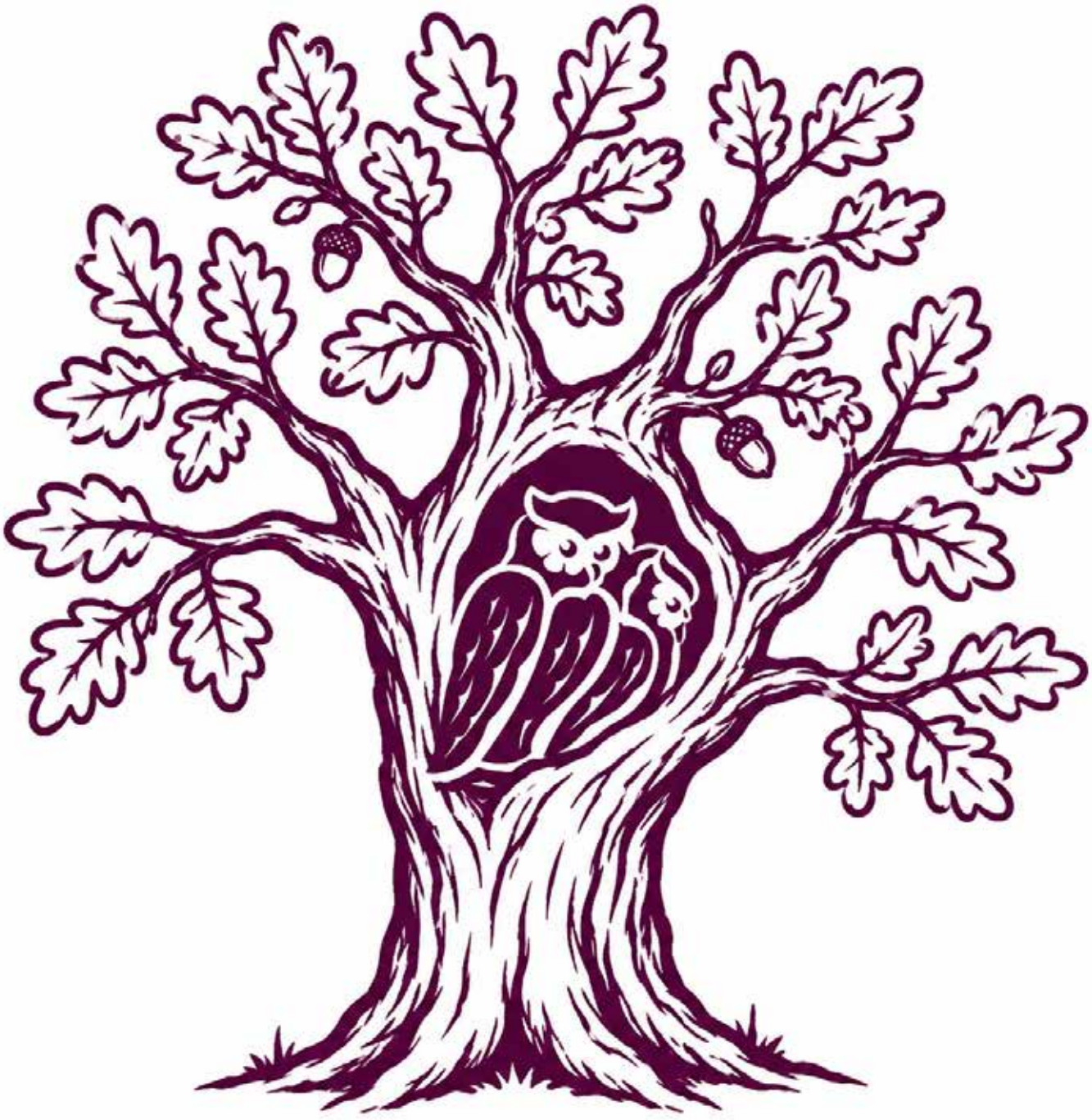


The Green Journey Journal

An Environmental and Social Sustainability Adventure

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

Battle Abbey School
Founded 1912

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. Independance 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

Replant, Reduce, Reuse and less to Recycle

The green journey

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 compositing 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 with woodhenge constructed as the centrepiece.

Christmas 2024, the opening of the well being garden illumination for yuletide mindfullness. 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.

Spring 2025... the planting and nurturing of home produce; the winter wheat is growing well. houses are introduced to planting vegetables especially in the pumpkin patch.

Summer term 2025, bumper strawberry crop from Maria Maslyns wellbeing garden...Aaron the school chef provides our organic strawberries and cream for all. wheat crop disaster, house mini fields trampled, a learning curve for safe and secure farming...if at first you fail...

Autumn 2025 a great first crop for our stewards...leeks, pumpkins and giant sunflowers with an abundance of herbs...presented at the school's harvest festival.

Autumn 2025 the ecology and sustainability curriculum starts with hands on learning at both the prep and leeford lodge. the house woods become integral to the journey.

Winter 2026... more seedlings planted form the woodland trust to replace those not making it through the first year, the promotion of biodiversity and habitat commences with set aside areas, dead hedges and the provision of shelters for animal life.

Spring 2026...little ents...innovate and help create six bird boxes for the prep grounds, one becoming occupied by a chaffinch, alternatively a robing nested in a bin at the leeford den...somebody left the lid open...but three very happy robin chicks.

Spring 2026...meadow flowers and vegetable allotments, pumpkin and sweetcorn patch dutifully planted.

Summer 2026...ents house weather stations start construction initially with handmade wind vanes and rain gauges.

Autumn 2026...the potato patch a resounding success striking gold...chips for all courtesy of Aaron and his cooking team. All sweetcorn and wheat eaten by wildlife, it is all about sharing and helping wildlife.











Where are we going...

The journey connects children with fairness and equity in respecting the importance of their footprint in society.
Pupils become stewards, enabling a greater responsibility of ownership, understanding the 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.





'A tree is a statement of hope.'
David Attenborough

Battle Abbey School
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Founded 1912

Senior School, Leeford Lodge estate and Sustainability Hub

The school is entering a new growth in developing the green legacy with saplings moving on to the senior school and our community now welcomed with a newly established sequoia plantation at Leeford Lodge estate.





what we do in life...echoes in eternity

The Charter

To instil and encourage behavioural change with our scholastic family; developing 'green skills' to help and care for a healthy and happy environment today, tomorrow and for future generations.

Our stakeholders to be supported in becoming ambassadors of stewardship, working with nature and identifying green options to make change happen; a mindful approach valuing our sense of place in the future of our planet.

The journey aims to empower our pupils, parents and staff with individual responsibility, ownership and understanding for their green footprint; so together encouraging a better quality of life for our whole school community and beyond.

We aim as a school to inspire enthusiasm to journey forward in caring for the future of our planet.

Battle Abbey Senior school
Greening the present for the future

Autumn 2024...eight acres of Wealden countryside surveyed for potential. Sustainability activities at the senior and boarding school.

Spring 2025...areas outlined proposed for the following green projects encompassing the drive towards a more friendly social green prescribing and carbon approach; renewable energy, wood planting, perma culture, house gardens, natural progressive nature recovery for biodiversity,

Spring 2025...willow plantation piloted to introduce green start up scheme for industry... products and management ks5

Summer 2025...line spring... clearing of channel for pupils commences

Autumn 2025...prep school pilots the use of leeford grounds now designated an NENP

Winter 2026...dead hedging to provide shelter for the fauna of leeford floodplain

Spring 2026...the planting of giant sequoia a true legacy towards offsetting carbon emissions

Summer term 2026, sustainability started in a big way at leeford, staff as part of our community planted 10 sequoia giganteums...the largest trees on planet and the greatest of carbon sequestrators

The school is developing wider connectivity with the community RHS for school gardening, the NENP schools programme, the woodland trust and Sussex wildlife trust.

Autumn 2026, our sixth form become part of the green journey with a green skills curriculum provided at leeford. All pupils become involved in the design of a green journey flag, our flag, to represent the strength of commitment by the school in a green future.