

The John Muir Award Education Report - Scotland Academic Year 2017-2018



This report summarises John Muir Award activity with Scottish schools during the academic year 2017-2018. It is updated and made available on an annual basis.

The [John Muir Award](#) is used to help deliver Curriculum for Excellence outcomes, achieve equity in education through pupil attainment, and demonstrate Learning for Sustainability in action. It involves pupils taking responsibility for nature (in school grounds and communities), helps establish aspirations for healthy behaviour, and improves wellbeing in line with Scottish Government SHANARRI indicators. Such activity helps foster a culture of achievement in schools – building essential skills for life, learning and work.

During 2017-2018:

- 487 schools were involved in delivering the John Muir Award in Scotland (40 more than 2016-17) - this includes 43% of Secondary Schools, 16% of Primary Schools and 5% of Special Schools.
- 17,529 John Muir Awards were achieved by pupils and staff (6% increase on 2016-17).
- One in five John Muir Awards were achieved in schools by pupils experiencing disadvantage.

A summary of activity per Local Authority area can be found overleaf.

Highlights

At the start of the academic year Cabinet Secretary for Education John Swinney welcomed the increased uptake in the John Muir Award: [Education Secretary welcomes growth in outdoor learning](#)
“I am very pleased to see this growth in pupils working to achieve a John Muir Award in schools. Its popularity, especially with pupils living in deprived areas, indicates that the Award is aiding improvements in literacy, numeracy, physical and mental health. Through Learning for Sustainability pupils have an entitlement that includes outdoor learning and daily contact with nature. It is therefore reassuring to hear that outdoor learning is increasingly embedded within our schools, helping children and young people stay connected with the natural world.”

2018 is a special year for the John Muir Trust as it [celebrates the John Muir Award turning 21](#) and backs Scotland’s [Year of Young People 2018](#). Activity has included employing young mountain rangers, working with young people to co-design #TheBrawOutdoorQuestion to help voice their feelings and connections with the outdoors/nature - and inspire more to get involved. The Trust has also supported Scotland’s Awards Network to increase recognition of the range, reach and impact of [youth awards](#) at the Scottish Parliament.

The Trust has taken an active lead role in campaigning for the Learning for Sustainability policy context to have more prominence – especially through the National Network for Outdoor Learning. With 28% of John Muir Awards achieved through schools involved with residential learning the Trust remains a partner of the Learning Away consortium [#BrilliantResidentials campaign](#). We have continued to support the Scottish Natural Heritage [Beyond your Boundary: learning in local greenspace project](#) and showcased good practice in Citizen Science particularly in Glasgow. The Trust has been an important engagement partner in [The Lost Words collaboration](#), hosting a dedicated webpage of free resources, developing a training session to highlight how nature and the outdoors can inspire and support literacy skills, an important foundation for attainment. The Trust has supported a Crowdfund campaigner in Scotland with the distribution of The Lost Words in every school across 26 out of 32 Local authorities to date.

Education Resources

The following resources have supported schools’ John Muir Award activity during 2017-2018.

- John Muir Award on the National Improvement Hub and in Yammer – Glow login details required.
- Literacy and Nature information and resources include An Explorer’s Guide to The Lost Words, posters and a [Literacy & Nature for Educators: Session Guidance](#).
- [John Muir Award Record eBook launched – a new digital resource to help participants experience, record and share wild places.](#)

- [Scotland Education Overview: Resources & links and the John Muir Award](#) – signposts John Muir Award documents relevant to Scotland’s education landscape, including teaching practices and pupil outcomes, inclusion, attainment, health and wellbeing, employment, and Learning for Sustainability.
- [Curriculum for Excellence and the John Muir Award](#)

To see how people, schools and other organisations use the John Muir Award, see the ‘In Action’ and ‘Latest News’ pages of our [website](#). New Case Studies include: [A Pollinator Portfolio](#)

Breakdown of John Muir Award per Local Authority Area:

| Local authority area | Number of schools involved | Total number of Awards | Inclusion Awards* | Awards with residential experiences | Training/ events courses delivered |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2017-18 Totals | 487 | 17,529 | 3466 | 4963 | 17 courses/ 246 participants |
| 1. Aberdeen | 8 | 652 | 79 | 325 | |
| 2. Aberdeenshire | 18 | 510 | 32 | 253 | |
| 3. Angus | 5 | 185 | 7 | 7 | |
| 4. Argyll & Bute | 14 | 271 | 50 | 70 | |
| 5. Ayrshire East | 23 | 1016 | 209 | 24 | 1 |
| 6. Ayrshire North | 30 | 911 | 274 | 736 | 1 |
| 7. Ayrshire South | 25 | 643 | 56 | 475 | |
| 8. Clackmannanshire | 4 | 215 | 43 | 0 | |
| 9. Dumfries & Galloway | 13 | 293 | 78 | 120 | |
| 10. Dunbartonshire East | 6 | 396 | 41 | 77 | |
| 11. Dunbartonshire West | 13 | 252 | 177 | 0 | |
| 12. Dundee | 7 | 161 | 103 | 117 | |
| 13. Edinburgh | 35 | 1567 | 317 | 511 | 5 |
| 14. Falkirk | 20 | 791 | 156 | 83 | |
| 15. Fife | 37 | 1556 | 229 | 927 | |
| 16. Glasgow | 33 | 1876 | 551 | 171 | 2 |
| 17. Highland | 43 | 1300 | 135 | 405 | 1 |
| 18. Inverclyde | 6 | 130 | 63 | 0 | |
| 19. Lanarkshire North | 17 | 673 | 151 | 69 | |
| 20. Lanarkshire South | 16 | 648 | 130 | 167 | |
| 21. Lothian East | 20 | 601 | 99 | 76 | |
| 22. Lothian West | 10 | 441 | 133 | 22 | 1 |
| 23. Midlothian | 3 | 34 | 15 | 8 | |
| 24. Moray | 10 | 189 | 31 | 0 | 1** |
| 25. Na h-Eileanan Siar | NA | NA | NA | NA | |
| 26. Orkney | 2 | 15 | 6 | 0 | |
| 27. Perth & Kinross | 16 | 615 | 66 | 57 | 2** |
| 28. Renfrewshire | 8 | 114 | 63 | 37 | |
| 29. Renfrewshire East | 10 | 513 | 63 | 86 | |
| 30. Scottish Borders | 12 | 317 | 33 | 29 | 1 |
| 31. Shetland | 7 | 240 | 15 | 0 | |
| 32. Stirling | 16 | 404 | 61 | 111 | 2** |

* Inclusion figures are calculated by the % of children and young people receiving free school meals and also include activity in special schools and alternative access to curriculum programmes

** training/ events delivered in partnership with National Parks.

Key Partners and Funders in Scotland



Rebecca Logsdon, Scotland Education Manager, John Muir Award rebecca@johnmuiraward.org 01796 484 972
www.johnmuiraward.org