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Regaining Paradise

Sustainability In The Early Years

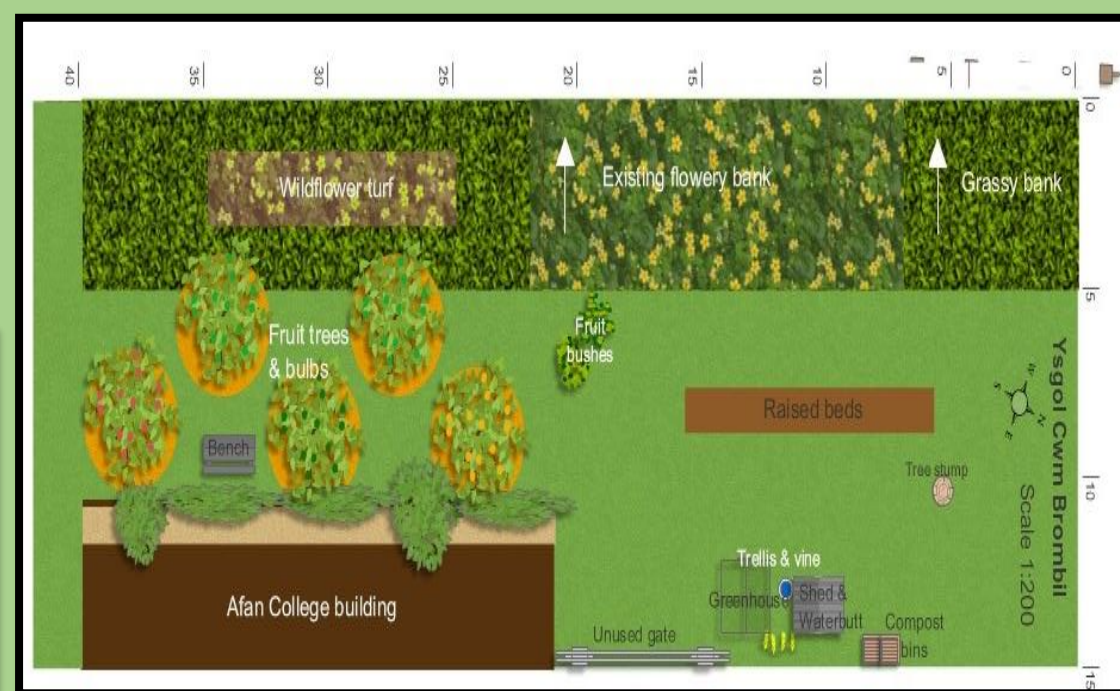


Discovering Humble Beginnings

Our first protocol was to discover the natural space we had available to us on the school grounds, we had a rough plan in place for a community garden and planted some trees to develop our area into a sustainable community garden. At a first glance this was not the ideal setting but we were optimistic and wanted to help create something from what we had available. However this still provides the students with the opportunity to observe and learn about different species of plants and animals that they may not have encountered in their urban environment. In addition, allowing them access to these areas is beneficial since the wilderness provides an escape from the highly structured and controlled environment of the classrooms in our super school. The children have the opportunity to let loose and explore their creativity in a natural environment. By doing so, they can develop a sense of self-reliance and independence, as well as develop a love of nature.



Providing our children with this outdoor space and allowing them to partake in activities that are both physically and mentally challenging, it provides a sense of adventure and excitement. In addition to providing opportunities for leadership development and team-building, these experiences can contribute to our children's resilience and confidence.



Exploring

Understanding the ecosystem

As we began to explore the area, we were surprised at how much life there was in such a small place. Understanding the ecosystem is an important aspect of our gardening sessions in the community garden and our forest school sessions in our wild garden. The garden is home to a diverse array of wildlife to explore and understanding their purpose is beneficial, the interactions between different species of wildlife in the garden can also be fascinating. For example, birds may feed on insects that are also preyed upon by reptiles. This creates a complex web of interactions that helps to maintain the balance of the ecosystem.



In addition to their ecological roles, the wildlife in the garden can also be a source of beauty and wonder. Watching ladybugs flit from flower to flower or tadpoles swimming can be a calming and meditative experience that helps us connect with nature.



Conserving & Preserving

Our own little piece of nature



When looking at the role of conserving and preserving of our piece of nature, sustainable gardening practices are essential for maintenance. During my time working with the children in this garden, we have incorporated three sustainable gardening practices that have been effective. Implementing organic gardening, companion planting and reducing water consumption. By utilizing these practices, gardeners can create a sustainable garden that benefits both the environment and the community.



Sharing

An inclusive space
for the community



It has been so rewarding for the children to see the process of planting, growing and harvesting vegetables themselves. Then donating what we grow back to the community, truly demonstrating sustainability at it's finest.

Sharing our school garden and emphasising belonging has been a foundation for why we started this, using it as an inclusive space for everyone is one of our main objectives an excellent way to demonstrate and generate a strong sense of community within our school and local area.

Encouraging fellow pupils, teachers, and staff to participate can help to create a sense of ownership, belonging, and pride within the community

