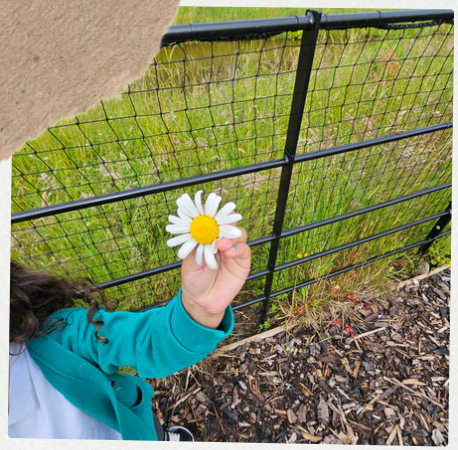








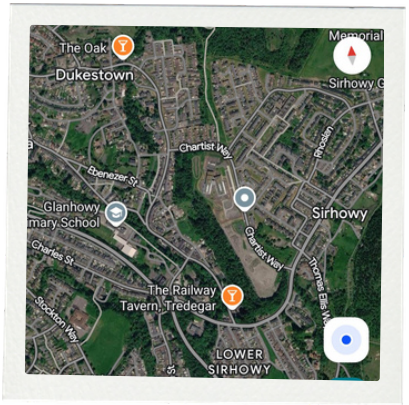


ECEY6005
Sustainability in the Early Years

By Vicky Morris-Evans
Student number: 2405866

Discover The Area





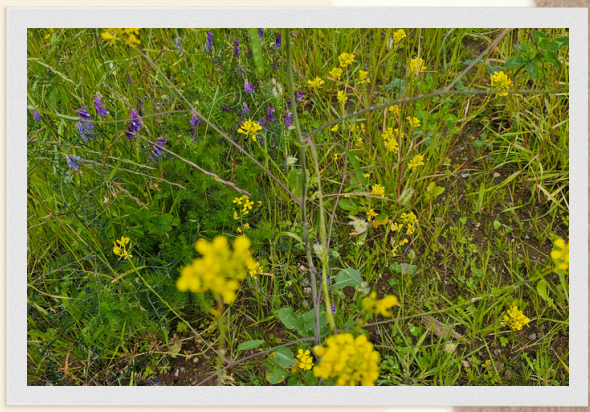


This area is a wildflower meadow and grassland habitat within our new eco-friendly school grounds at Ysgol Gymraeg Tredegar, nestled in Sirhowy, Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent. I chose this space because it captures the heart of what we want for our children, a place where nature is allowed to grow freely and where curiosity can flourish alongside it. Long grasses, bright wildflowers, and young trees create a soft, natural landscape, while a fenced-off section ensures wildlife can thrive with minimal disturbance. The small pond adds another layer of life, blending meadow and woodland features into a rich habitat full of movement and quiet discovery.

Together, these elements form a calm, nurturing environment that supports biodiversity and offers meaningful learning experiences for the children







In this area, everything slows down. The soft crunch of the wood-chip path, the bright poppies pushing through the fence, and the gentle rustle of young saplings all draw me into the moment.

I notice colours more vividly here, reds, purples, yellows glowing against the green and the air carries the scent of grass, soil, and summer warmth.

What makes this place special is the balance between human care and natural resilience. The tree guards show our effort to restore and protect, while the wildflowers remind me that nature still leads the way.

This place feels wild because it grows on its own terms. It invites curiosity, reflection, and responsibility. Being here strengthens my sense of belonging and reminds me why sustainability matters: when we pay attention, we learn how to care.



















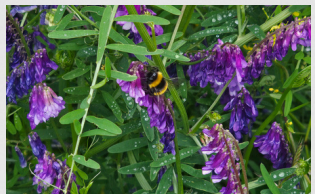






Explore

Walking through our wild area with
a small group of children helped me see it with fresh eyes.
As we followed the soft wood-chip path, their curiosity brought everything to life , the bright poppies, the tall grasses, and the young saplings in their tubes.
The children stopped suddenly when they spotted a bee resting on a wildflower. They watched it quietly and talked about how bees help flowers grow. It was a tiny moment, but it showed their natural sense of wonder and care.
As we walked, we chatted about the plants and creatures that live here and how each one helps keep the area healthy. The children asked questions about how the place might have looked before and how it will change as it grows.
Being here with them reminded me how this space supports both nature and people, offering habitats for wildlife and a safe place for children to explore, learn, and build confidence. Sharing this walk strengthened my own connection to the land and the importance of caring for it together



Conserve







As I spent more time in our wild place, I began to think carefully about how we could take action to protect and support the natural processes already happening here.
The area is rich with wildflowers, young trees, insects, and a pond ecosystem,
and I wanted to choose conservation activities that would strengthen these features without overwhelming them with unnecessary human intervention.
My aim was to support the space in a way that helps it thrive long after.



Supporting the bugs



One of the first things we did to help our wild place was to build a small bug hotel with the children. We used natural, recyclable, and reused materials such as sticks, bark, pinecones, cardboard tubes, and some clean pieces of plastic that would have otherwise been thrown away. We talked about how reusing materials is a good way to help the environment.

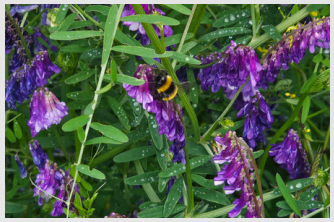
We explained that the bug hotel wasn't for decoration, it was a cosy place for tiny creatures to hide and rest. Because the habitat is still young and the plants are only just starting to grow, there aren't many natural hiding places yet. As the trees get bigger and the meadow becomes thicker, nature will make its own little homes for insects. But for now, the bug hotel gives insects, spiders, and other small creatures a safe space to live.

The children learned that these little bugs are really important because they help keep the soil healthy and support all the other plants and animals in the area.









Protecting the bees



During our walks, the children and I spotted bees buzzing around the wildflowers. We talked about how bees help plants grow by carrying tiny bits of pollen from one flower to another. This helps new flowers, fruits, and seeds to grow, which is really important for nature and for the food we eat.

The children were also excited to learn that bees make honey. We explained that bees collect sweet nectar from flowers and take it back to their hive, where they turn it into honey to feed their colony. This helped the children understand why bees need lots of healthy flowers to visit.

Because of this, we decided to take small steps to look after the bees. We made sure the flowers along the fence line and meadow edges were left alone, and we were careful not to trample these areas. Instead of planting new things or changing the space, we chose to protect what was already growing naturally.

This helps the bees do their job, make their honey, and keeps the meadow a safe, wild place for all the creatures that live there.

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Share

Our wildflower meadow at Ysgol Gymraeg Tredegar is a special place where nature can grow freely. Spending time here with the children helped me notice the colours, sounds, and wildlife in a new way. Together, we explored the bees, wildflowers, insects, and how every tiny creature plays an important part in keeping the meadow healthy. We built a bug hotel using natural and reused materials and protected the flowers the bees need for pollination and honey-making.

The children also drew pictures to take home and share with their parents and carers, as well as with their friends in the class. Their artwork captured the colours, creatures, and discoveries they found in the meadow, helping them express their learning and pride in a creative and personal way.

Share

Sharing these moments has helped me inspire others to care for our wild place. I want our school community to value this space, protect it as it grows, and enjoy the calm, curiosity, and learning it offers. As part of our John Muir Award, we are presenting our scrapbooks to celebrate everything we have discovered and learned. This presentation will allow the children to proudly share their observations, drawings, photographs, and reflections, helping others see the beauty and importance of our meadow.

I aim to share this even further by holding family workshops with the children and their families, and by posting regular updates on our Class Dojo so everyone can follow our journey and feel part of it. I'll keep supporting wild places by exploring, observing, and helping the children develop a love for nature that lasts.

















John Muir

John Muir inspires me because he shows how one person's passion can spark a movement. His curiosity, courage, and determination remind us that protecting nature isn't just about saving landscapes it's about improving people's wellbeing, strengthening communities, and ensuring that wild places thrive for generations to come. His life encourages us to take action locally, whether planting trees, restoring habitats, or helping others connect with nature. Muir proves that anyone, from any background, can make a difference simply by caring deeply and acting boldly.

I would love to visit the national parks he helped protect places like Yosemite and Sequoia are on my bucket list. The idea of standing among the giant sequoias or looking out over Yosemite Valley makes me feel even more determined to protect the wild places we have here at home. His legacy encourages me to explore, care for,
and protect the wild places in
my own community,
just as he did throughout his life.

