

Learning for Sustainable Futures: Project Summary

Who was involved?

Catherine McCabe (class teacher), the learners in P6 and the LfS Squad at St Peter's Primary School.

The Learning Context

St Peter's Primary is a Roman Catholic school situated in the Morningside area of Edinburgh. Our school aims to provide a learning environment where all pupils are happy, confident and secure; where each child acquires knowledge, skills and understanding to the very best of his or her ability, in an atmosphere which fosters concern for others and a sense of self-worth.

In embedding Learning for Sustainability at St Peter's we have worked extensively on Curriculum and this year moved our focus to another of the Four Cs: Campus.

Being a part of the Sustainability Champions Community of Practice has afforded opportunities to share ideas with others and support other champions. For example, we have discussed ways in which we can get 'buy in' from staff, the Campus and Community aspects of LfS in Edinburgh, and having the goal of what we want the school environment to be like by 2030.

PRIMARY PHASE:
St Peter's RC PS

Learner Outcome Focus: School Grounds/Campus

Through carrying out practical activities and investigations, I can show how plants have benefited society.

SCN 2-02b

Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 1/2-02a; SOC 1/2-08a;
SOC 1-13a; HWB 1/2-05a;
HWB 1/2-17a; HWB 1/2-35a;
TCH 2-06a

Related policy & initiatives:

Target 2030: Sustainable
Learning Settings (Campus)
Taking Learning Outdoors
Growing Outdoors

Learning to Grow

The main purpose of this project has been to plant, harvest and cook with produce from the garden. All teaching staff now have an area within the Environmental Garden to work on with their class. We have successfully grown and cooked with, for example, rhubarb, onions and herbs, and pupils in Primary 6 have planted potatoes again, and will have ownership of this.

The project has allowed our pupils to engage with a range of knowledge and understanding including biodiversity and interdependence, plant life cycles and growing sustainably. Pupils have taken part in a variety of learning experiences linked to this topic, including:

- Identifying the origins of common foods
- Demonstrating the safe use of garden tools and equipment
- Working cooperatively in groups outdoors
- Caring for living things and shared spaces
- Understanding how land is used for food production
- Comparing local food to global supply chains.



Evidence and Impacts

Our children can now talk confidently about growing and the living things in our environmental garden. Biodiversity has been explored by some classes, and we are now looking at Wilding Wee Spaces as a resource to develop biodiversity and capture carbon in another area within the grounds.

Children in Primary 6 have discussed in class what they grew, how they might do this at home and the benefits of growing and cooking your own produce. They are keen to support biodiversity and as a result have installed a bug hotel and bird feeders in the garden. The LfS Squad have also used some of the compost we have made in the planters.

Our children have agency and lead their learning, which has had a positive impact as it has allowed them to share their ideas and gain confidence in leading on a project.

There were some barriers, for example some colleagues were not keen to plant or use the garden, as they were unsure of what to plant and

when, however with support, learners across the school have had the opportunity to be in the garden and to plant.

Next steps

In our next school development plan, we plan to focus on 'Community' as another one of the Four Cs from the LfS Action Plan.

We plan to introduce a 'Stay and Garden' session for parents, during which families can stay in school grounds on Fridays and help with the garden's upkeep, building community links and also ensuring the sustainability and maintenance of the garden space.

We aim to introduce a 'Crop Shop' as a Social Enterprise with our P6 and P7 pupils, using produce from the garden.

We plan to wild a wee space in our grounds with our LfS Squad. The pupils will collaborate to plan, map and build ecological features in our designated space.

Practitioner Reflections:

Adoption and Accountability

Ensuring there was a map of outdoor space, and staff had to sign up for an area [to take responsibility for with their classes] ensured everyone is involved.

Pictures of Outdoor Learning/growing on our living wall have ensured that staff are undertaking projects and sharing learners' experiences.

-Catherine McCabe