

Teaching in Nature

Rutherglen High School



John Muir Award

Stewart Currie of Rutherglen High School used the John Muir Award as a tool to plan and recognise wider achievement with a group of S4 students.

Much of the focus was on Health and Wellbeing. To support this Stewart used pupil surveys and voice, the work being part of his MSC Chartered Teacher programme. Pupil surveys were clear – the pupils saw value in spending time outdoors, for mind and body. They particularly saw these benefits in local spaces where they could be active (gardening, parks and playgrounds) or in particularly natural spaces, where they valued the peace and nature as having a calming effect on their mind.

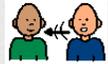
Stuart also focussed much on literacy and numeracy, stressing that these were responsibility of all, and that in using the outdoors there was an increase in motivation to engage with these subject areas. Pupils often did not see being outdoors as ‘work’ time, yet the efforts and resources they created demonstrated a lot of learning.

Below is the John Muir Award Proposal. As you can see the pupils were involved from this stage on, planning the learning and lessons. The group made use of local greenspace in Clyde Valley at historical and wildlife rich Barons Haugh reserve, Dalzell Estate and local Calderglen Park.



John Muir Award Four Challenge Review – Rutherglen High

To gain a John Muir Award everyone meets Four Challenges – **Discover, Explore, Conserve, Share**. This Four Challenge Review can help Award participants review and demonstrate that they have understood and successfully met the Award Challenges. Capture informally through group and individual discussion. Use pictures and drawings, write on flip chart, or a combination of these. Or just have a chat.

<p>Discover a wild place</p> <p>(1) What wild places have you discovered?</p> <p>(2) What did you like or not like about the wild places you visited?</p> <p>(3) What's special about them?</p>	<p>(1) Baron's Haugh Reserve, Dalzell Estate, Calderglen Park and the school garden.</p>  <p>(2) We liked to breathe the fresh air and enjoyed the scenery. Some pupils found the walking tiring.</p>  <p>(3) They were quiet places where we could enjoy ourselves and relax. We could hear birds whistling.</p>	<p>(1) We went on a walk, looked at trees and measured them to estimate age, looked at birds, saw the differences at different times of the year. We felt and used natural objects such as stones and plants to make words.</p>  <p>(2) We found out that trees change colour at different times of the year. Sticks, stones and plants can be used take part in literacy and memory games.</p>	<p>Explore - its wildness</p> <p>(1) What have you done to get to know wild places? How have you experienced them?</p> <p>(2) What things have you found out?</p>
<p>Conserve - take Responsibility</p> <p>(1) How have you taken responsibility?</p> <p>(2) What have you done to make a difference and put something back for wild places?</p>	<p>(1) We removed our litter from the park.</p>  <p>(2) Planting flowers.</p> <p>(1 & 2) We made bird feeders for the garden.</p> 	 <p>(1) S1 pupils</p>  <p>(2) Talk / Presentation</p> <p>(3) How to look after plants and wildlife</p>  <p>(4) happy, content, relaxed, excited and peaceful</p> 	<p>Share - your experiences</p> <p>(1) Who have you shared with?</p> <p>(2) How have you shared your experiences of wild places?</p> <p>(3) What things have you thought about?</p> <p>(4) How do wild places make you feel?</p>