

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



Trinity Nursery School

2A Brunswick Road, Bangor, BT20 3DX

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
53	3-5	Yes	6	2023

Trinity Nursery School provides a rich and engaging learning environment, featuring two full-time nursery classes and four spacious outdoor areas that facilitate a free-flow play style, ensuring accessibility for all children to fully participate in the curriculum. The school fosters a strong eco-conscious ethos, hosting an array of educational visits from organisations like Wee Critters, The World of Owls, The Eco Bus, and Exploris, while also organizing trips to local destinations such as the Walled Garden and The Ark Farm. Children actively engage in eco-activities throughout the year, including the RSPB's Wild Challenge and hands-on planting and harvesting experiences. The school has a history of successful projects, including Cash for Clobber, Terracycle, Belfast Council's Christmas Toy Appeal, Elmer's Big Belfast Trail, and involvement in the Extended Schools programme, Shared Education opportunities, and the Getting Ready to Learn programme. Past initiatives include fundraising for outdoor learning resources through Cash for Kids and the refurbishment of two outdoor areas. Community involvement is a key aspect, with the school sourcing snack ingredients from local suppliers, inviting local councils in to discuss water preservation and recycling, and family members to participate in activities like 'Mystery Reader' and to fundraising nights. The school's commitment to excellence has been recognised with an Outstanding ETI inspection in 2018, as well as bronze and silver awards in the RSPB's Wild Challenge and recently, a School for Nature award.

Topic Actions:

Biodiversity: As part of RSPB's Wild Challenge, we helped multiple species, including local garden birds, hedgehogs and minibeasts, through creating homes or food. We enhanced biodiversity in the school through many planting opportunities, including creating a new wildflower garden.

Waste: We continue to implement good waste management practice into our everyday practice and routines. This includes using the correct bins for various waste. Additionally, we recycle batteries, old clothes and Terracycle approved products. We teach the children how to reuse recyclable items to create something new, through our junk art stations in the classrooms.

Outdoor Learning: This was a new and exciting topic for us this year. We have followed the journey from Autumn and Spring and created and enhanced as many learning opportunities as possible in line with the seasons. We had also been fundraising to enhance our outdoor provision, which we have now achieved. The children have access to free flow play outdoors from 10am each day and four areas of play.





Sharing Good Practice Actions:

We have enjoyed being part of an Eco Cluster group with two other nursery schools over the past three years. This cluster meet and share ideas regularly to further enhance our own actions and provisions. We have been lucky to have multiple press opportunities over the years, recently including our Shared Education visit with Bangor Integrated Nursery to plant at the Walled Garden. The Mayor of Bangor even came to get a photo with us!



Jane Andrews | 08/04/2025 at 20:48



As the school's Eco coordinator, I keep our families up to date on all things eco through a Seesaw chat thread. In this thread I can inform parents about initiatives running in the school, such as cash for clobber collections, and encourage participation in eco activities at home, such as taking part in RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. Families can also share activity ideas and let us know what they get up to outside of school. Recent updates and achievements are also proudly displayed on our Eco Schools board in the hall for all to see!



Additionally, we have a school Facebook page where the general public can keep up to date on our school eco activities. Finally, we are a Terracycle drop off point for the local community for the 'Pladis' recycling scheme and the 'Air, Home and Laundry' recycling scheme. The school can earn a small amount per kg of products sent away and all money raised goes back into fund Eco resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

In Trinity NS, we monitor our eco-activity through simple, age-appropriate methods. For waste, visual checks and observations of children's sorting habits with black, blue and food bins. Biodiversity can be monitored by documenting the variety of plants and wildlife observed in the outdoor areas/ school garden, through 'bug hunt' checklists or RSPB wild challenge activities, such as The Big School Birdwatch. The annual environmental reviews also help us to identify areas for improvement regarding the children's knowledge, however I feel these are designed for a slightly more advanced age group, so we always adapt them slightly for our nursery aged children.

Our thorough action plans proudly demonstrate the nursery's dedication to fostering eco-habits in our young learners, as well as evaluating every action taken with the children's age and stage of development in mind. In addition, we created a document which links all our preschool curricular 'skills' to Eco-related activities. This demonstrates clear links to learning with a holistic approach that works best for our young learners.

Observation & Assessment:	Plan & Teach:	Outcome:
Carmac showed a keen interest in our minibeast imaginative play outside.	T invited Carmac to take part in a bug hunt. T gave the children bug hunt survey sheets and discussed the different species. T provided magnifying glasses and explained this would help us see little things in more detail. We learned where the bugs might live, such as under logs, in damp places, or in our bug hotel. We discussed that we don't touch the bugs we find as we don't want to harm them.	Carmac really enjoyed his bug hunt and was able to find and identify a worm. We also found a spider, a beetle and some woodlouse in the areas we searched. We discussed that we would maybe find more when the weather is warmer.



Observation & Assessment:	Plan & Teach:	Outcome:
Taking part in RSPB's Big School's Garden Birdwatch	Using flashcards, T has been reinforcing the names of a range of garden birds and how to identify these. We have been learning that these garden birds are hungry in the winter and need food and water to survive. We have been busy making bird feeders to put outside and got our binoculars ready! T gave the children a checklist of garden birds and reminded everyone we had to be quiet so that we didn't scare the birds away.	Teddy has found this topic incredibly interesting, showing a genuine care and curiosity for living things. He now knows the names of a range of garden birds, how to identify them and how we can help.



Arts*1: Enjoys participating in musical activities 🎵 Weather sounds activity – using instruments
Arts*2: Expresses emotion through movement 🕺 Various activities
Arts*3: Express ideas through pics/ models 🖼️ Painting birds/ making hog house, etc
Arts*4: Independently accesses materials 🛠️ Making junk art models
Arts*5: Makes their own music/ contributes 🎵 (Arts*5) Responding to sounds in nature
Arts*6: Play imaginatively alone or in a group 🎭 'Growing veg' in the mud kitchen and 'making dinner' in the home corner
Arts*7: Shows an awareness of beat & tempo 🎵 Responding to sounds in nature
Arts*8: Use a wide range of materials & resources 🗑️ Using recycled items in play
Arts*9: Creates representational artwork 🖼️ Painting birds
Lang*1: Follow instructions alone or in group 📖 Making bird feeders
Lang*2: Have a convo with adults/ peers 🗣️ During visits/ talk time
Lang*3: Expresses own ideas & feelings 🗣️ During visits/ talk time

Mentoring School:

We collaborate closely with Bangor Integrated Nursery School to exchange ideas for improving our eco provision and sharing age-appropriate activities. Over the last three years we have met regularly and enhanced both of our provisions in a range of ways. This has included adding recycled items to both of our outdoor resources, such as large spools and tyres, and booking a wide range of visitors from one another's recommendations.

In 2023 Bangor Integrated Nursery school applied for their first green flag. Trinity NS were able to guide them through the application practice and help them showcase all the wonderful qualities about their school. After huge effort going into their green flag, Bangor Integrated NS went on to win Eco School of the Year 2023. That year, Trinity NS were awarded their sixth green flag award!



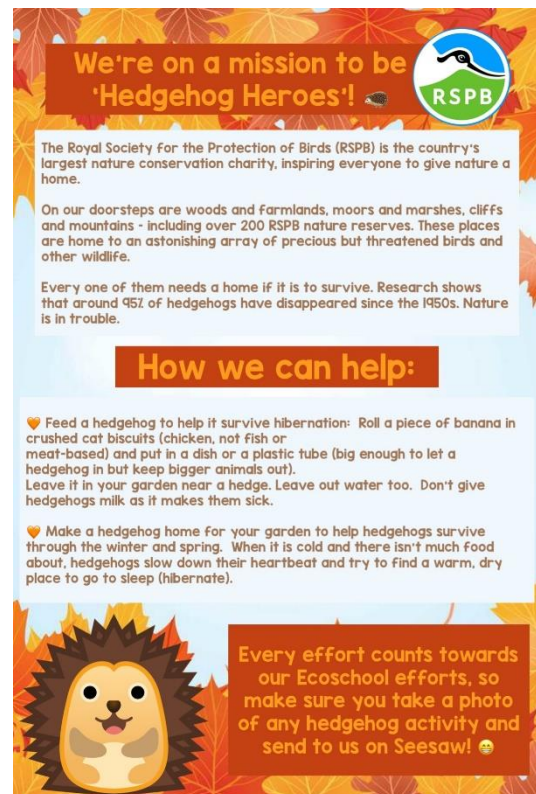
Our new wildflower garden.



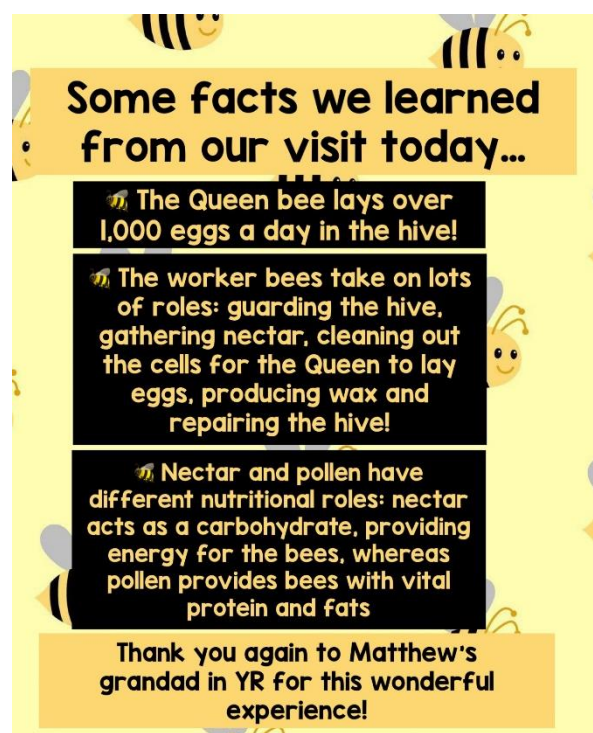
Extra information for parents.



We built a hog house as part of RSPB's wild challenge.



We sent home information and encouraged for families to help at home.





Contact

For more information on this Eco-Schools Ambassador School, see details below.

Trinity Nursery School

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