



Brecon & Radnor Beekeepers' Association
Schools Policy (Authored by Outreach Officer)

The Brecon and Radnor Beekeepers' Association (BRBKA) mission is to impart inspiration, enjoyment and learning about Beekeeping. The opportunity to support this via engagement with children and young adults during their schooling is something we seek to support in a deliberate, repeatable and sustainable way. There are principally two avenues through which we engage with schools to promote beekeeping and the role honeybees play as pollinators – advice and/or engagement.

- **Advice (and signposting)** – with a growing awareness of the vital importance placed on pollinators across the world, there are times when the BRBKA are approached to provide advice on viability of an educational establishment in our area keeping bees on site. The BRBKA policy is to signpost the school to the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) guidance regarding schools and beekeeping:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/information-for-schools-considering-keeping-honey-bees>

Once a school has decided to explore this pathway, our role is to support the education of any staff who come forward as part of our annual Beginners Course training. If a school cannot commit to this level of involvement, then we should recommend the use of small-scale interventions such as including a 'bee hotel' somewhere in the school grounds/garden which takes minimal expertise and husbandry while still providing a focus for education and awareness of pollinators.

- **Engagement** – the BRBKA is happy to support formalised classroom education via school visits that bring students face to face with live bees (in an observation hive). While we are keen to support these events as much as possible, to make it a sustainable commitment we will focus our efforts in the period running up to the United Nations designated World Bee Day – 20th May each year. We will endeavour to support schools with a 30-40 minute session that covers the lifecycle of a honeybee, their role as pollinators and the high-level basics of being a responsible beekeeper. Before any engagement of this kind can take place, the association representative undertaking this school visit must touch base with our Education Officer (in accordance with our Outreach Principles) to ensure the information being used is appropriate to the target audience/year group(s). Appropriate materials and coordination of the observation hive are available via the Outreach Team.

In addition to hosting this policy document on our website, links to the BBKA advice is included within the links page of our website and relevant enquires via the general enquiry form or contact should be passed to the Education and/or Outreach officers.