

Greatham Wildlife Workshop

A wildlife garden used by the children of Greatham CE Primary School, Tyneside

Aim

To incorporate wildlife and the natural environment into the curriculum throughout the school.

Action

Transforming the old nature garden into an outdoor working environment for the children to use.

Outcome

A successful outdoor learning environment used by the children

Details

The old nature garden was very overgrown with no visible pathways and lots of nettles and poisonous plants and bushes. The Friends of Greatham School organised funding and a new working environment was planned. The plans included a new pond and rockery, new plants and trees to attract wildlife, a herb garden, a bird watching station, a compost area, hedgehog box and water butts. The Friends of Greatham School gave up a lot of their time digging up the poisonous plants and bushes and cleaning up the overgrown garden. The children took turns in classes to go and help plant the new fruit trees.

When the workshop was finished the school had a grand open evening for parents/carers and friends. The Ecology Club sold plants and seeds to raise money. It was a very successful evening and the workshop is now a successful learning environment that the children enjoy using.

The Ecology Club coordinator and the Healthy Schools coordinator spent a day planning, and linked the plans with the school National Curriculum topics throughout the year groups. The weekly Ecology Club is responsible for maintaining the wildlife workshop, filling up the pond, filling bird feeders and using collected water to water plants. Key Stage 1 children collect fruit peelings at break time to put into the composter. The Foundation Stage children use the workshop to hunt for minibeasts and look at the changes in plants.

