

Project Title: Eco-schooling and education for Sustainable Development 2022/2023

What did we want to achieve by implementing this project?

1. Supporting students with anxiety through the use of outdoor classrooms and learning.
2. To learn strategies to become an eco-school and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.
3. To learn strategies to aid our school's knowledge and practice in relation to sustainable Development and EU sustainability goals

What activities did we implement in our project?

5 day training course: 'Environmental Changes for Sustainable Schools': We learned about System Thinking versus individual thinking in relation to climate change. We focused on several case studies including a 'cautionary tale of Cats in Borneo'. We explored how all countries are vulnerable but in different ways. We looked at examples in the media such as the Tuvalu minister giving his Cop26 speech standing in water to highlight sea level rise. We learned about the climate impact on individuals based on various factors such as income, disability, age, race, gender & education. We reflected on Kate Raworth and her Doughnut Economics model. We researched Rachel Carson and how she highlighted the effects of DDT on the environment. We looked at circular economies and the possibility of zero waste. We explored the bathtub model for emissions and net removals. We spent time zoning in on the 17 sustainable development goals and did partner work with debate cards. We looked at the concept of Greenwashing and the top ten companies who utilise this marketing strategy. The buyer achy of needs was explored and discussed. We all looked at the footprint calculator and took the quiz. We learned about the model of permaculture, to create and manage a sustainable society, and how we could go about this under the following factors: Earth care, care for people & investing. We learned how to take practical steps in our own gardens/schools and how to go about sharing this knowledge with students and the wider community.

Visit to the Orti Dipinti' gardens: Plans to incorporate elements into our planned outdoor classroom in Holywell ETNS.

What were the results of our project?

After analysis we estimate that the average adult in our community has a carbon footprint of 11.7 ton CO₂e/year, consisting of:

- Home: 2.6 ton
- Travel: 5.9 ton
- Consumption: 3.2 ton

This makes up 'climate villains'. Students used the calculator to identify areas of improvement. The school has shared information on available government grants to support some of these recommendations:

[gov - Reduce your use \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

2. As a result of our project we have begun to create an outdoor classroom with the goal of supporting students with anxiety. We have begun to plan our outdoor space on the Orti Dipinti' gardens in Florence. Elements of the gardens were identified, and work is ongoing to reproduce similar in our school gardens. The outdoor seating and benches made from reclaimed plastic are being prioritized as our first action. This will become our outdoor classroom. Planting of herbs and flowers from seed will begin in our polytunnel.

3. As a result of our Sustainability program and carbon footprint analysis, our school community is more aware of emissions and strategies to reduce these. We have introduced light, water & recycling student 'monitors'.







