



Climate Ready School Grounds

Action plan: St Mary's Primary, Dunblane

Description of outdoor space

Small school grounds wrapping around the building on three sides. All tarmac, including sports pitch. No green space on site, but access to a local woodland and walk to greenspaces within the local community.

The P6/7 class were involved with the four workshops.

Summary of feedback

What is climate change and why is it happening?

- We cut down trees and they produce oxygen.
- We use harmful chemicals in sprays such as deodorant and hairspray.
- Climate change is the earth heating up. Glaciers melt which causes sea levels to rise.
- Greenhouse gases get trapped in the atmosphere.
- Because of people.

What changes might we see because of climate change?

- Less sea birds, polar bears, and penguins – other animals becoming extinct.
- Cold water fish will not survive.
- Not enough resources and food for everyone.
- Oxygen masks in the future if there is lots of carbon dioxide.
- The weather changes – gets much hotter and wetter.
- Rising sea levels.

What can we do to help stop climate change?

- Reuse and recycle.
- Cycle or use public transport. Use electric cars.
- Plant trees.
- Short showers.
- Grow your own plants and turn your heating down.
- Try to stop deforestation.
- Stop genetic harvesting and enhancement.
- Make things out of plastic.
- Become a vegetarian.



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Summary of School Grounds Climate Survey

The survey highlighted:

- There is a lack of shade in the summer months when it gets hot on the tarmac.
- The playground at the front of the school is windier than the playground at the rear.
- Water pools in several areas after rain, including one end of the sports pitch.
- Although there have been some changes to support wildlife within the grounds, for example planting fruit trees in containers, there are lots of opportunities to do more.

Priorities for practical changes identified:

- Create a green wall to support wildlife, but also help moderate the temperature on the tarmac and reduce the amount of hard surfaces.
- Plant a living willow structure at the front of the school where it gets windy, but also hot, to help wildlife and create shade for pupils.
- Create a wildlife pond in a peripheral area at the rear of the school building to support wildlife, use during class time and link in with the wildlife corridor along the boundary (comprising private gardens and existing mature trees).
- Plant more fruit and vegetables in the unused containers and planters already within the grounds. Harvest and eat the produce.
- Ask the nursery children to make bird feeders and put up bird boxes in the mature trees over hanging the boundary and in the walk to woodland space.
- Create a hedgehog home in the walk to woodland space.
- Install a water butt to collect and recycle rainwater and reduce run off on the tarmac.
- Install a compost bin and learn how to make compost.
- Build a wormery and use the 'worm juice' to help our fruit and vegetables to grow.
- Talk to the local authority about installing solar panels on the school roof to create free electricity.



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Plans for sharing information and promoting change:

- Start a plant nursery in school. Sow seeds and give away seedlings/small plants to local residents and community groups with written information about when to plant out and how to look after.

External help needed:

- Contact the local independent garden centre to request support with supplying seeds and plants.
- Contact the owner of the local woodland for permission to collect seeds and build a hedgehog home.
- Contact the local authority about sourcing a compost bin and investigating solar panels.
- Contact the local community gardening group to request more soil for the containerised fruit trees.

