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.

## Three circles of learning

Your support reaches further than one class. Pupils learn first. Their teachers learn alongside them and use the approach with every class they teach afterwards. Then the learning goes home, to households and friends. The next step is to take teachers and youth leaders on a weekend to Prague and Terezín, so they can carry the story into their own schools.

NATURE • STORY • CONNECTION • HOPE

## Exceptional value for money

A school visit for 30 pupils costs £2,400, coach included. That is £80 per pupil for a programme that runs across three stages: preparation in school, a full day at Windermere and reflection back in school. Behind each visit are weeks of preparation, lesson plans, teacher CPD and a qualified visit leader. One day delivers learning across nine curriculum areas.

## Our plans for 2027

In 2027 we aim to reach 15 schools and 25 classes, and to train additional visit leaders. Central funding may become available, but the programme will always need extra support, and we will need repeat funding to keep places free for the schools that need them most. Funding and Costs sets out the detail.

I would welcome the chance to talk. Please contact me at **info@regenesis.org.uk** or **07770 868380**.

Yours sincerely,



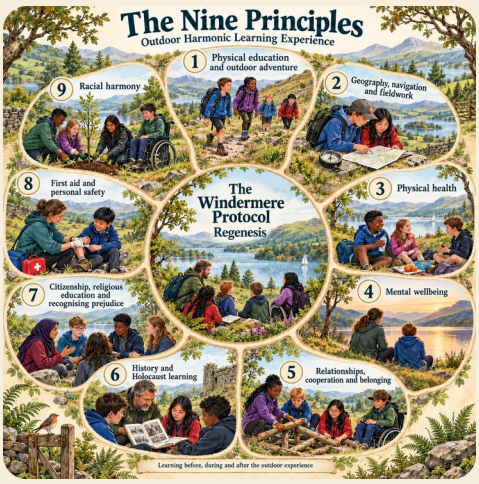
**Marc Duschenes**

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