

Increasing biodiversity in the school garden

Gartcosh Primary School has made the most of their outdoor space by developing what began as a small outdoor area into a thriving learning environment where pupils regularly engage with nature through practical, hands-on experiences.

Pupils have participated in planning, planting, maintaining and evaluating the garden throughout the year and the space now contains a variety of flowers, herbs, vegetables and pollinator-friendly plants, creating valuable habitats for insects and wildlife while supporting biodiversity within the school grounds.

The garden has become an outdoor classroom used across curricular areas including science, literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and technologies enabling pupils to develop an understanding of plant life cycles, food production, ecosystems and sustainability through real-life experiences.

The Eco-Committee also led the planning and construction of bug hotels across the school grounds researching the needs of various insects and pollinators before designing habitats using recycled and natural materials. They enjoyed participating in the Woodland Trust's Free Trees programme.

These projects have increased opportunities for pupils to observe biodiversity first-hand while developing an understanding of the vital role insects play within ecosystems. Monitoring activities have enabled learners to collect data and evaluate the effectiveness of the habitats they have created.

