

Biodiversity Plan for Schools

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<p>Goal</p> <p>To Create awareness of the Biodiversity on the school grounds</p>
<p>Action Plan Overview</p> <p>By setting up an on-going data base listing all the plants, invertebrates, birds and mammals. Identify the possible threats to the Biodiversity. Increase the biodiversity by planting trees/shrubs and providing food/shelter.</p>
<p>Action Plan 1</p> <p>Conduct a Biodiversity Quiz of the school grounds so as to measure the initial awareness. This will be repeated after all the actions taken are completed. This will measure the affects of the actions taken.</p> <p>ASAP</p>

<p>Action Plan 2</p> <p>To create a map of the school grounds</p>		
ACTION	Person/Group	Time frame
Draw an initial map of the school grounds	Green Schools Committee	By the end of September
Identify the Habitats on the map, shading each area with different colours		By the end of October
Identify the trees and mark on the map		By the end of November
Draw a map of the actions taken		On-going
Set out a table of habitat richness		February of 2 nd year
List of species for each habitat		February of 2 nd year

<p>Action Plan 3</p> <p>Set up a data base listing all plants, invertebrates, birds, mammals</p>		
Action	Person/Group	Time frame
Set up a folder for each Habitat		By the end of September
Draw, paint or photograph all species found and make a list		On-going
Biodiversity day, classes to find as many species as they can, [invite a Heritage Specialist].		A day in May or June
Set up a page on the school web site.		By the end of September

Action Plan 4
Increase the Biodiversity

Actions	Person/Group	Time frame
Put up feeders [plant a weeping willow near feeders]		December-March
Put up boxes for birds, bats and ladybirds		December
Create a log pile		February
Create a wildflower meadow		April or september
Plant trees and shrubs		March [tree week]
Erect a bird bath near feeders		December
Create a butterfly garden		April
Indicate on map each development		On-going

Action Plan 5
Identify the possible threats the Biodiversity.

Threat	Effects	action
Ground Pollution	Kills plants	Remove any rubbish
Noise Pollution	Frightens away animals	Create a safe area
Habitat change	Loss of animals and plants	Restore natural areas
Invasive Aliens	Outcompetes with the native species and breaks the food chain	Remove any invasive aliens

Action Plan 6
Presentation for the Green Flag

1. Map of the School Biodiversity
2. Table of Habitat richness
3. List of species for each habitat
4. List of Action taken
5. Posters showing each action taken, Field trips
6. Sample of the Biodiversity Quiz

7. Table of the Biodiversity Quiz results showing the comparison

Reference Books		
The School Garden	Paddy Madden	01 627 2117
Wild Things at School	Éanna Ni Lamhna	Download on web site
Heritage Outlook magazine	Free	mail@heritagecouncil.ie
Biodiversity magazine	Free	info@biodiversityireland.ie
Complete Irish Wildlife	Paul Sterry	Collins
Further information	Geoff Hunt	geoffreyhunt@eircom.net

Trees for schools	
Large	Scots Pine, Ash, Alder, Silver Birch, Downey Birch, Aspen, Sessile Oak, Pendunculate Oak
Medium	Beech Hedgerow, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Holly, Wild cherry, Bird Cherry, Wych Elm, Mountain Ash Crab Apple, Whitebeam, Spindle, Buckthorn, Weeping Willow [Near feeders]
Shrubs	Buddleia, Guelder-rose, Strawberry tree, Elder,
Berry and Fruit trees/Shrubs	Mountain Ash, Apple, Pyracantha, Cotoneaster
Avoid	Eucalyptus, Cypress, Griselinia, Leylandii, Laurel
Wild Flower seeds from www.wildflowers.ie Get the GF03 mix for attracting butterflies, bees and birds. 22 euro per 100 gram or 170 per kilo. [1 gram covers 1.5m]	
Butterfly Garden	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decide on an area to develop as a butterfly garden. 2. Draw a map of this site and plan the design of your Butterfly garden. 3. Plant holly, Buckthorn and buddleia as a back border for your garden. If there is a wall plant ivy. 4. Clear a section of ground from all plants and sow wildflower seed mix [see below]. 5. Create a border and erect a signboard indicating Wildflower bed. 6. Have another section and let it go wild naturally with whatever is already there. This will show a different outcome. 7. Erect signboards naming the plant and which species of butterfly it will attract 8. 	
<p>The table below shows the Irish butterflies that are common and widespread. I have included the brimstone and holly blue butterflies that are locally common and maybe attracted to your area if the host plant is planted. The host plants provide food for the caterpillars. Other flowering plants that attract adult butterflies include buddleia, bedding plants, herbs and the wildflower mix. [See below]</p>	

Bedding plants

Early flowering

Purple Aubretia, Pansy, Sweet Rocket, Primrose, Bluebells, Heathers, Nasturtium, Sweet Pea, Purple Loosestrife, Field Scabious

Late flowering herbs

Lavender, Mint, Thyme, Rosemary, Chives,

www.butterfly-conservation.org

Download PDF gardening leaflet

Host Plants for Butterflies

Plant	Butterfly
Meadow Vetchling	Wood White
Bird's foot trefoil	Wood White, Common Blue, Dingy Skipper
Buckthorn	Brimstone
Cabbage family	Large White, Small White, Green-veined White
Lady's Smock	Orange Tip
Dock or sorrel	Small Copper
Holly	Holly Blue
Nettle	Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral
Thistle	Painted Lady
Grasses	Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Ringlet

Wildflower seed mix GF03

GF03 mix

Bird's Foot Trefoil, Black Meddick, Burdock, Burnet Saxifrage, Common Vetch, Corn Marigold, Corn Poppy, Corn Cockle, Corn Flower, Devil's Bit Scabious, Field Scabious, Fleabane, Foxglove, Greater trefoil, Hedge mustard, Kidney Vetch, Lady's Bedstraw, Lesser Knapweed, Marjoram, Scented Mayweed, Meadow Vetchling, Meadowsweet, Ox-eyed Daisy, Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin, Red Campion, Red Clover, Hawkbit, Cat's ear, Ribwort Plantain, Shepherd's Purse, Sorrel, St John's Wort, Teasel, Water Avens, Wild Angelica, Wild Carrot, Yarrow, Dame's Violet, Dog Violet, Wood sage



Adopt a bird for the classroom door



Video nestbox



Variety of bird feeders



Biodiversity Map



Bug hotel at Gaelscoil O Doghair



Wildflower beds at Gaelscoil O Doghair



Invite a Heritage Specialist



Designate a wildlife area



School pond at St Brigids, Singland



Wild flower meadow at St Brigids Singland



Bird feeders outside the classroom window Milford



Toy Birds

