

School Visit Information 2026/2027

A school trip is often one of the highlights of the school year, creating lasting memories for both students and teachers. With the right information, planning it can be straightforward and stress-free. We have compiled some information in this document that will hopefully help you organise and run your trip effectively, however if you need any further information, please contact our Education Officer at communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com or call on 01665 660317.

Learning Outside the (LOtC) Quality Badge

At Lilidorei and The Alnwick Garden, we have achieved national recognition for our educational visits and have been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) quality badge.

The LOtC Quality Badge is the only scheme that recognises quality of learning and effectiveness of risk management and is awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.



In the DfE document '**Health and safety on educational visits**' it states, schools using an outside organisation to provide an activity must check the organisation has appropriate safety standards and public liability insurance. The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) awards the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge to organisations that meet nationally recognised standards.

For more information about the LOtC Quality Badge click [here](#).

Opening Times

Before deciding on your visit date, please check our website for opening times [here](#). These times do vary throughout the year.

School Visit Bookings

Please can you read through **all** the information in this booklet before you visit us.

Paid Visits

Costs of visiting Lilidorei for school visits are priced at a reduced educational rate, during Northumberland Schools' term dates. All visits are self-led.

Pupils are charged at a rate of £5.00 each, with accompanying adults free in a ratio of 1:5. Additional adult tickets are priced at £7.00 each.

Free Friday Booking

A Free Friday booking will give you access to Lilidorei from 10.00am to Midday. These visits are available to pupils (EYFS – Year 6) in Northumberland schools. Please note that not all Fridays are Free Fridays. Free Fridays are available in Term 1, Term 4, Term 5 and Term 6 (during Northumberland term time) and you can book your visit now.

If attending a free Friday, you should aim to arrive at Lilidorei for approximately 10.00am for your visit, with departure time being Midday or before.

Booking Form

All groups need to pre-book their visit beforehand. You can do so by completing the attached booking [form](#). Once you have completed the booking form, please send it back via email to communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com or post it to Community and Education, The Alnwick Garden, Gardeners Cottage, Greenwell Road, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1HB. When we have received your form, we will contact you via email to confirm your booking.

There are **additional extras** that you can book that are listed in more detail at the end of this document.

Final Numbers

You will be contacted by a member of our team 7 days before your visit to confirm your final numbers.

SEND

Please advise on your booking form if you have any children with additional needs that you would like to make us aware of.

A Lilidorei Social Story can be found [here](#).

Lilidorei Learning Resources

All of our online learning resources are available to all and are linked to the National Curriculum objectives or the EYFS statutory framework in a number of different subjects.

All resources have lesson plans, a presentation for the unit of work and activity sheets.

For learning resources, click [here](#) for KS1/KS2, and for EYFS click [here](#).

Subsidised Travel

We are pleased to offer a travel subsidy to all state schools (EYFS to Year 6) to help support visits to Lilidorei and The Alnwick Garden as part of curriculum learning. This funding helps cover transport costs for self-led visits, with a contribution of £250 available per successful application.

Priority is given to schools where more than 22% of pupils are eligible for free school meals, and each school can currently apply once in an academic year while funding is available. To find out more or to apply, please contact:

communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com.

If your application is approved, you can claim your £250 towards your travel to Lilidorei and/or The Alnwick Garden after your visit.

Why not combine your visit with The Alnwick Garden?

A combined ticket to Lilidorei and The Alnwick Garden is charged at £7.50 per child, with accompanying adults free in a ratio of 1:5. Additional adult tickets are priced at £8.00 each.

Click [here](#) to find out more information about The Alnwick Garden.

Pre-Visits & Risk Management

Please be aware that Lilidorei is a self-led visit. We strongly recommend that school staff visit Lilidorei ahead of your school's trip. You will receive an invitation for up to two staff members to visit us when you confirm your booking. If you would like to meet with our Education Officer when you complete your risk assessment, please do indicate this when you book your pre-visit.

This will help you to familiarise yourself with the environment and we can answer any questions personally. You know your pupils better than us so you may want to look at the activities offered and how you think your children should be supervised throughout these activities. Additionally, it also helps to plan for pupils with specific needs or medical requirements.

Please click [here](#) for a generic risk assessment for Lilidorei.

Arrival at Lilidorei

Coach/Minibus/Foot

If arriving by coach or minibus, your coach or mini-bus should use the following postcode to navigate to the drop off point – **NE66 1FJ**. This is the Priority Car Park next to The Treehouse. Your coach or minibus will then be directed to park in the main car park during your visit.

Please make your way to Lilidorei (clearly signposted) and quote your reference number (found on your booking confirmation email) to the member of staff on the gate. School Staff will be handed an on-site learning pack if you have indicated that you would like these on your booking form. This consists of pencils and the Lilidorei Quest Challenge.

Lilidorei Activities

The activities that are available to your children whilst visiting Lilidorei are:

1. Story Telling
2. Quest Challenge
3. Playing on Elfwin Drin

There is no itinerary when you visit Lilidorei. The one activity that has a set time is Storytime which is at the Storytelling area at the back of Lilidorei. On arrival at the entrance to Lilidorei, if you have requested on your booking form, you will be given a pack that contains our Lilidorei school activity for each child, plus a pencil. Please click [here](#) to view our onsite challenge. There will be one for each child and a pencil. This can take up to one hour and can be completed at any time, whilst visiting the Lilidorei Village including the clan houses and the wishing tree.

The large play structure – Elfwin Drin can be accessed at all times during your visit.

Weather

Lilidorei is located outdoors in a magical forest of 1500 Christmas trees with limited covered space, so please come dressed for the weather – it is Northumberland after all!

Depending on the weather, here are some of our recommendations:

- Waterproofs
- Warm clothing
- Suitable footwear (trainers are fine but no high heels, please!)
- Sun cream
- Sun hats
- Spare clothing – with lots of climbing and sliding you may want a spare change of clothes in case you get a bit muddy!

The structure also includes some small spaces and multiple slides, please ensure that children are dressed appropriately to minimise friction burns from the slides.

In extreme weather we may have to temporarily close some areas of the play structure, your safety is our top priority – so we will only do this when we feel conditions may be too unsafe to play in. If we need to close any part of Elfwin Drin on your visit day, you will be informed by one of our team.

In the event that Lilidorei must close completely due to bad weather, we will email if you are booked to visit on the day of the closure to explain your options in line with our [Extreme Weather Promise](#).

Accessibility

Every effort has been made to make the site as accessible as possible; however, there are some features such as parts of Elfwin Drin that are not accessible. Information on accessibility can be found [here](#).

We welcome all types of mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs and ask our visitors that main walkways and paths are always kept clear to accommodate this.

Visitors should come prepared for all weather – sun, wind, rain and snow! We try and remain open regardless of the weather. However, we do need to follow our risk assessments in certain types of weather. Please be assured your safety is our main concern. If we need to close Lilidorei or any part of Elfwin Drin on your visit day, you will be informed by one of our team.

First Aid

There are always trained first aiders on site. We would like to remind you that DfE guidelines do state that all visiting schools are responsible for providing a teacher or adult helper with good up to date knowledge of first aid and is in possession of an adequate first aid kit.

Incident Recording

Please ensure that a member of TAG/Lilidorei staff is informed if any one in your group has an injury or a near miss whilst visiting so an incident form can be filled in, and it is recorded.

Lunch

There are **no** allocated seating areas for groups to eat their packed lunch.

Storage

There are **no** designated storage units in Lilidorei to store bags. However, you will be allocated an area to put your belongings on arrival at Lilidorei by one of the Lilidorei elves.

Photography

Photography is encouraged at Lilidorei. However, if you do take photographs, you must ensure only children from your school are included and that you follow your own school's policies.

Evaluation Form

We are always looking at ways to improve. We want to ensure that our activities and programmes offered are current and relevant. Following your visit, we ask if you could fill in our online evaluation form [here](#).

Who to contact?

If you would like to speak to someone about a school visit, please call our Education Officer on 01665 660317 or email communityandeducation@alnwickgarden.com.

ADDITIONAL EXTRAS – some prices will be confirmed at the time of booking.

In Lilidorei...



Lilidorei School Challenges

We have school challenges for EYFS/KS1 and KS2. Your children will have no idea they are learning from visiting the clan houses in the village of Lilidorei by following their map - solving puzzles, counting, estimating, observing and inferencing.

If you would like a pack that contains a challenge for each child and a pencil, please indicate this on your booking form. There is **no** additional charge for the challenges.

The Wooden Hut

The Wooden Hut is positioned in Lilidorei by Elfwin Drin. It is a place where you can store your belongings and use as a base for the day, including eating your lunch (accommodates up to 15 children). You will have sole use of The Wooden Hut at an additional cost of £25 for the day. Personal belongings are left at your own risk.



Ice-cream

You can order individual Troll Snot (sour apple) or Fairy Dust (raspberry ripple) ice-cream for each member of your party.

Outside Lilidorei...

Exclusive Use of The Apiary

Our Apiary is tucked away in the Roots and Shoots Allotments. The Apiary is full of resources for you to enjoy including activity sheets, a live TV screen into the hives, bee suits for you to try on and a real hive (no bees live in this one) that you can dismantle.

Additionally, The Apiary has a dedicated area on Climate Change, showing not only what we do at The Alnwick Garden to reduce our carbon footprint but how we can all help to contribute.

New cameras in our woodland area have been installed so you can also view the animals visiting these areas on screen and read about them in the Wildlife hub area in The Apiary.

Please note this is a self-led visit and resources be in The Apiary ready for you to use.

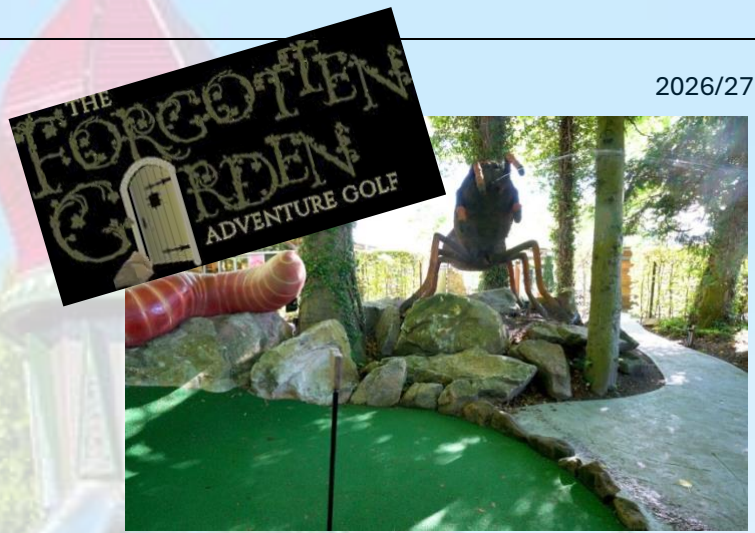
If you would like to reserve a sole use time slot for The Apiary (accommodates up to 30 children), please indicate your requirements on your booking form at a cost of £25 per hour.

However, you can visit The Apiary without reserving if it has not been booked by any other school.



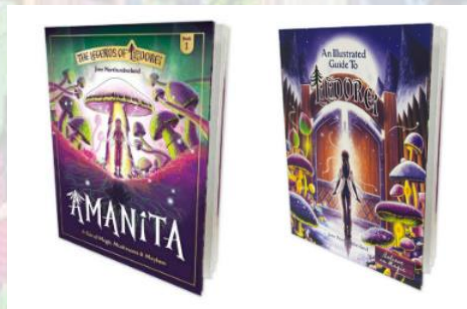
Forgotten Garden Adventure Golf

Why not get your children to focus, boost problem-solving and enhance decision-making with a round of golf at our 13-hole Forgotten Garden Adventure Golf. They will need to overcome the giant creatures to complete the challenge!



Amanita – The Legends of Lilidorei

Bring Lilidorei to life in your classroom. After meeting the characters in person, read about them in class with the first book in The Legends of Lilidorei series, *Amanita – The Legends of Lilidorei*.



Amanita is a spellbinding children's story that brings the inhabitants of Lilidorei to life for the very first time. Set in the enchanting world of Lilidorei, Amanita follows the adventures of a young girl who discovers a realm filled with magic, mushrooms, and mayhem.

Published alongside a companion title, An Illustrated Guide to Lilidorei, the books invite readers to uncover the stories and secrets that lie behind Lilidorei.

Purchase at a 10% discount - Amanita (£8.10) and An Illustrated Guide to Lilidorei (£6.30). They are also available as a bundle for £13.50.

If purchased, these will be given to you on the day you visit.

