

Our Outdoor Garden

The children, parents, Governors and staff are extremely proud of our outdoor environment at Lisnagelvin Nursery School. It has won many awards over the years and once again this year we were delighted to receive the award for the “Best Kept Nursery” in the Pre-Primary category in the Western Region for 2019.



We at Lisnagelvin Nursery School believe:

The outdoor area provides young children with one of the best possible environments in which to learn. Outdoor play provides access to the space to nurture mind-body growth. When playing outside children can move freely and imaginatively whilst experiencing all the sensory fulfilment of the outdoors.

Children who spend time outdoors in natural environments can be:

Happier – studies show fresh air, sunshine and increased activity levels all encourage good mood and reduce tendencies toward poor mental health.

Healthier – being outdoors in the natural environment helps children to access fresh air and vitamin D; indoor air is usually less healthy.

Calmer – exposure to nature and being outdoors can contribute to a healthy heart rate, and reduced muscle tension including the production of stress hormones.

More physically active – children playing in natural environments can improve their motor fitness, coordination, balance, and agility.

(Ref: Play Matters – Playing with Nature, Mud and Getting Dirty. DENI Jan 2019)

At Lisnagelvin Nursery School children have the opportunity to explore all the seasons in our secret garden area.

In the Autumn, they can harvest the apples, pears and plums from our fruit trees and have fun gathering, sweeping, raking and throwing the leaves. Children love to observe the changing colours of the leaves on the trees and hedges. Right from the beginning of the year we teach the children to look after and respect their environment by reciting:

“Make Lisnagelvin Glitter, Pick Up all the Litter!”



In Winter, children feed the birds and ensure there is always water in the bird bath. When it snows there is much fun to be had making snowmen and snow angels. They are also encouraged to look for snowdrops and crocuses underneath the hedgerows.



In Spring, children are involved in a Spring clean-up to ensure our garden is ready for the new growth and planting season. Parents and community volunteers come to help too. Children are encouraged to make observational drawings or paintings of daffodils and primroses. Vegetables such as carrots, radishes, cabbages and broad beans are planted in our raised bed and the children like to touch and smell the herbs growing in our herb garden.

Parent and Community Volunteers



Our children participated in a sponsored rhyme event this year to raise money for the nursery garden. Some of the money was used to buy additions to enhance the outdoor space.



In Summer, the children love to explore the minibeasts in our bug hotel and observe the life cycle of a butterfly before releasing the butterflies near the Buddleia Bush. They also take responsibility for watering the flowers and vegetables using recycled water from our water butt. They have great fun exploring the maze and chasing their friends across the “Billy Goat’s Bridge” before running through the willow tunnel. Another favourite game is hide and seek as there are so many places to hide in our secret garden. Children enjoy dancing and performing to music at the stage area while others play percussion instruments to accompany the performers.





We display our harvested vegetables for all our parents and visitors to see and children have the opportunity to taste what they have grown

We take great pride in sharing the yearly cycle of the seasons with our children while observing their interest, pride, knowledge and confidence grow.

Here at Lisnagelvin Nursery School we believe that children's lives should be filled with wonder, discoveries and adventure. We love to take the children outside so they can get to know and love nature.



"The best kept classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky"
Margaret Mc Millan



Congratulations and well done to everyone who has helped to keep our outdoor nursery beautiful. Below are three classes of very proud children holding the award for Best Kept Pre-School 2019.

