

## 8.12 Environmental, monitoring and planning Policy

At Milford Pre- School Plus we aim to teach children about caring for the environment in a variety of ways from creating habitats to using sustainable wood from our local Milford conservation group. We recycle stamps, batteries and bottle tops and collect water for watering in a water butt. We discuss energy use through play and action, by switching off lights when not needed. We sow our own seeds for food growth and treat insects with respect. Rather than trampling over growing plants, such as Bluebell, the children place hazard flags to warn the children to mind where their feet are going. At Little Wood, there is a woodland management plan in place, with objectives to minimise the impact of activities on the site. We aim to balance the benefits the woodland provides the children with care for the environment. In line advice from the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 ([www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk))

We are proud holders of our second Eco Schools England Green Flag award.

We are lucky to have three areas for outdoor learning at Milford Pre-School Plus.

1. Our rear garden area. Mainly concrete pathways, recycled tyre flooring and a bark chipped area. Pots of sensory plants and herbs, Buddleia for our resident Sparrows and a double living roof on our shed to encourage biodiversity.
2. Our allotment area. Situated behind the rear garden, across the school playground. We have raised beds, ground for potatoes and soft fruit area. A mini orchard and wild flower area. We grow a wide range of produce that we plant out, water, pick and eat. Mainly clay soil.
3. Little Wood. Our Forest School area, we share with the adjacent primary school. An agreement is in place on how best this area is shared. Two trainee Forest School leaders, Sarah Rix (Pre-School Plus) and Tori Hishon (Primary School) work together to develop the area. This is owned by Milford primary Academy School and is reached by walking 50 metres to the top of the field.



1.



2.



3.

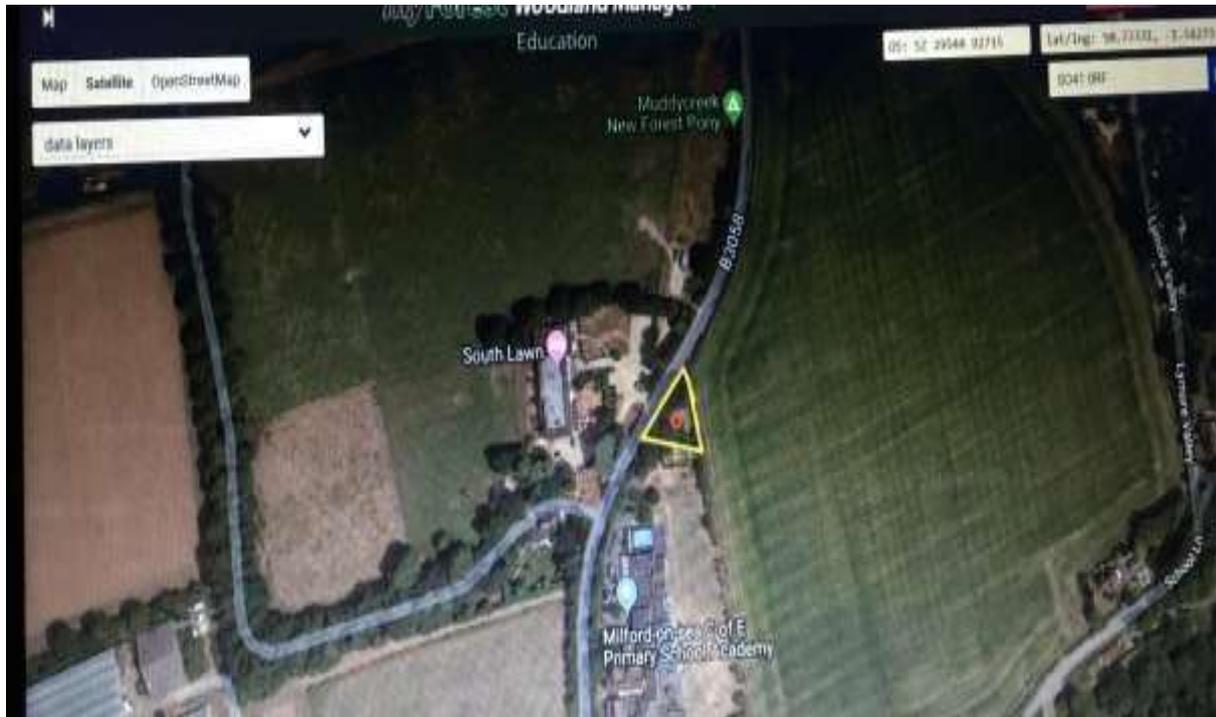
Little Wood Forest School area.

Grid Reference SZ 2912692932

Lymington Road

Milford on Sea

Hampshire SO41 0RF



This is located on the North side of the school site and is densely populated with mixed deciduous trees and a few shrubs such as holly and hawthorn. This area has an extended wild play area and a wildlife pond. The trees were planted around 25 yrs. ago. The western boundary of this woodland is planted with a line of shrubs; however, the children have made pathways behind that had led to a muddy access.

There is a wide range of species present at all levels within the site. At canopy level we have mature specimens of Oak, Silver Birch, Maple, Ash and Sycamore amongst many other species. At shrub level we have Holly, Hawthorn, Yew, Hazel and Elderberry amongst many other species. At ground and floor level we have several different types of grass types, Daisy, Buttercup and Dandelion.

## **Wildlife**

A wide range of wildlife has been observed on the school grounds. These include:

- Moles – These are ever present on our field, their presence marked by frequent mole-hill eruptions.
- Owls – Whilst we don't actually see the owls, being usually off the premises before they emerge to hunt, we do frequently find owl pellets which the children love to investigate.
- Sparrows, Blackbirds and Robins, love to nest and live in our birdboxes, shrubs and trees. We fill our feeders and make new feeders from milk bottles.
- Frogs and Newts – Frogs and newts abound in our pond area. We frequently find them taking a wander across the field in search of new habitats.
- Heron – The Heron is a frequent and attention-grabbing visitor to our pond area where I have no doubt he feasts on the previously mentioned abundance of frogs and newts.
- Ducks-we have a pair of Ducks that quickly fly off to the next-door field when the children arrive!
- Fox -We have captured images of the foxes on our wildlife camera. Left in situ on our maple tree.

## **Year One Actions**

- Increase range of Hazel by planting a Hazel area for coppicing. We have planned this area by removing a large triple planter. We have applied for saplings from the woodland trust.
- To create perimeter area of uncut grass planted with wild flower. This will provide increased habit and food sources for insects and birds. We have already been sent wildflower seeds from Grow Wild.
- To rebook pond maintenance. Last year, we had our entire wildlife pond cleared. Crassula is becoming prevalent once again and will need constant cropping.
- Plant hedging shrubs around areas of the perimeter of the grounds as well as some other mixed native trees. Part of our Woodland trust application for 2019.
- To investigate a revamped pond dipping area. At present, we use a muddy area to lie and look into the pond on our tummies. During spring and winter, the area becomes extremely muddy. Perhaps lottery funded application.
- To repair fruit climbing fencing in the allotment.

These actions are going to be carried out by staff and children, the school gardener and during parent workshops.

### **Year Two Actions**

- To plant further hedging to mask fencing and create more natural barriers.  
To look at ways of directing footfall in the pathways.
- To look at the addition of an enclosed log store area to ensure dry wood all year round.
- These actions are going to be carried out by staff and children, the school gardener and during parent workshops.

### **Year Three Actions**

- To continue ongoing work, as well as maintenance of work already completed from Year 1 and 2.
- To order and plant more saplings and hedging plants from the Woodlands Trust.
- These actions are going to be carried out by staff and children, the school gardener and during parent workshops.

### **Monitoring.**

Progress will be monitored by regular reporting to the Headteacher and Pre School management. Regular updates will be made to the community by way of a regularly updated Forest School section of the school website and social media use. Photographs will be taken at intervals from fixed points which will illustrate progress and development.

**Work completed during 2018.**



Wildlife pond maintenance



## Our raised bed, purchased with our Tesco grant



## Our amazing living roof

**This policy was adopted by**

Milford Preschool Plus Ltd

**On**

January 2019

**Date to be reviewed**

2020

**Signed on behalf of the provider**

*S.Smith*

**Name of signatory**

Mrs. S. Smith

Chair of Directors