

CURRICULUM OUTDOORS ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Impact report on the COACH
programme in East Ayrshire
Schools.

End of Year
Report
2021-22



INTRODUCTION

This report shows the work undertaken during Academic session 2021-22, Year 6 of the COACH programme.

COACH is designed to build teacher capacity to develop and lead their own pedagogically sound practice delivering learning in the outdoor context.

The COACH programme was designed around five components:

2. Research
3. Parental Engagement
4. Partnerships and Wider Achievement
5. Resources

The return to full time, face-to-face teaching in schools has allowed a high level of COACH in person delivery of the programme since August, 2021.

In this Academic year, ongoing Covid mitigations have inevitably meant some changes to the format and content of COACH input. This year's focus has been on **Building Staff Capacity, Partnerships and Wider Achievement**, and provision of **Resources**.

In addition to planned COACH resources, a grant from the Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund has allowed for new equipment to be provided to 10 EAC schools and new learning and teaching materials shared. A **COACH Nature Restoration** resource has been created.



SUMMARY



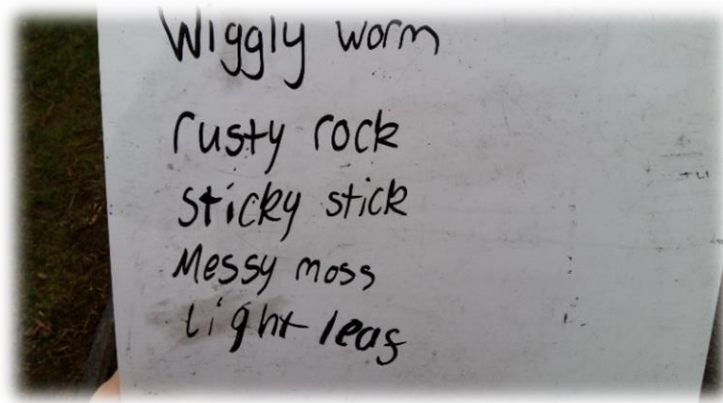
- The number of teachers (and consequently pupils) taking part in COACH has increased as schools have requested that teaching stage partners receive similar CLPL to facilitate collaboration in development of practice.
- We have responded to requests from previous COACH cohorts for the opportunity to revisit the programme and to refresh OL pedagogy amongst staff teams.
- We have responded to schools requesting targeted support, for example, in STEM and Literacy outdoors.
- Providing COACH equipment to schools involved in the programme has continued as have loans of Out of the Box resources.
- The EAC LOST website, newsletter resources and webinars (all of which have a large COACH component) have remained in place, to provide further remote support to staff currently and previously engaged in COACH training.
- A Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund grant (£10 000) allowed COACH to buy equipment to create 10 sets of resources. Training in their use was provided in June 2022. COACH Nature Restoration Fund resources will be used to audit biodiversity and develop biodiversity within the school estate and in nearby greenspaces in the school year 2022-23.

- Of a total COACH teaching team of 2, one member of the team was on Maternity Leave (beginning October 2021). Due to COVID mitigations in place, and before beginning Maternity Leave, one staff member was unable to take part in face to face sessions from August 2021. COACH had one staff member working in schools from August 2021 until February, 2022.

To reflect the nature of COACH provision, the report is divided into the 3 main sections:

- **COACH Core Support August 2021 to June 2022** – COACH sessions, collegiate training, wider achievement, tree planting and maintenance for climate action
- **Further universal support** - EAC LOST Newsletter, EAC LOST blog, other Staff Training and Equipment, Teaching Resource Loans, end of year celebrations, collaboration and sharing practice beyond East Ayrshire
- **Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund grant** – equipment, learning and teaching resources and training provided for 10 East Ayrshire Schools.

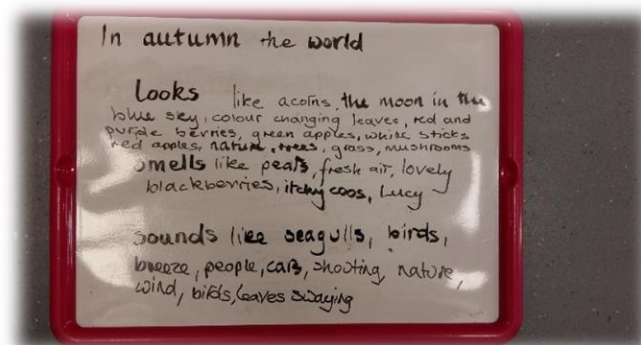
CORE SUPPORT



In response to positive feedback from staff and pupils during extended blocks of teaching in 2020-21, we followed a similar model for input during the 2021-22 Session. In addition, we responded to needs identified by particular schools. For example, input across year cohorts so that stage partners can support one another. The focus for all COACH input has remained NMU, Literacy and HWB.

Team teaching, mentoring and coaching in schools was performed by one COACH teacher until late January 2022. With the appointment of a temporary COACH teacher to cover staff Maternity Leave, it was possible to work with at the secondary and primary schools and the SLCs at the Barony Campus from February 2022.

EAC school staff absences due to COVID have also had some impact on delivery. At times, sessions have not been delivered with the class teacher as intended but, with a colleague (often a member of the management team) or a supply teacher. Consequently, the number of EAC teaching staff engaged in the COACH programme was increased.



COACh Sessions in Summary

Most COACh sessions were shorter than in previous years to allow for protection of bubbles. This meant that COACh input was spread of a greater number of team teaching sessions.

School	Number of Classes	Number of Sessions	Number of Pupils	Number of Staff
Darvel PS	6	33	144	10
St Andrew's PS	8	64	192	12
Onthank PS*	24	73	598	22
Lochnorris PS	3	15	80	3
Lochnorris PS SLC	3	7	30	6
Robert Burns Academy	3	9	60	3
Robert Burns Academy SLC	3	7	30	6
Total	50	208	1134	62

*COACh Revisit

Each COACh school was offered collegiate training. This was completed on Teams.

<i>COACh Collegiate Webinars</i>	<i>Total number of participants</i>
4	76

Wider Achievement



All COACH schools continue to be encouraged and supported in Wider Achievement awards. The combination of RSPB Schools Wild Challenge (at P1 and P2 stages) and John Muir Award work completed in upper primary has helped COACH schools to make long term changes to their outdoor learning spaces.

Darvel PS, for example, have worked to bring nature into their largely tarmac space, St Andrew's upper primary pupils have worked to reduce the amount of waste and litter on their the St Joseph's Campus campus. Both cohorts achieved their Award

All COACH schools this year have been introduced to the Heritage Hero awards.



Tree Planting and Maintenance

I Dig Trees

<https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees/>

COACH Tree Planting Sessions		COACH Tree Maintenance Sessions	
School	Pupils Staff	School	Pupils Staff
Catrine PS	10	Catrine PS	10
Darvel PS	24	Dalrymple PS	40
Lochnorris PS	33	Drongan PS	75
Robert Burns Ac	25	Newmilns PS	28
Total	92		153



In the last 2 years, COACH have taken advantage of the I Dig Trees initiative. Free trees have been planted in EAC school grounds and adjacent greenspaces. Tree planting allows pupils to make a lasting contribution to the development of schools grounds for learning and have a positive impact on the biodiversity of local communities. It provides an important opportunity for young people to take part in practical action for climate change while real world learning is used to support the curriculum.

As this is the second year of COACH involvement in the initiative, schools that planted trees previously were offered a 'maintenance' visit and advice and resources for continuing care was provided.

The summary table above reflects only those tree planting and maintenance sessions directly supported by COACH. Work was planned in partnership with the John Muir Award in East Ayrshire. John Muir Award led sessions are not included.

In total approximately, 900 trees were planted by East Ayrshire schools in February to March, 2022.

FURTHER UNIVERSAL SUPPORT

In addition to and complementary to core COACH support, the COACH team provide support in the form of learning and teaching materials and training to schools across EAC Education. Some of these support tools were developed in response to the period of remote learning and teaching. They have been adapted to meet the changing needs of EAC staff and schools. Providing further universal support in this way has allowed a small COACH team to extend their reach across the authority.

Staff Training

- In addition to COACH sessions with current COACH schools, we have provided **one off webinar sessions** on a variety of topics.
- Requests for **training courses** on STEM outdoors and training for Outdoor Learning Leaders in EAC establishments led to the creation of 3 Teams webinar courses.
- Shortlees PS opted to free up one member of the teaching staff to shadow and team teach at some COACH sessions in other settings.

LOST Webinars	Total Number of Participants
<i>Building Capacity in OL in EY Settings</i> – 6 sessions	27
<i>OL Lead Teacher in Outdoor Learning</i> – 6 sessions	13
<i>Early Level Professional Learning Network</i> – 6 sessions	42
<i>STEM and OL</i> – 3 (and 1 in person session)	16 (6)
Other: <i>Taking Learning Outdoors; John Muir Award; Film Making (with John Muir Trust); MNU Outdoors; Heritage Hero Awards (with Archaeology Scotland)</i>	31
Total	135

EAC LOST Blog



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/learningoutdoorsupportteam/>

- Originally created to meet the needs of teachers and families following a remote learning model, this has been modified and is continually updated by COACH to support teachers developing Outdoor Learning practice in schools.
- COACH staff use it as an additional resource for COACH schools – providing Class Teachers with links to relevant lesson plans and to potential follow up and extension work between COACH led sessions.
- EAC establishments not currently engaged in COACH training are directed to resources to help extend their practice.
- The blog is recognised as a resource beyond East Ayrshire having had a total of almost 200, 000 views, of which approximately only 110, 000 are by UK users.
- The SWEIC Outdoor Learning Network set up a working party to collate learning and teaching resources to create a bank of materials to share with SWEIC OL on Teams. From the outset, EAC LOST blog was seen as a key resource.

The (EAC) LOST Website will be a core resource.... (in the creation of a SWEIC Outdoor Learning resources bank).

Alison Henderson,
South West Education Improvement Collaborative,
OL Resources Working Group

EAC LOST Newsletter



Welcome to Issue 48

June 2022



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/learningoutdoorsupportteam/eac-lost-newsletter/>

- COACH are responsible for publication of the EAC LOST Newsletter. Subscriber numbers continue to rise and, in June 2022, reached 770.
- The Newsletter was issued weekly until October 2021. It is now published monthly to reflect the changing needs of practitioners and is issued on the first Wednesday of each month.
- EAC LOST Newsletters serve as seasonal resource for COACH schools (past and present) signposting COACH created resources, include reminders of available training and funding, news and resources from strategic partners and other partner organisations along with news of national developments impacting on outdoor learning practice.
- Newsletters are used to spotlight the success of EAC schools in their Outdoor Learning practice. EAC schools have the opportunity to submit news for publication. Contributions are often shared via Twitter but schools write pieces specifically for the Newsletter. Lainshaw Primary School, for example, provided an update in this way highlighting their own Outdoor Classroom Week, in May 2022.
- Recent Newsletter themes have included Scottish Outdoor Access Code, National Numeracy Day and arranging end of year outdoor celebrations.

Out of the Box Resource Loans

The Horton resources were awesome and have given (a student on placement) an insight into outdoor learning ... Class Teacher using Literacy Out of the Box resources



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/learningoutdoorsupportteam/out-of-the-box-resources/>

- COACH produced Out of the Box have continued to be popular with EAC teaching staff.
- Resource boxes are available to support learning under the following headings:
Literacy, Science, ASN, Orienteering and Heritage
- Loans are often to repeat users and teaching staff are now producing and sharing their own resources. An example of developing practice and increasing staff capacity has been shared on the EAC LOST blog. [Literacy Out of the Box Resources as Stimuli for IDL and LfS](#)

Total number of Out of the Box resource Sets Loaned Aug 21 - June 22

37

(Pupils) enjoyed using the (Orienteering) resources and I have taken copies ... as we plan to use them again next year. Class Teacher using Orienteering resources

End of Year Celebrations

Each year, schools approach COACH for support in planning, resourcing and delivering events to mark the end of the school year – particularly events for upper primary pupils. In 2021-22, in the interests of building EAC school staff capacity we offered to meet via Teams, discuss and support staff planning and provided equipment where required. Current COACH schools were supported to plan and lead delivery. COACH staff attended as 'volunteer' support.

Number of Schools	Equipment and training Provided	Number of Pupils	Number of School Staff
1	Staff training & equipment	n/a	1
1	Den equipment	n/a	1
1	Shelters x4	24	1
1	Shelters x2	24	2
1	Staff training & shelters x4	n/a	9
1	Staff training and site visit	n/a	1
Total: 6		Total: 48	Total: 15



COLLABORATION AND SHARING PRACTICE

SWEIC

COACH continues to contribute to the SWEIC Outdoor Learning network.

- COACH attends SWEIC Outdoor Learning leaders network meetings helping to plan and format SWEIC Outdoor Learning CLPL sessions
- In January and February 2022, COACH made presentations sharing the website and Newsletter resources at each of the three SWEIC Outdoor Learning Blethers – Early, First and Second Level.
- A SWEIC Outdoor Learning working party has created a new resource (launched in June 2022 and shared in the SWEIC OL Teams files) collating outdoor learning resources across all 4 SWEIC authorities with many COACH resources shared.

Archaeology Scotland, Heritage Hero Awards

- COACH introduced the Heritage Hero awards to Drongan Primary School in COACH Year 2
- Drongan Primary School has now embedded the awards into its practice and award work has continued since 2017-18 without break. The school achieved one of the awards during a period of remote learning.
- Drongan and COACH made a joint presentation at an Archaeology Scotland webinar on *Exploring Local Heritage*. <https://t.co/Clw5NlyZOW> Drongan PS has since been invited to present on *Partnerships* at the SWEIC OL CLPL event in September, 2022.
- COACH have also served as a point of contact for the Attainment through Archaeology project run by Archaeology Scotland. COACH have directed Archaeology Scotland to specific EA Primary and Secondary schools who meet the criteria for the project offer.

ARCHAEOLOGY
SCOTLAND



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NATURE RESTORATION FUND

Equipment and COACH Teaching Resources



In February 2021, a grant allocation from the Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund meant that COACH could explore a new form of support for Outdoor Learning in East Ayrshire schools.

- Equipment was bought to enable schools to audit and develop biodiversity within their school grounds and nearby greenspaces.
- Learning and teaching resources were created and collated to create 3 contexts for progressive STEM learning and teaching at Early to Second Level and beyond. The three contexts for learning are *Earthworms*, *Pollinators* and *Hedgehogs*.
- All 3 contexts can be used for teaching and learning in Literacy, Numeracy and HWB.
- All 3 contexts allow for pupils to engage in making positive contributions to their community and immediate environment.
- 8 primary schools and 1 secondary school have received their equipment and training in using the teaching resources. The resources are a designed to provide an initial framework for a whole school approach to STEM teaching in biodiversity. The intention is that school staff will go to work together to adapt the resources to suit the needs of learners and make use of the opportunities provided by the variety of settings in East Ayrshire.

- Continued COACH support has been offered and schools (a mix of current COACH, previous COACH and new schools) have been asked to update the COACH on progress.

Participating schools will form the core of a newly refreshed Primary/Secondary Professional Learning Network in 2022-23.

Schools In Receipt of COACH NRF Equipment and Training
Catrine PS
Darvel PS
Drongan PS
Dunlop PS
Hurlford PS
Lochnorris PS
Newmilns PS
Shortlees PS
Robert Burns Academy

East Ayrshire Council
 East Ayrshire Council
 Community Services for all

EAC LOST
 Learning and Outdoor Skills Training



Scottish Government, Nature Restoration Fund 2021-22
 EARTHWORMS - EAC LOST Context for Progression in STEM
 Resource Summary

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Curriculum Outcomes Assessment Challenge

East Ayrshire Council
 East Ayrshire Council
 Community Services for all

EAC LOST
 Learning and Outdoor Skills Training



Scottish Government, Nature Restoration Fund 2021-22
 POLLINATORS - EAC LOST Context for Progression in STEM
 Resource Summary

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East Ayrshire Council
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Scottish Government, Nature Restoration Fund 2021-22
 HEDGEHOGS - EAC LOST Theme for Progression in STEM
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Curriculum Outcomes Assessment Challenge

IMPACT - Summary

The COACH programme is embedded in primary, secondary and ASN schools across the authority. Relationships have been established in schools through direct delivery of the COACH programme and maintained by continuing support in the form of the EAC LOST website and Newsletter, COACH revisits at schools' request, and CLPL and resource loans.

- Despite challenges in staffing (within the COACH team and participating schools) the programme continues and is responsive to the needs of EAC schools.
- The positive impact of COACH is evidenced by the growing but changing nature of requests for COACH support from East Ayrshire schools.
- A modified working model which allows entire stage cohorts to receive COACH input has allowed stage partners to collaborate with one another and take ownership of their professional development. Collaboration continues between and beyond COACH sessions.
- COACH good practice is widely recognised as is evidenced by requests for remote support and in person support from individual practitioners, from schools and from leaders across the authority and the SWEIC.

At the end of 2021-22, schools had begun contacting COACH with requests for staff 'refresher' sessions, revisits and support with outdoor space audits and self evaluation. Continued training and the facilitation of PLNs will help to further embed OL pedagogy and ensure equity in access to outdoor learning opportunities with the consequent raising of attainment to help close the poverty related attainment gap in East Ayrshire schools.

Thank you for all (the resources) and for the outdoor sessions that we have had so far, they have been really enjoyable and it's been fab building up a bank of practical (lesson plans) that be adapted easily to fit different topic areas. Class Teacher

... thank you for all (the) wonderful input ... I really enjoyed (the) outdoor learning sessions and I am keen to keep them going... I appreciate any links to websites or shared files on Glow that you would recommend... Class Teacher



