

THE BURREN

An Outdoor Classroom

The Burren is like one big outdoor classroom. Its natural beauty, manmade structures and cultural heritage make it a great place to learn about our surroundings and our place in them. Burrenbeo Trust is a charity that is working to make people more aware of the Burren and they have a number of educational programmes for children and adults. Some of these are explained here.



Images courtesy of Burrenbeo Trust



Burren Wild Child

To widen the experience out to as many children as possible Burrenbeo Trust also offers the *Burren Wild Child* experimental learning days out. This invites young children to explore the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Burren in a fun and interactive way.

Ecobeo – for Primary School Children

Burrenbeo Trust's main educational programme is *Ecobeo*. It has been going on for 10 years and nearly 1000 local primary schools students have graduated as 'Young Burren Experts' from this 20-week course. It focuses on local geology, archaeology, history, flora, fauna, culture, land-use and conservation in the Burren. Each year this course is carried out completely free to the schools and families. The Trust strongly believes investing in the future of the Burren is very important as the children are the future custodians of this landscape.

Áitbheo – for Transition Year Students

The Burrenbeo Trust has developed its *Áitbheo* programme. This uses the Burren as a case study for landscape, built heritage, people in history, biodiversity and conservation to enable the Transitional Year students to explore their own areas and become 'Place Champions'. At a time in their



Training for Adults too!

The Burrenbeo Trust also carries out training for adults, organising events where people can learn and share experiences amongst national and international educators.

lives when they are more likely to be looking to cut ties with home as they flee elsewhere, this gives them a basis on which to value their home-place. It may not be until they travel full circle and return home once more that its true value will be realised.

Burrenbeo Trust is a landscape charity dedicated to the future sustainable management of this unique landscape. It carries this out through awareness raising, conservation, research, and information provision. For more information on the work of the Burrenbeo Trust go to www.burrenbeo.com

