



Cefn Glas Infants School Bridgend County Borough Council

From installation to planting, growing and tasting. How our Local Places for Nature Grant changed our grounds forever.



ECO-SCHOOLS WALES CASE STUDY

READY, STEADY, GROW!

'I won't be hungry ever because I can grow my own food now!'

Deacon, Age 7



READY, STEADY, GROW!

What did you do and how did you involve the whole school?

In July 2023, we applied for the Keep Wales Tidy, Local Places for Nature food growing garden package. With much excitement we discovered we had been successful!! After a few months of organising, the installation began on a very cold January weekend. Over the two days an army of volunteers including members of staff and their families, parents, grandparents, past pupils, local firefighters, and Keep Wales Tidy staff all worked tirelessly to create raised beds, erect a green house, lay wildflower turf and even create a designated outdoor natural sensory space for a Year 1 classroom. On Monday morning, the children were amazed at all the new additions and changes to their outdoor space. Now with each year group having a designated raised bed, everyone could grow their own food, plants and flowers.

How and why did you decide on this target?

Since our return to school following Covid closures in 2020/21 we worked very hard as a school to develop our grounds. To create a 'purposefully beautiful' environment for us to cultivate, encourage wildlife, create habitats and grow fruit and vegetables wherever possible. Over the following years we were lucky to receive two Keep Wales Tidy packages which enabled us to plant a mini orchard and fruit/herb garden. This then inspired us and after discussions during Eco Council, Eco Club and staff meetings we decided that we would love to grow more food for pupils to learn about where food comes from, to grow, cook, taste and use throughout school for various projects and even with parent groups. Sadly, we had very limited growing space with some odd planters and small beds. It was at this point that we decided to apply for the Local Places for Nature – Food Growing Package. We never dreamed a small school like ours would be successful.

How has the project impacted on your school and your community?

The impact of the project has been incredible. Eco club spent many hours after school hours planting seeds ready for our designated Eco Week in early April. This became the launch of our growing season and by July our raised beds were thriving. Each year group had grown many different types of fruits and vegetables that the children could taste and learn about. The sheer amazement on the pupils faces when their seeds grew into real food. This continued into Autumn where Year 1 and 2 both shared a healthy crop of root vegetables and potatoes to make Harvest soup and Reception harvested beetroot to taste and even paint with. Staff became highly competitive and a buzz of fun and well-being filled Cefn Glas. Parents continued to offer help throughout the term. The raised beds became a focus for our OLAP parent program – which was just lovely. Finally, our biodiversity has increased as not only did we attract a colony of bees but now have our first resident squirrel.

How did you celebrate success and what are your next steps?

We celebrated our success with an official opening of Cefn Glas gardens. Not only did we invite esteemed guests but all those who helped to make our project a reality. All of the school took part and afterwards a little tea party, using home grown ingredients was our way of saying thank you to our amazing school community. This year we aim to grow even more fruit and vegetables and if we have enough maybe share with our community and parents.

'In my 30 years at Cefn Glas, I never remember having so much support from the school and local community. I'm so tired but it's just been the most amazing weekend!' Sara Johns, Headteacher after Installation Weekend

'I love it so much! I can't believe we made (grew) them. I liked when we tasted them...they were like peas but nice!' Tommy-Lee, Age 7 on tasting peas we had grown

QUOTES



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy



Page 1

1. Change the large image to one which represents your school Eco-Schools project. To do this:
 - a. Save the image that you plan to use onto the device on which you are completing this document.
 - b. Right mouse click on the image
 - c. Scroll down to 'change picture'
 - d. Scroll down to 'from file' and click
 - e. The image should replace the stock field image
 - f. Resize as required.
2. Insert name of your project below the main image. This should be from one of the targets on your action plan for the last academic year.
3. Insert the name of your school and the name of your LEA
4. Insert a brief introduction to your project – no more than two lines.
5. Chose the UN Global Goals that your project meets. Choose up to three from the images below. To change the picture, copy the image from below, then follow instructions b and c above. When you reach point d scroll to 'from clipboard' instead. For more info go to www.globalgoals.org



Page 2

6. Please answer each of the questions in the boxes in full sentences. As you go through the questions you should see your story emerging.
7. Replace the stock images to images from your project (using the guidelines from page 1 above)
8. Quotes – Add two quotes. One should be from a pupil and the other from a teacher / Eco-Schools Co-ordinator at your school. Please include their name.