only children from your school are included and that you follow your own school's policies.

Evaluation Form

We are always looking at ways to improve. We want to ensure that our activities and programmes offered are current and relevant. Following your visit, we would ask if you could fill in our evaluation form [here](#).

Who to contact?

If you would like to speak to someone about a school visit, please call our Education Officer on 01665 660317 or email communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com.

ADDITIONAL EXTRAS – some prices will be confirmed at the time of booking.

In The Garden...



Reg the Hedge School Challenges

We have school challenges for EYFS/KS1 and KS2. Your children will have no idea they are learning by following their map around The Garden - solving puzzles, counting, estimating, observing and inferencing.

If you would like a pack that contains a challenge for each child and a pencil, please indicate this on your booking form. There is **no** additional charge for the challenges.

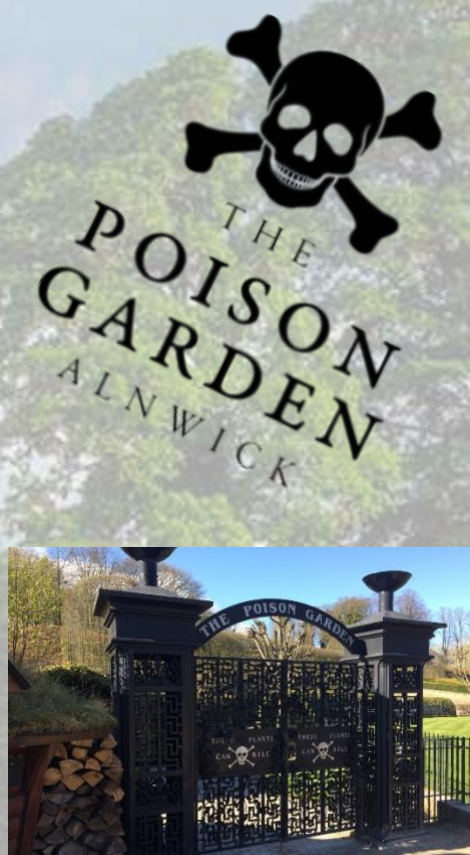
If you would like a pack that contains a challenge for each child and a pencil, please indicate this on your booking form. There is **no** additional charge for the challenges.

Tours of The Poison Garden

There is no other garden like this in the country. The Poison Garden is packed with deadly and sometimes familiar plants. All visitors to The Poison Garden are forbidden to taste, touch or smell the plants, but do not worry, our expert guides will accompany you whilst revealing myths and legends, along with facts from science and history.

Poison Garden tours accommodate a maximum of 20 visitors at any one time and are run throughout the day at 15-minute intervals. If you would like to reserve a time slot for a tour, please indicate your requirements on our booking form. Entry to The Poison Garden is included with your day tickets but please ensure you book your tours in advance.

Visit the Poison Garden Yurt (The Herbarium)



This is a free experience, and you are not required to book. Next to The Poison Garden is our dedicated Poison Garden Yurt which is full of interesting facts about plants that are grown in our Poison Garden. When in the Yurt, you may meet one of our Poison Garden staff who will give you many more interesting facts. There are a number of activities that you can take part in. Our Poison Garden experts are regularly changing the information displayed and activities in The Yurt so no visit to The Yurt will be the same! Please be aware that The Yurt is limited in space and we are unable to book it for exclusive use.

Exclusive Use of The Apiary

Our Apiary is tucked away in the Roots and Shoots Allotments. The Apiary is full of resources for you to enjoy, including activity sheets, a live TV screen into the hives, bee suits for you to try on and a real hive (no bees live in this one) that you can dismantle.



Additionally, The Apiary has a dedicated area on Climate Change, showing not only what we do at The Alnwick Garden to reduce our carbon footprint but how we can all help to contribute.

New cameras in our woodland area have been installed so you can also view the animals visiting these areas on screen and read about them in the Wildlife hub area in The Apiary.

Please note this is a self-led visit and resources will be in The Apiary ready for you to use.

If you would like to reserve a sole use time slot for The Apiary (accommodates up to 30 children), please indicate your requirements on your booking form at a cost of £25 per hour.

However, you can visit The Apiary without reserving if it has not been booked by any other school.



Forgotten Garden Adventure Golf

Why not get your children to focus, boost problem-solving and enhance decision-making with a round of golf at our 13-hole Forgotten Garden Adventure Golf. They will need to overcome the giant creatures to complete the challenge!



Lunch Box

You can order our lunch boxes, which include a ham or cheese sandwich, a packet of crisps, a sweet treat, a piece of fruit and a drink.

Ice-cream

You can order a vanilla ice-cream for each member of your party.

Hot chocolate and shortbread biscuit

Have a homemade piece of shortbread accompanied by a hot chocolate.