



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will *all* the children in Bristol have to physically plant a tree?

No, but we would like every child to be *involved* in the process of planting a tree. This could be attending a school assembly or group discussion led by the TreePips team about the benefits of trees, or being involved in a workshop investigating trees and wildlife, or mapping out where the trees will be planted.

2. When will this happen?

The planting season is November - February, but we would like to deliver the educational activities before then, starting in the spring/summer 2014. The project will run until the end of November 2016, so if you don't have time to get involved this year, there will be other opportunities. Please read through the Tree Planting notes for more information.

3. How big are the trees?

We have budgeted for over 36,700 'whips' to be planted. Whips are young trees, 2-3 years old, and up to one metre high.

4. But whips are so small! Can we have larger trees? Or fruit trees?

If you plant a smaller tree the roots establish themselves quicker and the trees grow faster, initially. Tests have been conducted where both semi-mature trees and whips of the same species were planted at the same time. Within 5 years the whips had outgrown the older trees.

Larger trees and fruit trees are more expensive. If you choose to have these trees, you may have to commit to fundraising, or seek sponsorship. Do bear in mind that larger trees and fruit trees require more aftercare, and the fruit will want to be eaten.

5. How will the children benefit from this project?

The children will learn about the many benefits of trees, both to the environment, and to people. Many will also gain practical skills in tree planting, and everyone, we are sure, will have FUN!

We hope they will appreciate the importance of trees, and be dedicated to caring for them and conserving them for future generations to enjoy.



6. My school grounds aren't big enough to accommodate enough trees for all our pupils. What now?

Fear not! We follow an ethos of "Right Tree Right Place" which means we will always plant responsibly, and not just for the sake of planting a tree.

Many schools in Bristol have limited space for trees, and even those with larger grounds will struggle to have a tree on site for every pupil. Also, many children are receiving home education so do not have 'grounds' to plant on. This is why we will be working together with local communities, finding local green spaces on routes to schools, on grass verges, in parks, allotments and gardens.

We are also planning a small woodland planting scheme. This will help us in our aim to plant a tree for every child.

7. Who will look after the trees on our school grounds after they have been planted?

We recommend you nominate some Tree Wardens in your school who will be responsible for setting up a rota of tree care, and who, we hope, will work closely with the school caretaker. We also aim to set up links with local communities who would like to volunteer their time and help.

If Bristol City Council already provides you with a Tree Management Service, you will not be charged for surveys, tree works or on-going advice on the new TreePips trees until the tree has a diameter of 15cm (measured at 1.5metre tree height), which for most trees will be approximately 10 years.

8. Who will look after the trees in local parks and green spaces?

In the initial few years of the young tree's life, it will require basic care that the Bristol City Council (BCC) Tree Team will be responsible for - mulching, watering in prolonged dry periods, and removal of stakes. If members of the community would like to assist in this, (such as watering when it appears very dry) they are very welcome to, but it is not their responsibility. However, we will be seeking volunteers to help care for the trees.

Following the first 3 years or so, the tree will happily grow, left to its own devices, and will need minimal maintenance. As it gets bigger, (10-15 years) it will start requiring formative pruning, and assessments etc. This will also be the responsibility of the BCC Tree Team, who will maintain all trees across Bristol.

9. How will we know how to care for our trees?

We will provide you with all the necessary after-care guidelines, including resources on our web page, and links to other organisations. Also, TreePips will be on hand for advice until November 2016.

10. If a tree dies, will it be replaced?

We know that there will be tree 'casualties', which may be a result of extreme weather conditions, pests/diseases, vandalism, or neglect. We cannot pledge to replace *every* tree, as this will very much depend on our budget and the circumstances that lead to the tree loss. However, we will aim to replace most of the trees whose loss could not be avoided, within the three year lifetime of the project.

If you follow the tree aftercare advice, we anticipate a 95% survival rate

11. Will there be a name plaque on every tree for each child?

Unfortunately, our budget will not allow us to provide name plaques. Perhaps you could consider seeking local business sponsorship, or organise some fund-raising activities?

If a school chooses to have name plaques on the trees, we would recommend that you allocate a group of trees per class. To have them individualised may cause problems if a tree dies, or may discourage other children from looking after a tree that does not have their name on. We want *every* child to feel a sense of ownership, for generations to come.

The important thing for the children to remember is that every time they see a young tree in Bristol, it might be one of theirs!

12. Is there scope for families getting involved?

This will be different for every school. Some schools have already expressed an interest in having family tree-planting days on their grounds. Other schools have opted for just the children to be involved. Where we will be planting on local green spaces, there will be scope to involve local communities. We will tailor each tree planting event to meet your requirements. We welcome the families of home-educated children to join in with the tree planting *and* educational sessions if they choose.

13. Will the children need protective clothing?

The Tree Pips team will provide gloves for every child, but we recommend the children wear waterproof clothing and wellington boots in case of bad weather. We also suggest they wear clothes that they don't mind getting muddy.

14. What subjects will you be teaching?

Our main focus will be on encouraging children to learn about the many benefits of trees, through school assemblies or home education group discussions, and fun, interactive outdoor games and activities (plus some back up indoor sessions in case of bad weather).



We hope that a greater understanding and enjoyment of trees will lead to a greater appreciation of trees, which will culminate in a greater desire to help conserve trees. We will offer a range of lesson plans, and you can then decide which fit in best with the subjects you are teaching. We want to encourage children to ask the 'how', 'why', and 'what if' questions, to look at problems and identify solutions, and to have a greater appreciation and awareness of our natural environment.

Your designated tree officer will be able to explain the subjects in more detail.

15. Can you tell me more about the School Pips Pledge?

This is an informal agreement between your school and the TreePips team, listing our expectations of each other. For example, we ask that you pledge to care for your trees, whilst we pledge to provide you with the relevant tree aftercare information. This is not a legal document, and signing it does not bind you to us in anyway. It is merely an understanding that we will all play our part to help make a greener city.

16. Who will be my main contact?

There are three Tree Pips Officers, covering central, north, and south Bristol. Their contact details are as follows:

North Bristol:

Helen Humphries.

Email: helen.humphries@bristol.gov.uk

Tel: 07884 735976

Central Bristol:

Alison Mitchell

Email: alison.mitchell@bristol.gov.uk

Tel: 07884 735975

South Bristol:

Mellie May

Email: mellie.may@bristol.gov.uk

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