**River Guardians School Sessions
Information Sheet**

**The Don Catchment Rivers Trust**

The Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT) is a charitable organisation, which was established to help protect and restore the rivers in the river Don catchment area, which includes the river Don, the Dearne, the Rother and the many smaller tributaries. We believe that our rivers are a valuable asset which tell the story of our culture and heritage. They are important for people, wildlife and the local economy, and form an integral part of our landscape.

Our **River Guardians** programme is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, as part of the wider Hidden Heritage Secret Streams project. This funding makes our school sessions completely free to schools and uniformed groups in Chesterfield and Dronfield.



You can find out more about DCRT and the Hidden Heritage
Secret Streams project on our website: www.dcrt.org.uk.

**Session costs and transport:**

**Sessions:**

This project is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and match funders, so we are able to offer the River Guardians programme to schools for free for the duration of the Hidden Heritage Secret Streams project [2019 – 2021], including a free ‘**my River Guardian pack’** awarded to each pupil.

The sessions are aimed at KS2 and we aim to teach classes of no more than 35 pupils at a time (but can run multiple sessions at one school).

**Locations:**

Suitable locations will be agreed between the school and Don Catchment Rivers Trust.

Session 1 can be delivered either in school or at a host venue.
Session 2 is designed to be delivered on site by the schools’ local river.

 **Transport:**

Primary schools are asked to walk to the site, if nearby, or arrange their own coach transport if necessary. We have a limited budget to assist schools in our priority areas with the costs of transport, if this is a barrier to pupils visiting a site (please ask for more details). If schools are in close proximity (walking distance) to a suitable river site, then we can make arrangements to run the session there.

**Session timings:**

The **River Guardians** programme is designed to take a total time of 1 day, split into two sessions. The two sessions could be delivered on the same day if travel logistics allow, or on separate days.

**Staffing:**

Sessions will be led by a member of Don Catchment Rivers Trust, which may be a member of staff or a volunteer. Don Catchment Rivers Trust personnel will be DBS checked as appropriate, and will be fully trained in all activities needed to deliver the **River Guardians** sessions. Overall responsibility for supervision of pupils in the classroom and on site will remain with school staff. The sessions are designed to allow students to work independently of DCRT staff.

Staffing ratios for the site visit are to follow Local Authority guidance, we strongly advise 6 students to 1 teacher/teaching assistant/helper. DCRT staff will maintain adequate contact with the group leader and ensure there is sufficient flexibility in activity programming to amend activity delivery as required to account for changes in circumstances, for example adverse weather.

**Health and Safety and Risk Assessments:**

We comply with all health and safety regulations including the Health and Safety at work Act (1974) and associated regulations and have a Health and Safety policy, accident and emergency procedure and a Risk Assessment upon request, for inspection. However, all risk assessment is ultimately the responsibility of the school group leaders.

**Insurance:**

We have Public Liability Insurance to the value of £2 million.

**Contact:**

To discuss or arrange a visit please complete a visit request form or contact:

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