

Connected Belonging in Practice

Primary



Cohort:
Key Stage 2

Even Swindon Primary
School, Swindon

How Connected Belonging was used: Impact Survey – Pilot School

Place Attachment

To support children to take ownership of the school site and promote attachment and a sense of pride in it, the school set their allotment back up.

Coming out of lessons for an hour over a period of five weeks, children learnt about growing fruit, vegetables and flowers from seed and how to care for the allotment space. They were responsible for watering three times a week and weeding.

Local Community Identity

The school wanted children to see themselves as active members of the community and take pride in their local area. By using the produce to set up a stall, families and members of the local area could buy fresh produce for a donation. This supported the community while gave the children a sense of giving something back.

This linked to NHS' five steps to wellbeing: offering connection with people; physical activity; learning new skills; giving to others; and being present in the moment. Children could build their individual identity by bringing wider skills and knowledge of food, nature, community needs through feeling part of the group with a shared purpose, while those who find learning in the constraints of the classroom difficult had an opportunity for more practical, active learning. This connected with the school improvement plan to develop their approach to outdoor learning.



Connected Belonging Model

Impact

- Survey scores: increased for target domains.
- Survey scores: increased by similar levels for PP/FSM and SEND students
- Survey scores: More marked increase in School Identity for PP/FSM students
- Observable impact: Strong family engagement with the produce stall, conversations around cooking and vegetables from various countries.
- Observable impact: Girls who were usually less 'visible' in the classroom took charge more readily.

Next steps

- To seek further community support to expand and continue the project.