

# SUSTAINABILITY IN EARLY YEARS

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# LLANRHIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD

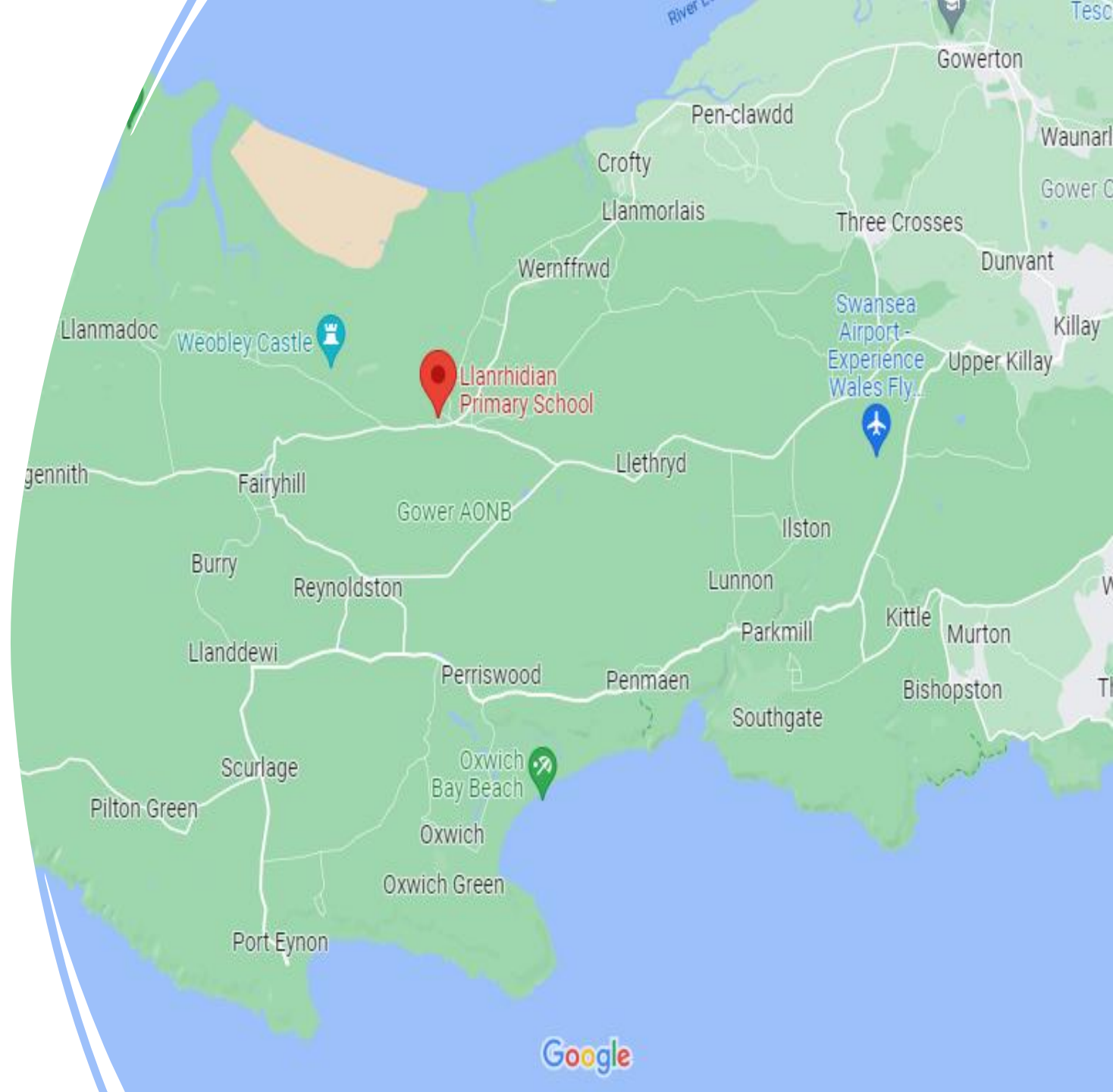


# DISCOVER

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Many schools in Swansea sometimes consider themselves lucky to have a vast green outdoor space for children to learn and play in. Many schools that I have visited have had little or no green outdoor area and consist of mainly concrete.

I am currently working in Llanrhidian Primary School which is situated in Gower. The school is surrounded by a number of fields and farmland and as a school we are lucky to have a large grass and forest area to use for learning and during break times.



# DISCOVER

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# EXPLORE

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When observing the outdoor space, I noticed that there was room for improvement and also the opportunity for the children to learn and develop skills when helping to improve their outdoor space.

Within the field there were a number of empty planters with old soil and dead plants.

During the winter months, a marquee is assembled and is used as an additional space for P.E. When the marquee is removed it leaves an area of dead plants, flowers and a large patch of soil.



# DATA COLLECTING

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3. Do you think our outdoor space could do with improvements? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

 Insights

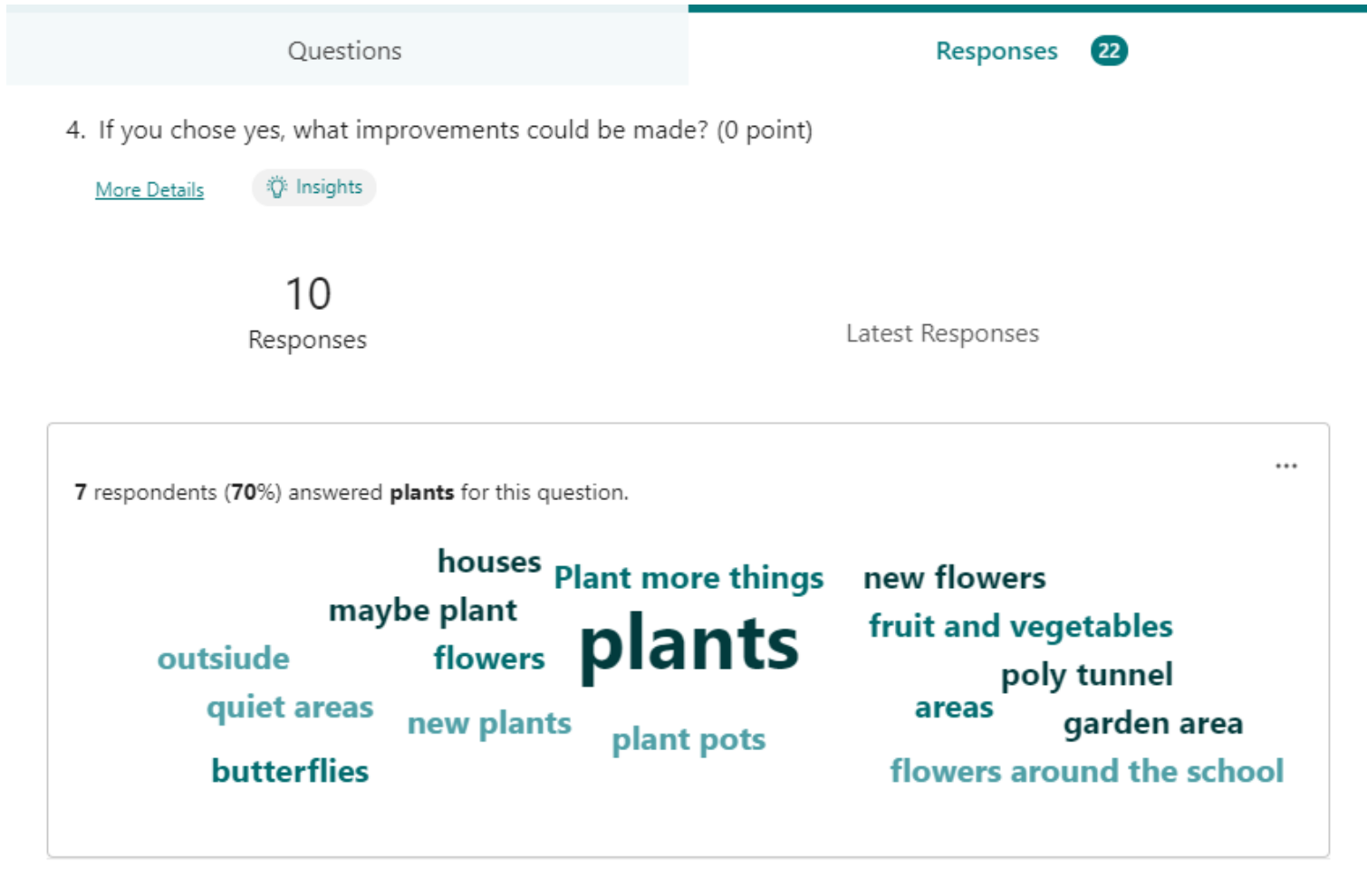
 Yes

17

 No

5





# DATA COLLECTING

Some of the suggestions on how the school's outdoor environment could be improved included:

- Growing fruit and vegetables
- Planting more flowers around the school to encourage insects.

# PLANTING DAY

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# SCHOOL PLANTERS

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Marigold



Achillea





Geranium

Marigold





Bergonia

Petunia



"THE JOHN MUIR AWARD ENCOURAGES PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS TO CONNECT WITH, ENJOY AND CARE FOR WILD PLACES. THE TRUST'S JOHN MUIR AWARD IS **AN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD SCHEME FOCUSED ON WILD PLACES**. IT IS INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND NON-COMPETITIVE, THOUGH SHOULD CHALLENGE EACH PARTICIPANT."

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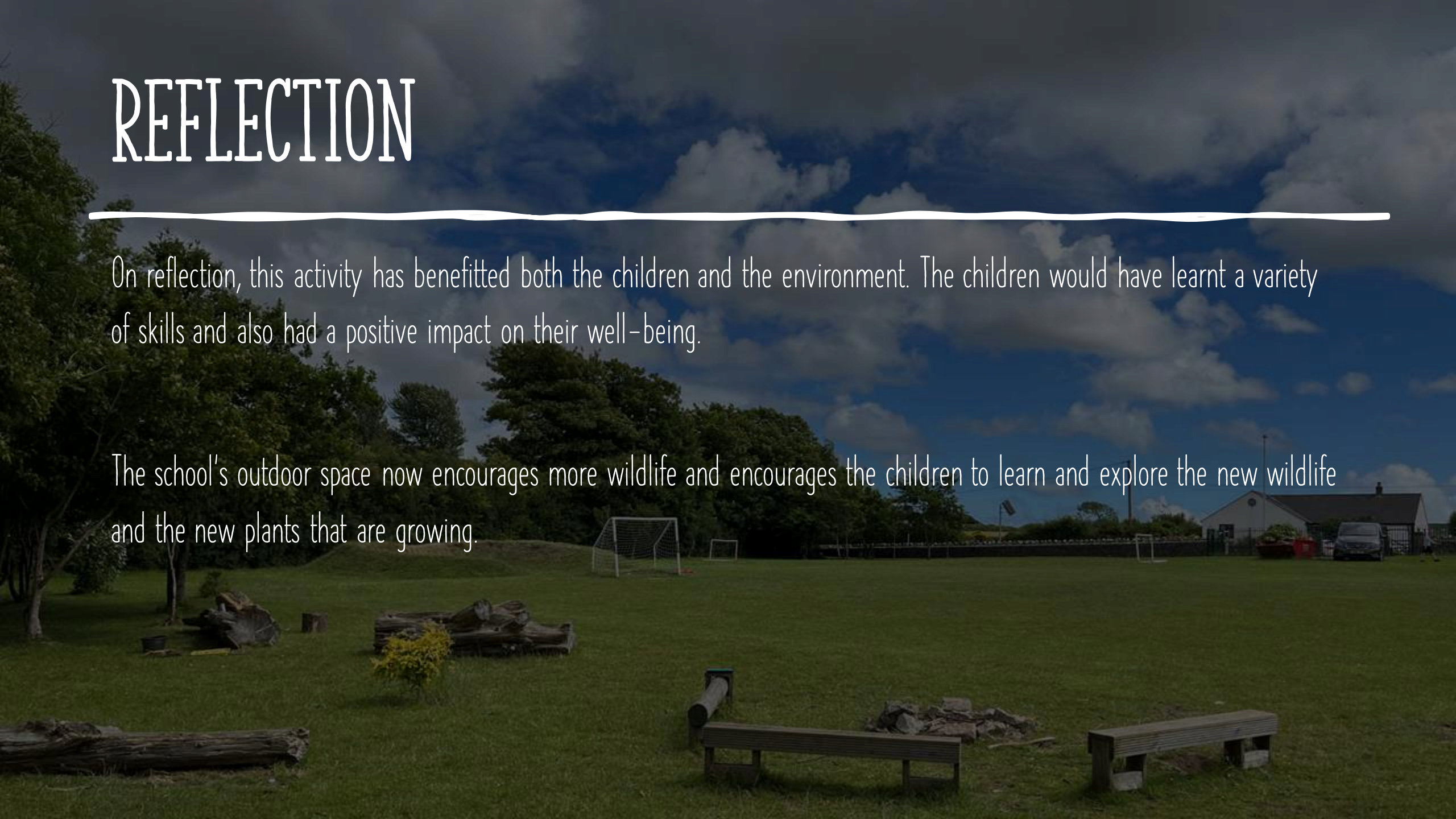
(John Muir Trust, 2022)

# REFLECTION

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On reflection, this activity has benefitted both the children and the environment. The children would have learnt a variety of skills and also had a positive impact on their well-being.

The school's outdoor space now encourages more wildlife and encourages the children to learn and explore the new wildlife and the new plants that are growing.





“A MAJORITY OF PRACTITIONERS FEEL THAT BOYS GAIN THE MOST OUT OF LEARNING OUTDOORS AS IT SUITS THEIR ACTIVE-LEARNING STYLE.”

“A FEW PRACTITIONERS FEEL THAT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ALSO BENEFIT FROM A LESS PRESSURISED AND FREER OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT.”



(Estyn, 2011)

*'BY TEACHING A GENERATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS, ANOTHER GENERATION WILL ALSO BE INFLUENCED TO ENGAGE IN SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOURS. IMPLEMENTING A NATIONWIDE CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION PROGRAMME WILL ACT AS A WAY TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOURS AMONGST ALL CITIZENS.'*

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(World Economic Forum, 2020)



Allowing children to be outdoors and learn in this environment can enhance a child's social, creative, physical, cultural and personal development (Welsh Government, 2009).

Fiskin and Jacobson (2012) believes that outdoor learning has a positive impact on children's motor and verbal agitation, increased variability of emotions, more positive communications and more physical activity.





Marchant et al (2019) carried out research that shown that an immersion in nature has a positive impact on well-being, creativity, brain function and mood; highlighting the potential of the outdoors in engaging children with learning.

Also, Jones (2021) feels that an immersion in an environment can provide opportunities for the children to problem-solve and collaborate creatively which can authenticate what they learn to truly understand what has an impact on the future of the planet.

EDUCATION ON WASTE, POLLUTION AND SUSTAINABILITY SHOULD BE EMBEDDED INTO THE NEW CURRICULUM FOR WALES TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FOUR PURPOSES; AMBITIOUS CAPABLE LEARNERS, WHO CAN BE ENTERPRISING AND CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HEALTHY AND CONFIDENT READY TO LEAD FULFILLING LIVES.

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(Donaldson, 2015)

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



By encouraging the children to achieve the SDGs it "empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations."

(Reickmann, 2017)

EDUCATION SETTINGS NEED TO DEFINE THEIR RELEVANT LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING CONTENTS AND TO INTRODUCE PEDAGOGY THAT EMPOWERS LEARNERS AND URGES THE SETTING TO INCLUDE SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES IN THEIR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE.

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(Welsh Government, 2019)

ANY QUESTIONS?

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