

## Llanmartin Primary School: A Young Tree Champion Beacon School

### At a glance

Location: Newport, Wales

Project theme: Trees and health and wellbeing

Number of students: 179

Free School Meals: 38%

English as an Additional Language (EAL): 7%

Nature connectedness progression 12.4% to 77.5%



### Summary

Llanmartin Primary School has embedded the YTC programme in its curriculum across all year groups. The school has created authentic learning opportunities for their students, including a high-quality outdoor teaching resource to engage students in learning across the curriculum – from food to biodiversity, world trade to local history, sustainability to literature.

“We want to give the children the responsibility and knowledge of how to look after nature around them.” Vicky Curtis, Head teacher

### Project background

At the start of the project, a questionnaire was designed and sent to all the school students to determine and shape their YTC project. The responses were that the theme for the project should be trees and health and wellbeing. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the school wanted to concentrate on the mental health and wellbeing of their students and demonstrate the power trees and nature have to positively benefit wellbeing. The school completed the Force for Nature calculator and recorded a nature connection baseline average of 12.4% (nature as part of self).

### Young Tree Champion activities

The class took part in a workshop with activities that enabled them to connect, learn and share their passion for trees and nature. The children looked more closely at the nature in their school grounds and focused on their connection with the trees and nature, photographing their favourite tree. Through discussions, they reflected and shared why they had chosen that tree and how they felt connected with the nature around them.

“Trees are fascinating because they can do all the same things as humans.” Young Tree Champion



Through music, with the support of YTC Ambassador singer-songwriter Benjamin Haycock, the children explored the importance of trees and nature and discussed practical ideas for how they can combat the nature and climate crises and be a force for nature. Through the music, the children were able to ‘Speak Up for Trees and Nature’ and subsequently [developed their own individual speeches](#).

“Nature is life to me. Without nature we would die.” Young Tree Champion

### Whole school outcomes

The YTC nature connectedness recording progressed from 12.4% to 77.5% (nature as part of self).

“I feel connected with nature because it’s fun and colourful and it’s beautiful and I love it.” Young Tree Champion

The school ran several whole school events throughout the project such as Outdoor Learning Week and Rainforest Day to provide the children with purposeful learning opportunities and enable the whole school to connect, learn, share and care about trees and nature. The school reported that embedding trees and use of the outdoor area into the curriculum gave the curriculum purpose and meant that children were more engaged in their learning.

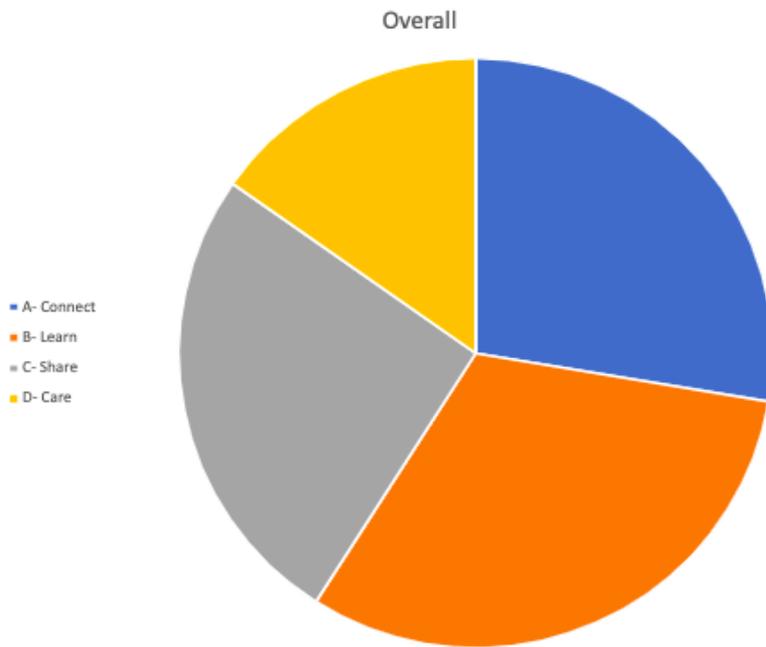
“Seeing the children planting the trees and then weekly, monthly looking after the trees because the children from my school, most of them have never looked after anything. It’s been massive to help them connect with nature and the children just want to plant more.” Wendy Briggs, lead teacher

The school and wider community were updated through assemblies, [Twitter](#), website updates, [local press](#), newsletters and [Club News](#). The school also took part in wider activities such as ‘Stump Up for Trees’ and the ‘Speaking Up for Trees and Nature’ competition. The school lead connected with other YTC school leads from across the country to share ideas and support each other.



*Stump Up for Trees competition. What does nature mean to you?*





Force for Nature Calculator result: *Nature connectedness activity - Highest percentage activity is to learn. Area for improvement is to increase care activities for trees, taking greater responsibility for nature.*

