

Fun in the playground!

Airyhall Primary School pupils completed a huge amount of work for their Green Flag Award application and developed many partnerships with a range of local organisations and businesses. Most importantly, they involved every pupil in their eco journey and engaged pupils in their own learning on a profound level, emphasizing not just what they were learning but why they were learning it.

One excellent example of this was the work they undertook for their School Grounds topic. Pupils came up with the aim of making the school grounds more fun, safe, inclusive and environmentally friendly and then invited each class to be responsible for one specific area of the playground:

- P7s ran the Buddies in the playground scheme to support younger pupils
- P6s were responsible for carrying out composting and checking and rebuilding mini beast mansions
- P5s took charge of pruning the sensory garden and helped to care for the school allotment along with local care home residents
- P4s cultivated planters to encourage biodiversity and also managed the rockery
- P3s planted flowers in the playground to encourage bees and looked after the sweetcorn in the polytunnel
- P2s designed and created a 'Peaceful Place' in the playground
- P1s planted salad and vegetables in the polytunnel

Alongside this practical work, each class carried out learning activities to understand the need for the actions they were taking. The children gained a clear understanding of all that they were doing in the garden as well as learning why things go wrong and how to overcome failures.

The school grounds now look fantastic and are definitely 'more fun'!

