



Flying Fish Report 2014-2023

Welcome!

Since 2014, 2510 pupils from 102 Primary 6 classes in 61 schools have participated in the Flying Fish project. Flying Fish aims to increase children's awareness of the importance of their local river through a **Meet Your River** day.



Pupils identifying river invertebrates

Flying Fish is delivered by the **Clyde River Foundation**, a registered Scottish charity which researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries, and promotes public engagement and environmental education throughout the catchment. The project is funded recurrently by **Glasgow Airport's FlightPath Fund** which supports charities and community groups working in the local community. The participating schools are all under the Glasgow Airport flight path.

Raising environmental awareness will lead to a better understanding of problems affecting their local environment - the children are our "Future Stewards". We want Flying Fish to lead to a life-long interest in the local environment and its conservation and protection. Learning about their local river and its aquatic life will hopefully leave the children with a lasting, positive attitude towards it. The river trip takes the children to meet the inhabitants of **their local river**.

Pupils assess river health by looking at fish, invertebrates, their habitats and human impacts



Flying Fish

Outdoor learning and first-hand experiences are at the core of Flying Fish, and the Clyde River Foundation is uniquely qualified to deliver both—we have spent over 20 years working in or around these rivers. Pupils visit their local river and measure its health in the same way scientists do.



Fish at first-hand

We look at the fish, the invertebrates and the linkages between the river ecosystem and the land. The children see an electro-fishing demonstration and learn to identify different trees, map the site and take kick-samples in the river. Their kick sample is taken to a pop-up laboratory in the classroom, where the pupils sort and identify the bugs and beasties present; we can tell a lot about the health of the river from the animals that live there! At the end of the project, each school receives a custom made poster of their day.



Electrofishing demonstration



Pupil Feedback

A Flying Fish day consists of nine activities. At the completion of the project, every participant is asked to rate their overall experience and to provide detailed feedback on individual activities.

For Flying Fish 2022-2023, we received feedback from 137 pupils (below). Over 94% gave a happy or extremely happy face.



56.9%

37.2%

5.1%

0.7%

The children told us their favourite things about the Flying Fish project!

GOING IN THE RIVER

1 in 4 children said that getting to go in the river was their favourite part. "I really liked the burn such a cool sight."



SEEING FISH / ELECTROFISHING

1 in 5 pupils liked seeing different types of fish and watching electrofishing. "I love the fact that we got to learn about so many different fish. Thank you!"



LOOKING AT INVERTEBRATES

Using the microscopes and keys to identify invertebrates was popular with 18% of pupils. "I enjoyed picking the bugs out."



INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

14% of children enjoyed kick-sampling in the river to catch invertebrates. "I had fun in the river catching creatures and working to survey the area."



CRAFT ACTIVITY

12 pupils also loved creating a caseless caddisfly imitation fishing fly. "I loved making the invertebrate fishing fly."



30 pupils left additional comments describing the day as "awesome, fun, cool and great."

"Going in the river was amazing, I loved it!"

"BEST DAY EVER!"

Teacher Feedback

"During my 20 years teaching this was the best session delivered to pupils.

Excellent teaching and behaviour management. An excellent session that has given me some ideas for teaching STEM in the future."

"The project and staff were fantastic. The pupils loved it and were keen to complete more science lessons outside. **My approach to teaching science will change after this experience.**"

"A school refuser came to school and fully engaged in the project. All the kids loved it! Very well organised."

"Pupils discovered that there was life in their local river. Many thought that there was none or were unsure. Pupils will be more motivated to look after their environment. As a school we have a positive attitude towards science and pupils enjoy it very much. Pupils talked about their **improved knowledge of river habitats and diversity.**"

"The class were very engaged and fascinated by everything they were learning. The number of questions they were asking was a very clear indication of their increased participation. The hands-on experiences provided by the project were for many of them **one of the very few instances of going into the natural world and learning about it from the perspective of a person who specialises in the field.** At least three children are now committed to becoming biologists."

"The microscopes experience was great. Not all schools can afford to have that kind of equipment unfortunately. The whole outdoor experience was awesome; them being in the natural world, talking about the trees while standing among them, walking into the river, all of the information conveyed in clear terms - excellent stuff."



Pupils finding out how trees make trout



Our Future Stewards learning how scientists work

"I am happy about going in the river, the scientists were very kind." - Pupil, Kilbarchan Primary

"I love the fact that we got to learn about so many different fish. More schools should get this opportunity. Thank you!" - Pupil, St Peter's Primary

"It was terrific! I liked the minnows." - Pupil, Lochwinnoch Primary

Curriculum for Excellence Outcomes

"The project has ticked off CfE outcomes that I had previously been unable to meet." - Teacher, Langcraigs Primary

"Many EtO's covered!" - Teacher, St Peter's Primary



Pupils kick-sampling for invertebrates. They will also conduct a hand search!

"Many outcomes from across the CfE were covered. It has changed my opinion of outdoor learning. I will be thinking of ways to include this in my practice." - Teacher, Kilbarchan Primary

What pupils wished for...



More!

33% of pupils wanted to spend more time at the river, to have a longer day or to do the day again.

Impractical

25% of wishes were things that can't happen due to safety or time constraints e.g. pupils electrofishing or going further into the river.



Positive

34% of wishes were about pupils enjoying the day, being inspired to improve and protect the river, or questions they had come up with.

Everything Else

The remainder of the wishes covered everything else, from wanting to do more/less crafts, having different activities or other suggestions.



Flying Fish 2023-24

This year, classes from Kilbarchan, Langcraigs, Lochwinnoch and St Peter's primary schools took part in Flying Fish.

In **2023/2024**, we hope to deliver Flying Fish to Primary 6 children from the following primary schools:

Auchenlodment Primary	Lochfield Primary
Barran Primary	St Catherine's Primary
Brediland Primary	St Fergus Primary
Bushes Primary	St John Ogilvie Primary
Dargavel Primary	St Pauls Primary
Fordbank Primary	Thorn Primary
Glencoats Primary	West Primary
Houston Primary	Westerton Primary
Howwood Primary	Williamsburgh Primary
Killermont Primary	Woodlands Primary
Kirklandneuk Primary	

Funding Flying Fish

We are grateful for financial support from **Glasgow Airport's FlightPath Fund**, which has been our major funder and has allowed us to deliver Flying Fish to **102 classes since 2014**. If you are interested sponsoring this fantastic project, please contact us at : info@clyderiverfoundation.org



"Future Steward" in the river conducting a hand search

THANK YOU!

The Clyde River Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our participating schools and project supporters for making Flying Fish possible. We are grateful to all of our funders since 2014:



GLASGOW AIRPORT'S FLIGHTPATH

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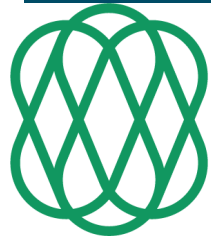
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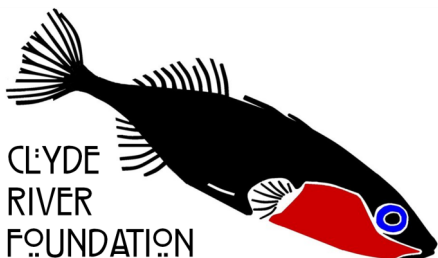
River Kelvin
Angling Association

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