

# LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

**Partnership of pupils embarked on eco education crusade - and even studied Robert Burns' work to learn about heritage**

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**P**UPILS from three small rural primary schools have been studying poet Robert Burns' work to learn more about their heritage.

The children took part in a virtual competition where they recited Burns poetry and displayed artwork about the works.

It was part of a social studies, science, religious and moral studies and languages project to learn about Scotland's diverse culture and the people who have contributed to the country - including women and ethnic minorities.

Now, North Rhins Partnership - consisting of Kirkcolm, Leswalt and Portpatrick Primary Schools in Dumfries and Galloway - has been nominated for its "whole school" approach in the new Learning for Sustainability Awards, which are run by the Daily Record and Education Scotland.

Principal teacher Mandy Whorlow said: "Many of our children come from farming families and are interested in sustainable farming methods. There are also wind turbines in the area.

"The schools have Eco Flag status as well as a bronze award for Rights Respecting Schools, and we are working our way towards silver status this year.

"The children are also politically active, celebrating the likes of World Ocean Day.

"We have a strong pupil voice in our schools where the children participate in decision-making through the pupil councils, eco committees, house captains and monitor roles.

"They decide on recycling and environmental projects that benefit our schools and community.

"Our children are consulted on teaching and learning and learn about democracy in Scotland."

As part of their drive for sustainability, and to learn about cultures and traditions around the world, primary four to primary seven classes teamed up with an international school in Finland, corresponding using their



**ECO TRAIL**  
Primary school pupil Erin Harbottle. Pic: Duncan Ireland

## Primary pupils going green in great outdoors

digital skills. Whorlow added: "They learned about the similarities and differences of other children's culture and experiences.

"The Finnish students were amazed at how rural and small our schools are, and ours by the large

size of their urban school. They learned about their contrasting localities, climate change and deforestation."

The schools regularly take part in outdoor learning - exploring coastal, woodland

and wetland areas on their doorstep. They also take part in The Big Soup Share, using vegetables the children have grown.

Whorlow said: "The children are enthusiastic about learning outdoors and have created not just a bug hotel but a bug mansion as well as bird boxes and feeders to help sustain wildlife.

"They take part in the RSPB Wild Challenge, Big Bug Hunt and RSPB Garden Watch, helping to gather national statistics to understand about ecology and biodiversity."

The schools partnership has been nominated in the Learning Community category, which recognises the achievements of schools that have adopted a whole school-and-community

approach to learning for sustainability.

The Learning for Sustainability Awards highlight the work being undertaken in schools and celebrate Scottish education and the commitment of teachers, pupils, and volunteers to environmental and social justice issues.

Whorlow said: "I'm so pleased that we have been nominated as our children work very hard and are motivated about saving the environment."

Nominations will close on September 12, 2021.

Winners will be announced in the Record, - online and in the paper - on October 27, 2021.

Submit nomination at [www.learningforsustainabilityawards.co.uk](http://www.learningforsustainabilityawards.co.uk)



## THE SIX AWARDS

- **Learning for Sustainability Youth Award**  
Recognising the achievements of young people aged three to 25.
- **Learning for Sustainability Practitioner Award**  
Recognising the achievements of early learning and childcare practitioners and teachers.
- **Learning for Sustainability Leadership Award**  
Recognising the achievements of head teachers, heads of centre and promoted staff in school and setting leadership teams.
- **Learning for Sustainability Community Award**  
Recognising the achievements of early learning and childcare, additional support needs and school settings.
- **Learning for Sustainability Educational Supporter Award**  
Recognising the achievements of school and setting staff - from janitors and admin staff to classroom assistants and school partners who support learning.
- **Learning for Sustainability Community Learning and Development Award**  
Recognising the achievements of community learning and development, adult learning and youth work practitioners.



**SANDS OF TIME** North Rhins Partnership pupils at the beach

**Nominate NOW**  
at [www.learningforsustainabilityawards.co.uk](http://www.learningforsustainabilityawards.co.uk) before **September 12**