



Caru Gwenyn  
Bee Friendly



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Case Study

# Prendergast Community Primary School

Prendergast Primary School, located in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, was awarded Bee Friendly status in 2024, a recognition of their commitment to supporting pollinators and promoting biodiversity. This achievement reflects the school's broader mission to prepare pupils for confident, successful, and fulfilled lives, encouraging them to contribute positively to the world. Guided by their motto, 'Believe and Achieve,' staff and pupils work together to foster a deep connection with nature and sustainability, which is essential in equipping pupils with skills for a rapidly changing future.

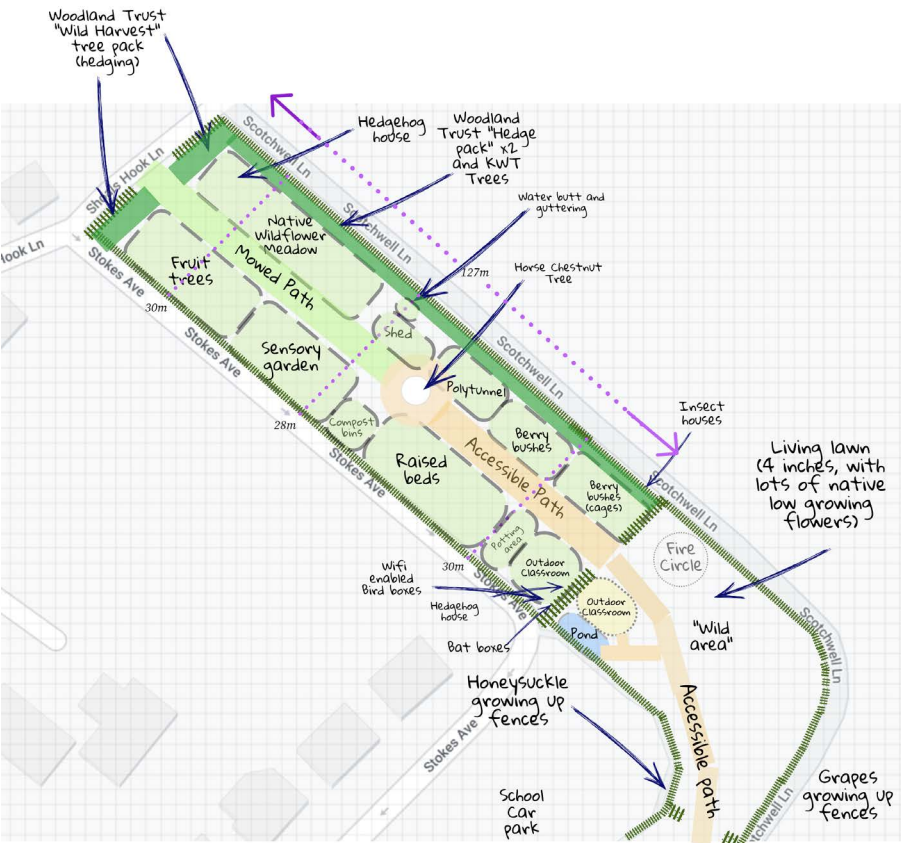
At the heart of Prendergast Primary's Bee Friendly accreditation is a focus on pollinator conservation. Through both classroom learning and hands-on projects, pupils develop an understanding of how vital pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hoverflies are to ecosystems and food production. Using the [Bee Friendly Plant List](#), the children have grown a diverse range of plants designed to attract and support pollinators. This practical approach not only enhances environmental awareness but also teaches pupils important skills for future jobs – many of which may not yet exist but will require problem-solving, collaboration, and an understanding of sustainability.





A key initiative that reflects these values is the school's Bocs Bwyd project, which aligns with both the Bee Friendly work and the school's commitment to community involvement. Bocs Bwyd is a pay-as-you-feel shop offering plants grown by pupils, particularly those that attract pollinators, as well as surplus food from local businesses. This initiative fosters a sense of responsibility toward the local environment while teaching pupils valuable skills in food production, sustainability, and community engagement. It also gives families a way to participate, strengthening relationships and building a shared understanding of environmental care.

In 2024, the school was fortunate to acquire a large field, which is being transformed into an outdoor area designed to support learning about biodiversity and sustainability. Pupils have been heavily involved in planning how best to use this space, using both traditional and digital tools such as Minecraft Education to map out different areas. The transformation of the field has been made possible, in part, by a Keep Wales Tidy Supersize Development Package, funded through the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature initiative.



This has provided resources that have enabled the creation of diverse habitats, including one-third of the field being allowed to develop into a wildflower meadow, following guidance from the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership. By using the cut-and-collect method, the school is working to create a natural habitat that supports pollinators and other wildlife while offering pupils a living classroom for hands-on environmental education.

The school's commitment to environmental education is also deeply rooted in their desire for pupils to develop a strong sense of *cynefin* – an understanding of their place in the world and connection to the land, culture, and community around them. By engaging with the local landscape and learning about the natural environment, pupils develop an appreciation for the uniqueness of their local area. This connection to place helps ground their learning, making it more meaningful and relevant as they develop skills for their future.



Alongside their Bee Friendly work, Prendergast Primary School also emphasizes the importance of monitoring and protecting local wildlife. Pupils have participated in Flower Insect Timed (FIT) Counts and the Big Butterfly Count, gathering valuable data on pollinator populations. Going forward, they will work in partnership with Pennar Community School, with support from the Darwin Centre, Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools, and Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership. Together, the schools will conduct baseline biodiversity surveys on their grounds, collecting data not only on pollinators but also on bats, plants, hedgehogs, and pond life. This collaborative work will give pupils experience in scientific data collection and analysis, empowering them to make recommendations that will shape future

site management. The biological records they submit to the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre will contribute to the broader conservation effort, fostering the next generation of naturalists and environmental stewards.

Although the school draws strength from its broader community connections, they also take pride in the local MOD families who are part of their school. The presence of dandelions in their wildflower meadow, which are closely associated with the Ministry of Defence, provides a fitting connection to this aspect of the school community. The meadow, along with other wild areas such as the school's pond, is maintained to support pollinators and other wildlife, ensuring that pupils can observe and engage with a thriving natural habitat.





Prendergast Primary School places great importance on nurturing well-being and ensuring that all pupils are aware of their rights, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The school believes that by teaching pupils about their rights, including the right to a healthy environment, they will be better prepared to act for their world, both locally and globally. This focus on rights also ties into the school's commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations Act, ensuring that pupils are equipped to make sustainable decisions for themselves and future generations.

The school is grateful for the support they have received from Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership and other local and national organisations, including the Vincent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, the Darwin Centre, Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools, and Bluestone (a Bee Friendly organisation). They want to develop close links with ecology and sustainability experts to ensure the changes they make are sustainable, realistic and in line with best practice.

Prendergast Primary School's commitment to environmental education, pollinator conservation, and community involvement is a clear reflection of their values. Their Bee Friendly accreditation is one step in a broader journey to prepare pupils for the challenges and opportunities of the future while helping them understand and cherish their place in the world.