Regenesis Events

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The Next Generation

Inspired by the Children of 1945

SUMMARY

The Next Generation is an outdoor learning programme for Year 6 pupils, inspired by the Children of 1945: young Holocaust survivors who found refuge and recovery at Windermere. Pupils prepare in school, spend a day walking, learning and reflecting in the Lake District, then close the programme with time to reflect back in school. Built on the Windermere Protocol and its Nine Principles, it teaches history, geography, outdoor skills, wellbeing and acceptance through one coordinated experience.

How I came to create this programme

My family originated from the Prague area. Some were imprisoned in Terezín, some were murdered, while my grandfather escaped and joined the RAF during the Second World War.

Later in life I retraced the journey of the Children of 1945. I walked from Terezín to Prague, then every step of the land route from Carlisle to Windermere. Along the way I realised I could bring together what my career had taught me, compassionate leadership, risk management and outdoor skills, into one harmonic educational programme.

Every section of the route has lessons for young people: hiking, water activity, camping and outdoor skills, alongside the history itself.

Recovery, acceptance and the Windermere Protocol

The Windermere Protocol is our method. In 1945 the children recovered through safety, friendship and time outdoors, not by being made to relive what had happened. We teach the same way. Pupils learn the story through what came after: recovery, kindness and acceptance of people whose lives differ from their own.

Space to close and reflect

The debrief matters as much as the day. Children need time and space to make sense of what they have seen and felt, so every visit ends with reflection back in school.

As an outdoor instructor, and not their teacher, I am a different kind of role model. On the walk pupils asked me questions in private that they might not ask in class, and those conversations came through in the postcards they wrote afterwards.

What the pilot told us

In June 2026, 59 Year 6 pupils from three Manchester schools took part. 98% loved or liked the visit, 91% want more time learning outdoors and 96% feel more confident outdoors. Every teacher who responded would recommend it to another school. We have listened to the feedback from teachers and funders, and expanded the purpose of the programme.

Learning that travels

What pupils learn does not stay at Windermere. It goes home to their households and friends, and it goes with them to secondary school. Teachers take the approach back into their own classrooms, year after year.

Bring The Next Generation to your school

Places are fully funded for schools in areas of high deprivation. The programme covers a preparation session in school, the day at Windermere with transport, and a reflection session afterwards, with lesson plans and teacher CPD included.

If you would like more information or to book a call, please contact me at **info@regenesis.org.uk** or **07770 868380**.

Yours sincerely,



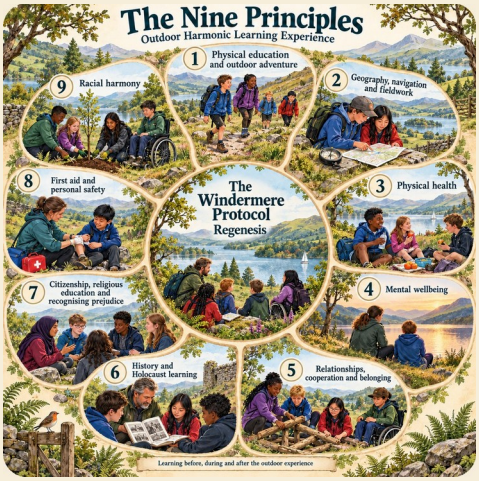
Marc Duschenes

Founder and Project Lead, Regenesis Events CIC

The route and the principles



My pilgrimage: Terezín to Prague on foot, then every step from Carlisle to Windermere



The Nine Principles of the Windermere Protocol