

2023 highlight report



About Fishing for Schools

Fishing for Schools is a programme for 10–16-year-olds that uses fishing as a platform to engage and inspire an enjoyment of learning and nature. Over 3,800 disadvantaged young people at over 140 schools have benefitted from Fishing for Schools over the last 16 years.

Founded by world renowned fly fisherman, Charles Jardine, Fishing for Schools connects with hundreds of young people annually. Using a blend of outdoor learning and classroom-based activities we use fishing as a platform to develop a wide range of life skills, including communication, teamwork, problem solving and resilience.

Fishing for Schools is offered at no cost to schools or the young people taking part. We have supported young people across 30 counties in England and seven in Wales.



Impact Snapshot

135

Fishing for Schools sessions delivered in 2023.

260

Total number of children and young people supported.

29

Schools and three community disability groups benefitted during 2023.





We made a difference:

73%

of school leads strongly agreed our programme resulted in improved engagement.

95%

of school leads strongly agreed our sessions were beneficial and helped increase confidence.

78%

school leads strongly agreed our programme resulted in improved self esteem.

87%

school leads strongly agreed our programme helped develop new skills.

** based on feedback received from 23 schools taking part in 2023



Our beneficiary schools

- Our schools came from 12 counties in England and one Welsh county.
- We delivered to two primary schools, 13 secondary schools, five alternative provisions and nine special schools.
- 12 schools took part for the first time during 2023.
- A fifth of schools were from the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

29
schools took part in 2023

Improved wellbeing

“Away from the hustle, bustle and rigour of a school setting we have seen our students flourish.” – Teacher, Norfolk school

Building confidence

“They have proven to themselves that being out of their comfort zone can be a positive experience and that accepting challenges can reap rewards.” - Teacher, Hampshire school

Broadening horizons

“They were really excited about the prospect of learning a new outdoor sport and the thought of eating the produce at the end! It merged well with our whole outdoor curriculum and isn't something we've had a chance to try due to lack of resources.” - Teacher, Sussex school

Transferrable skills

“All students completed the course and grew in confidence. They achieved all the targets that were set at the beginning of the course. This was a major step in teamwork and resilience.” - Teacher, Kent school

What our teachers tell us:

By the end of the sessions the students were much more positive about themselves and school, we managed to have key conversations that were meaningful and enabled a dialogue that promoted reflection on their school life.

– Bristol school, September 2023



Students have something to share that isn't just the classes they are in together. They are happier communicating with each other and have more confidence.

– East of England school, October 2023

Children overcame worries and tried new activities that otherwise they may not have had access to.

– South of England school, June 2023

Student voices:

"I had never fished before and it made me feel good. It made me happy and excited"

"Fishing has made me calmer which helps me to focus"

"Fishing has made me feel more confident trying new things"

"It has helped me be more patient and it made me feel more comfortable"

