



THE GREEN •JOURNEY•

An Environmental and Social Sustainability Programme

*'teaching real skills for children to lead a happy and
sustainable life'*





Battle Abbey Prep School

The Green Journey



Mission Statement

Sustainability, stewardship and social prescribing underpin our curriculum. We develop green skills by nurturing our pupils, helping them, in turn, to nurture the earth. Children learn realistic sustainability, to become an environmental steward, and develop a mindful approach to the world, for their future and generations to come.

In 2022 the Prep school embarked upon a green journey supporting the local, national, and international concerns of society for environmental sustainability. The 'journey' at the Prep School is an opportunity for our pupils to develop the necessary green skills for the future; evolving an understanding, ownership, and responsibility for their individual 'green footprint'. The 'greening' is part of our education programme integrating environmental studies and a sense of place into our broad curriculum. The school grounds provide an 'in-house' living experience whereby our children can be physically involved in nature rather than a virtual perspective. The aim is to encourage our pupils to develop a realistic, practical, environmental, social, and economic awareness...essential for stewardship in our future community.

Green skills link environmental and social sustainability, supporting and enriching life skills in our curriculum. Pupils will have the opportunity to be better prepared for secondary education as ambassadors of stewardship, providing leadership, fraternity and responsibility. Independence of mind is encouraged to develop realistic decision making in balancing the future needs of society and environment. Defining a true sense of place and purpose at the Prep School enhances a holistic sustainable approach in the learning of green skills.

The 'green journey' encompasses the need for behavioural change, necessary to care for our environment, and encourage how important it is to become a steward of the planet. Temporal and spatial learning connects the causal reasons of Earth's degradation with solutions that pupils can apply.



Battle Abbey Prep School

Reduce, Reuse and less to Recycle

The green journey so far...



Autumn term 2023, the planting of indigenous saplings by pupils in designated areas...representing St Pat's, St E's, St Martin's and St Mary's. Each wood includes a tree of life named by the pupils; an oak, a chestnut, a pine, and a horse chestnut. The children's ownership of woods is encouraged by choosing where to plant and nurture their saplings.



Christmas 2023, living Christmas trees became part of the legacy. Each house was given a fir or spruce, chosen by the heads of house and named 'Hogwarts style' in the Ent's retreat.



Winter 2024, landscaping of the well being garden moved into overdrive. Design embodied 'the tree of life' engaging children in branches of social green prescribing; a living willow house, a strawberry patch, herb garden, a sensory sunken shipwreck garden called 'Colin', and a perennial shrubbery for pollinators. All branches interlinked embracing a child's perspective of fun and exploration.



Late winter 2024, a pear and apple orchard sprung up, promoting arboriculture and fruit picking for local produce.



Spring 2024, the propagating of pumpkin and popcorn seeds by pupils for the vegetable patch introducing nurturing



Summer 2024, the composting area became established with 6m³ of compost produced on site



Autumn 2024, 'little farmers' growing wheat in designated plots for houses. To grow from seed, the bread we eat, and keeping seeds grown for next year's crop.



Autumn 2024, Ent's retreat renewal, materials reused for the sustainability hub.





Late Autumn 2024, a designated wood and campcraft area began construction centered on 'woodhenge'.



Christmas 2024, the opening of the well being garden illumination for yuletide mindfulness. The living christmas trees legacy comes to fruition with each House decorating their pot.



Winter 2025, development of the freshwater ecosystem commences for younger and older stewardship.



The green journey continues 2025/26, encouraging a whole school community legacy biosystem. The extension of sapling planting. The construction of a mushroom and rhubarb house.



The mighty Battle Abbey
Prep School Oak.





Where are we going...

The journey connects children with fairness and equity in respecting the importance of their footprint in society.

Pupils as stewards, enables a greater understanding of responsible ownership and consequences of individual actions upon our environment.

Green skills play an ever increasing role in industry; the education of our pupils to develop these skills provide direction in the betterment of the environment in which we live.

...one reason why

The importance of trees and our existence on planet Earth is absolute, yet global deforestation continues, whether it be wood pellets for electricity, timber for construction, or clearance for agriculture. Our pupils' green journey to tree shepherds embraces the nurture of nature in protecting the future of our forest and planet.



*'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better.
It's not'.*

Dr Seuss, *The Lorax*

