



Biodiversity Plan for Schools

Goal To Create awareness of the Biodiversity on the school grounds
Action Plan Overview 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.
Action Plan 1 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. ASAP

Action Plan 2 To create a map of the school grounds		
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

Action Plan 3 Set up a data base listing all plants, invertebrates, birds, mammals		
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 before and after actions taken.
2. List of species found
3. Posters showing photos of action taken, Field trips
4. Sample of the Biodiversity Survey
5. Table of the Biodiversity Survey results showing the comparison

Reference Books

The wildflowers of Ireland	Zoe Devlin	The Collins Press
Ireland's garden Birds	Oran O Sullivan & Jim Wilson	The Collins Press
Wild Things at School	Éanna Ni Lamhna	Download on web site
Complete Irish Wildlife	Paul Sterry	Collins
Further information	Geoff Hunt	geoffreyhunt@eircom.net

Trees for schools

Tree planting distances www.subsidencebureau.com

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, Smoke Tree 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]

Creating a school woodland

1. Decide on an area to develop a woodland
2. Draw a map of this site and plan where you are going to plant.
3. Plant small trees including Wild Cherry, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Holly, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Mountain Ash, Spindle, Buckthorn.
4. Dig a hole and Plant the trees. Cover the surrounding area with cardboard and cover with bark chips.
5. Join the bark chip areas together to make an island where possible.

Sowing wild flowers without digging.

1. Clear a section of ground [10x12 feet] from all plants by laying down cardboard. Use newspaper if it is a slope. This will kill what is already there and decompose naturally.
2. Then cover with 6 bags of John Innes number 1 compost [30% compost/70% soil]
3. sow wildflower seed mix after Easter. Water every day for 2 weeks.
4. Create a border and erect a signboard indicating Wildflower bed.
5. Have another section and let it go wild naturally with whatever is already there. This will show a different outcome.
6. Erect signboards naming the plant and which species of butterfly it will attract

The children must be involved with all of the above activities.

Sensory Garden

Touch	Lamb's ears, silver sage, Jerusalem sage, Houseleek <i>Commander Hay</i> , Sundew
Taste	Spearmint, Rosemary, Chives, Strawberry, Nasturtium
Sight	Sunflowers, Pot marigold, Chameleon Plant, Swiss Chard <i>Bright Lights</i>
Sound	Bamboo, Sweet Corn, Quaking Grass, Love in a mist, Nanus variegatus
Smell	Curry plant, Lavender, Sweet pea, Heuchera <i>Chocolate Ruffles</i>

Seeds available from
www.futureforests.net
www.irishseedsavers.ie
 CELT 087-0577390 Trees

Bedding plants

Agastache Blue Fortune, Anthemis, Achillea Cloth of Gold, Aubrietia[purple], Aster, Bluebell, Catmint Six Hills Giant, Dianthus corona, Dahlia, Erigeron, Geranium Roseanne, Winter Heather[Erica carnea/vagan/daleyensis], Lobelia, Nasturtium, Pansy, Primrose, Purple loosestrife, Rudbeckia, Scabious, Senecio greyi, Sedum, Spearmint, Sweet pea, Sweet Rocket, Verbena Bonariensis, Viburnum tinus,

Late flowering herbs

Chives, Lavender[Dry raised bed or put stones in], Mint, Rosemary, Thyme

www.butterfly-conservation.org

Download PDF gardening leaflet

Host Plants for Butterflies

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]

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 / Cuckoo flower	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

Woodland shade mix EC03

Seaside Mix EC06

Peatland mix MM05

Water plants for ponds.

Shallow margins

Brooklime, Dwarf Japanese Bullrush, Water mint, Bogbean, Tufted loosestrife, Water lobelia, Yellow flag, blue flag, Lady's smock, Bog pimpernel

Floating leaves

Yellow pond lily, water crowfoot, Hornwort, water soldiers

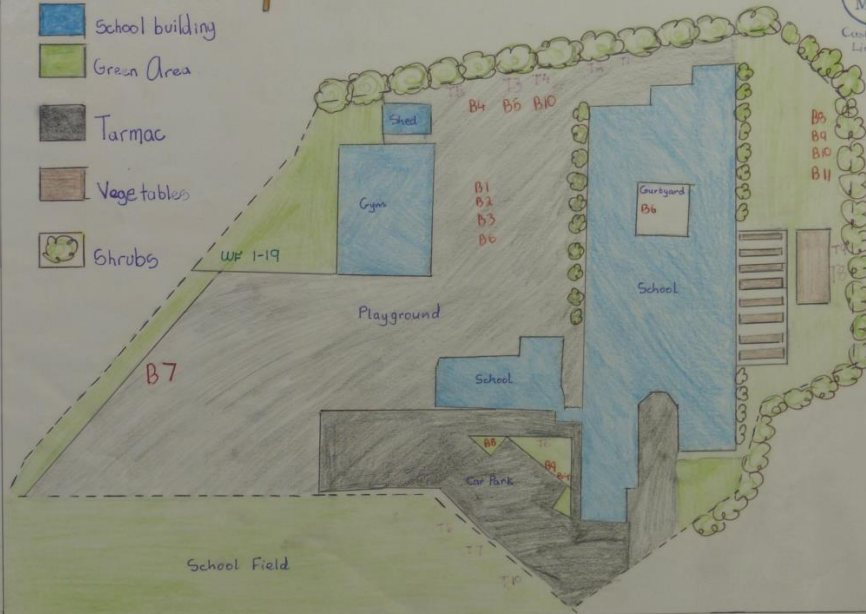
FLOWERS + PLANTS

- Red clover
- White Clover
- Plantain Ribwort
- Yarrow
- Greater Plantain
- Daisy
- Bramble
- Horsetail
- Vetch
- Nettle
- Cow Parsley
- Dox Berrileaf
- Herb Robert
- Spinal wall
- Ground Elder
- Pignut
- Honey suckle
- Rug wort
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Habitat Map Year 1 2010-2011



- School building
- Green Area
- Tarmac
- Vegetables
- Shrubs



- Birds
- B1 Pook
 - B2 Hooded Crow
 - B3 Jackdaw
 - B4 Magpie
 - B5 Collared Dove
 - B6 Pied Wagtail
 - B7
 - B8
 - B9
 - B10
 - B11

Habitat Map Year 2 2011-2012



TREES

- T1 Hazel x3
- T2 Spindle x2
- T3 Yew x1
- T4 Apple x3
- T5 Liquid Amber

NEW BIRDS

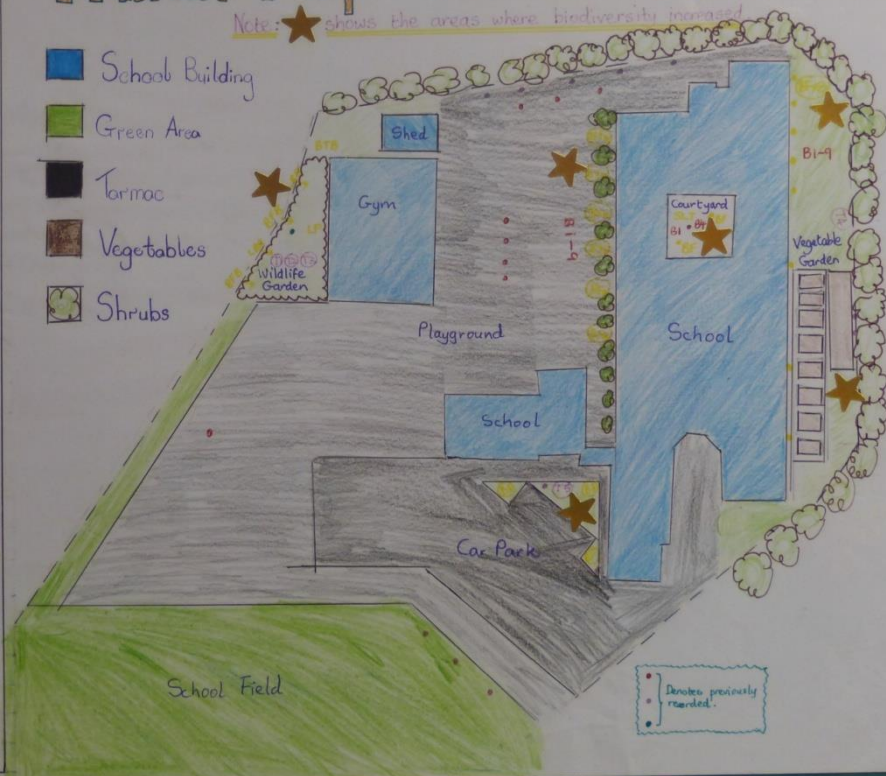
- B1 Gold finch
- B2 Great Tit
- B3 Greenfinch
- B4 Redpoll
- B5 Chaffinch
- B6 Coal tit
- B7 Blue tit
- B8 Siskin
- B9 Longtail tit

BIODIVERSITY INSTALLATIONS

- BF Bird Feeder
- LB Ladybird Box
- BB Butterfly Box
- AB Bat Box
- SIT Solar Insect
- Theatre
- LP Log Pile

- School Building
- Green Area
- Tarmac
- Vegetables
- Shrubs

Note: ★ shows the areas where biodiversity increased



- Cornish
- Scabbins
- Gourgetts/peas
- parsley
- broccoli
- cauliflower
- Sprouts
- Peas
- Broad Beans
- Runner Beans
- Cabbage
- Turnips
- Parsnips
- Beetroots
- Onions

Biodiversity Maps



Bug hotel at St Nick's



School woodland



Bird feeders in a flower bed



Designate a wildlife area



School pond at St Brigid's



Wildflowers



Bird feeders outside the classroom window Milford



Toy Birds



Pond Signboards



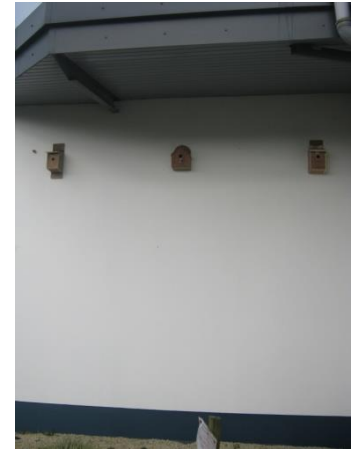
Sensory garden



Invite an Expert



Microscope



Nest Box



Classroom wildlife



Adopt a Bird



Bug collecting



Bug collecting



Pond dipping



Bird Watching