



# BANGOR INTEGRATED NURSERY SCHOOL



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**Eco Coordinator: Brooke Hanna**

**BINS Eco Involvement: 24 Years**

We are a small nursery school in central Bangor, County Down. We have 78 pupils ranging from 2 to 5 years old. We first established our eco school journey in 2001, having achieved 3 green flags, our most recent awarded in Summer 2023.



# FACILITIES

We are located in Central Bangor, in an urban area. We are very lucky to have large, beautiful grounds to carry out our eco-schools and forest schools programmes. Outside we have the 'Side Garden' with a large enclosed sand house, mud kitchens, natural potions station, fairy garden, climbing rocks and brick playhouse. Our Walled Garden is a natural garden with willow tunnels, mud kitchens, vegetable patches, a birch story circle and a large Outdoor Classroom. We have buddy huts, buddy benches and giant planters, along with wormeries and composters. Each of our classrooms has a patio area with direct access to the outdoors, where we have our mini greenhouses, water butts, planting facilities and outdoor learning materials.





# ECO COMMITTEE AND ACTIVITIES

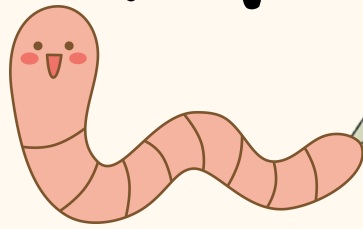


Our eco-committee is comprised of children, staff, parents, grandparents, governors and community representatives.

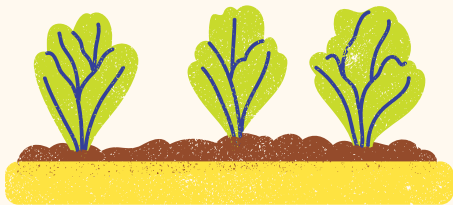
We engage in a variety of eco-schools activities ranging from planting and maintaining seeds, gardening, building greenhouses, harvesting our vegetables and shrubs, building new habitats for the wildlife, litter picking, outdoor learning, local environment exploration and monitoring our waste.



# PROJECTS PAST AND PRESENT



We have enjoyed setting up and maintaining our own school composter. We started by establishing a wormery, looking closely at what the worms need to thrive, before learning about all of the layers required in the composter.



Our most successful recent project has been working with Live Here Love Here, to help our pollinators. Upon receipt of the Pollinator Grant, we were able to plant new trees, flowers shrubs, bushes and re-resource our wild garden. We were able to purchase buddy huts and benches, a large sand house, and giant vegetable boxes for growing and harvesting fruit and veg.





# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## POWER PLANTS



We work closely with as many different groups and organisations in our community. Most recently we engaged with nerve Centre, who kindly donated some wildflower seeds to help us encourage wildlife in our grounds. We worked with the local council to plant new peas and beans in the local castle grounds. We also worked with NI water who came in to teach us how important it is to save water!



## Nursery Schools Plant Peas and Beans at Bangor Castle Walled Garden

A fantastic day of green-fingered fun unfolded at Bangor Castle Walled Garden on 12 March when 75 children from Trinity Nursery and Bangor Integrated Nursery planted this season's peas and beans. The activity, led by Ards and North Down Borough Council's dedicated staff and volunteers, aimed to spark a love for nature and gardening in the young participants while promoting environmental awareness.

The children were eager to get their hands dirty, learning about planting and the role of the walls in supporting healthy ecosystems. During the session, the children also learned about the importance of manure and staff explained how it helps nourish the soil, making it an ideal environment for plants to thrive.

The Mayor of Ards and North Down, Councillor Alistair Cathcart, said:

"It is wonderful to see children engaging with nature at such a young age and they had great fun discussing how manure is such an important part of gardening. It really captured their attention and added an extra layer of understanding about how we help plants grow. These experiences can have a lasting impact, inspiring future generations to care for the environment."

## AWARDS



In 2023 we were thrilled to receive the **Eco-School of the Year** award!

We are so proud of the children, families, staff and governors who contribute to the life of our eco-school.

We take such pride in what we do and the children adopt an innate responsibility for their gardens, their environment and their local biodiversity.

Although we are little, we know we can make a big impact on our world, or at least in our Bangor.





Our 2023-2025 Action plan foci are Biodiversity, Outdoor Learning and Waste.

# TOPIC ACTIONS

We are learning to appreciate the World Around Us. Here we are painting on recycled materials, carefully studying our plants, and linking in with our Arts area of the curriculum.



We have been weaving and maintaining our willow tunnel, We decided to make bouquets for the grown ups with the leftover pieces, which they can plant in their gardens.



We like to carefully inspect even the smallest creatures in our garden. We are learning that there are lots of living things that need our help to survive and thrive! We like to do our environmental review to check in on the progress of our gardens.



We love to use found natural materials in our mud kitchen and natural potion station play. We have especially enjoyed re-using collected water from our water butt.





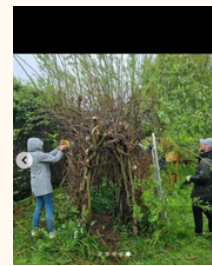
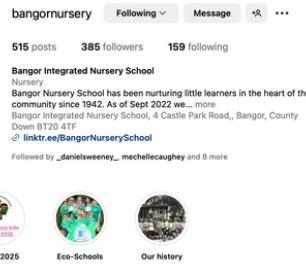
# SHARING GOOD PRACTICE



As an Eco-School we want our pupils to take care of the world we live in. We recycle and are sensible with using water and electric as well as encouraging the children to do this at home. Our gardens area promote wildlife and we help to take care of the birds and animals that visit and the plants that grow.

Our Green Flag was awarded in May 2023.

If you would like to get involved in our eco-activities with your child please speak to Miss Hanna.



<https://www.instagram.com/bangornursery/>

We share lots of our ideas and adventures online - you can find us on our website, on Instagram or on Facebook!

<https://bangornurseryschool.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/BangorNursery>



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We like to ensure we are making an impact. We conduct our environmental review annually, and we use our outdoor time to engage in species surveys. We like to monitor the biodiversity in our gardens. This year we have been working on recycling and bin audits!



## PARTNERING WITH LOCAL NURSERY SCHOOLS

Over the past few Green Flag applications, as a school we have partnered with Trinity Nursery School and Newtownards Nursery School. We have been able to share our great eco - ideas, make new friends and even go on a special trip together to the local walled garden! We have learned lots of new things from working together.



Ards and North Down Borough Council

18 March at 16:01 · 🌐

🌱 Nursery Schools Plant Peas and Beans at Bangor Castle Walled Garden 🌱

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# HAVE A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS



We are learning to stop and smell the flowers! Look how tiny this one is!



We built our own greenhouse. We water the seedlings with the water we collected from our water butt.



We went on an adventure to our local council's walled gardens, where we planted peas and beans!



Feeling peckish? Let us fix you up a snack from our mud kitchen!



We are learning to use recycled resources to enhance our play! Here we have used old card tubes, cable reels and repurposed wood to build our own car! We are on our way to the beach!

