

Fresh apple juice!

Wallacehall Academy in Dumfries and Galloway is lucky enough to have access to a local community orchard and the space provides a place for pupils to learn about the environment, growing food and eating healthily as well as understanding the skills involved in managing an orchard. The orchard is deeply embedded in the school's curriculum and has proved to be an essential resource for the school and the wider community.

In their 2025 Eco-Schools application, pupils agreed that one of their aims for the Food & Environment topic was to develop the growth and production of apples in the orchard. They applied for funding for apple pressing equipment and worked to make the site an outdoor classroom for the whole school. They also involved the local community by inviting them to a "pruning and Wassail" event where experts taught pupils how to care for the fruit trees. The school now plans to hold Apple Days in the Autumn, when the local community will be invited to pick and press their own fresh juice.

The application demonstrates that an Eco-Schools project lends itself really well to cross curricular work and is a fun and enjoyable way to learn about the growing and harvesting of food.

