



Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum
SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING CONFERENCE 27th June 2023
Blackburn Rovers Football Club in association with BRFC Trust
Conference Report

The Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum places education for sustainability at its very heart by offering children and young people a range of hands on, learning beyond the classroom opportunities not covered by statutory curriculum funding. It attracts support from, and promotes, outdoor education programmes including forest schools' activities. It provides teachers with continued professional development.

On Tuesday the 27th of June, the Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum, in close association with the Sustainability Learning CIC delivered another successful schools' conference, focusing on promoting the 'pupil voice'. The Forum acted as a platform for sharing skills, knowledge and experience in promoting education for sustainable development. It encouraged environmental education and learning outside the classroom, with an emphasis on real world links to jobs and future career prospects for the older students.

The 14th conference was hosted at Blackburn Rovers Football Club with support from the Blackburn Rovers Community Trust

The aims were to-

- provide an effective, stimulating learning environment where a targeted audience of high school students and Key Stage 2 pupils, from schools in Lancashire and beyond would add to their knowledge linked to education for sustainable development.
- provide workshop and marketplace learning experiences for everyone, and school team competitions, workshops, and challenges for high school students.
- involve environmental groups in delivering learning activities linked to Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Water, Marine, Waste, Energy, Litter and Transport in workshop settings or in the marketplace.
- invite guest speakers to deliver presentations to students and school personnel.
- invite high schools to showcase some of their ESD linked projects. This year Pleckgate Academy from Blackburn, Skipton Girls' Grammar School and St Christopher's CE Academy's Eco-Group from Accrington had displays in the marketplace, manned by students.
- provide a platform for environmental groups to promote their services to school and to share good practice and inform school staff.

Children built on their existing knowledge and left with innovative ideas to share with others in their schools. High school students learnt through engaging with team events and marketplace learning activities. There was an opportunity for the sharing of good practice and cross-generation learning. School staff increased their understanding of learning for sustainability; taking away ideas to introduce in their school from September 2023

Marketplace organisations networked and made links with schools attending the event.

There were strong curriculum links including Sciences, Physical Geography (including the global dimension), Technology, Literacy, Maths, and creative subjects.

The Conference was run as a not-for-profit event and was dependent on securing sponsorship. As in previous years, there was input from members of the Lancashire Sustainability Forum, students from St Christopher's CE Academy's Eco-Group and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust personnel.

Support and sponsorship were gratefully received from -

- The BRFC Trust who provided classroom accommodation, commitment, enthusiasm, and general input.
- Sodexo who allowed us to use the Legend Suite rooms.



- David Luke School Wear who sponsored the Upcycled Garment Competition.
- Aqua Explorers provided the bonus for the winning Production Line Team.
- Sponsorship was received from Solar for Schools to meet the cost of running the two CPD sessions and the Co-op donated Fairtrade tea and coffee for marketplace groups, and compostable bags used as school conference bags and The Bee Centre donated fudge for the marketplace bags.
- Prospect Foundations offered sponsored places to all schools in Hyndburn, and other sponsored pupil-places were provided by We Be Kids, and Eco-Schools.

Registration fees helped meet the general running costs, including production line wages, conference bags and administration costs.

Forty-one primary schools were represented, sending on average six to eight children and two school staff. Approximately three hundred children watched a Calamity Climate Change performance by Arty-Facts Theatre Company and had access to all thirty-four marketplace learning activities.

One hundred and eighty students from thirteen high schools were entered in team challenges, workshops, and presentations. Forty-eight students took on the role of group guides. Forty-two Year 7 pupils made up seven production line team. There were four specific high school presentations and workshops delivered by Solar for Schools, Lets Go Zero. David Penney and CND

Schools travelled from Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Chorley, Great Harwood, Greater Manchester Lancaster, Leyland, Morecambe, Oswaldtwistle, Preston, Rochdale, Rossendale, Skipton, and Wigan to experience the day's activities. More than 20% of schools took advantage of the 'early bird' registration deal.

Separate schedules were run for school staff, KS2 children and KS3/4 students.

Leadership CPD

Facilitated by Lydia Meryll, Senior Fellow of Knowledge Exchange, Institute of Education, University of Manchester.

[Solar for Schools- Opportunity to lower your school's electricity bills](#)

[Let's Go Zero – Towards 2030](#)

[Little Chatters CIC - Thinking with Nature](#)

[UK SSN NW- the benefits of networking](#)

[Global Sustainable Futures - Progress through Partnerships Networks - Dr Renuka Thakore \(UCLAN\)](#)

Curriculum CPD

[Grow to School CIC - Using a growing space in school to support the curriculum, wellbeing & SEND](#)

[LEAF Education Incorporating sustainable food in your Curriculum.](#)

[Permanent Education CIC --- Natural Thinking: how to embed higher level thinking skills and sustainability into your curriculum.](#)

[The Production Line](#) roleplay activity that transported Year 7 and 8 students into Mrs Jagatia's sweatshop environment in a newly industrialised country. No fair trade here; no minimum wage, pensions, or union representation; no national health service or free education. Quite an eye-opener.

[Calamity Climate Change](#) a drama production delivered by Arty- Facts Theatre Company (Theatre for Schools) [Wayne and Koda](#), a presentation about why keeping our communities free from litter is important Wayne's coastal walks picking up litter,

The Marketplace attracted new groups as well as organisations that had attended the event over many years. Organisations and businesses provided an excellent range of learning activity.

New groups included Let's Go Zero, Love to Ride, We Be Kids, Earth Cubs, The Lancashire Schools Sailing Association, Electricity NW, Community Railways, Farm Urban, Micro-Climate Books, National Governors Association and Ocean Generation.



Glynis Goldsbrough (Conference Facilitator) performed front of house and behind the scenes tasks. She was on hand to liaise with attending schools, workshop, and marketplace providers. Wendy Litherland, and Ryan Loftus were responsible for ‘front of house’ duties.

Conference strengths were judged to be:

- Blackburn Rovers Football Club’s impressive venue with input from Ryan Loftus and Martin Winters
- The support provided by Lancashire Schools’ Sustainability Form members.
- Support and input from Balshaw CE High School (Leyland), Pleckgate Academy (Blackburn) and St Christopher’s CE High School (Accrington) with students taking on the important role of group-guides.
- Designated time for school staff to explore the marketplace without their pupils. The Passport activity proved effective in encouraging teachers to seek out stands. This should be extended to all stalls next time.
- Leadership CPD session lead by Lydia Merryll.
- The Curriculum CPD
- Marketplace learning activities linked to learning for sustainability,
- The excellent number of workshops and the range of topics covered.
- Animals on site; always popular with children of all ages.
- St Christopher’s TRASHION SHOW
- Complimentary Lunches prepared by St Christophers Catering Manager, Peter Gardner and staff.
- ‘The Brew Crew’ keeping up with the demand of teas and coffees from the Stewards’ Room
- Technical support from David Reid and Alex Jeffery.
- Marketplace Supervision

Areas for improvement identified in 2022

To continue to attract more Headteachers Governors and SLT staff- the people who manage school budgets. This year this was achieved by offering additional places for SLT members and governors so they could attend the Leadership CPD session which was well attended.

Area for improvement 2023

To continue to attract more school governors.

Better signposting to Legend Suite activities.

More time for school personnel to investigate the marketplace with extended passports.

Areas for improvement 2024

To involve more teacher training providers in Climate Action and in-set training.

Competition Winners

Production Line Challenge	Pleckgate Academy, Blackburn
Zero Waste Lunch Competition and Zero Waste Lunch Posters Competition	Wensley Fold Blackburn St Joseph’s RC . Wesham St Veronica’s RC, Helmshore Coppull Primary and Nursery School, Chorley
Upcycled Garment Competition	1 st prize St Edwards CE, Darwen 2 nd place Greatwood, Skipton 3 rd place Belthorne Academy, Blackburn
Passport prize	Cottam and Clayton Brook Primary Schools

Press releases and advertising

Glynis and Wendy tweeted regularly about the forthcoming conferences and picked up some useful new contacts; some of whom attended. #SLC (@Sch_ESD_Conf.) Our Twitter Account was used to keep followers informed about organisations supporting the conference. Delegates were encouraged to tweet comments about the event and activities. This provided useful feedback. Ric West (St Christopher’s) compiled posters, flyers and photography.



The Sustainable Schools Conference Facebook Page attracted visitors. www.facebook.com/schoolsustainabilityconferences The page includes pictures, organisations' logo, and comments. It proved useful in keeping viewers updated about behind the scenes planning activities.

Our thanks go to –



Martin & Ryan



Steve, Stacey & Sam



Samantha, Amber, Jamie & Mathew



Dan, Jamie, Lee & Rob

Amy & James



Adam



Ocean Generation

Matthew

Farm Urban

Tim & Abigail



Earth Cubs
Michelle & Kelly

Electricity North West

Jeanette & Shaun

Lancashire Schools Sailing Association

John, Kathryn, Charlotte, Eric, Nigel, Grant, Bill & Chris

Community Railways

David

Friends of the Earth

Jane & David



Joan West



Solar for Schools

Danielle & Akshay



Julie, Kate, Jackie & Susan



Zana



Kirsty



Katy



Simon Kath & Ethan

Joel, Chloe, Brandon & Helen



Nicola



TRASHION

Anne & Textile students



Susan & Joanna

Micro-climate books

Rosie

Wayne Dixon & Koda

Wayne Dixon

Love to Ride

Helen

Little Bats Learning CIC

Elanor, Samantha, Sarah & Emma



Belinda Johns

Artist

Production Line

Nadya & Kylie

BREW CREW

Hazel, Peter & Trevor



St Christopher's CE Academy Support Team

Tom, Linda, Jordan, Oliver, Matt, Alison, Anne, Ken, Peter & Richard.

Ernest Cook Trust

Alison

Marketplace Support Team

Rachel-Ann, Clare, Amelia, Megan, Jonathan, Alison & Chloe.

BIODIVERSITY BODY

ART Jorja

Cambodian Crafts



Bob Turner



FEEDBACK

*It was very thought provoking and a brilliant experience for the young people and teachers. Well done to you and all your team. It was thoroughly well organised. Many thanks for the invite to the conference. Andy Buckingham
Longridge Environmental Group*

*A very good conference that has inspired pupils, senior leadership team members and governors to take action.
St John Vianney RC Blackpool -*

Steven Allday - My team had a good time and enjoyed it, with thanks and well done to you and your team. My son Evan was very impressed with the organisation and the young leader who chaperoned them around the event! Evan and his school mates really enjoyed it and want to go. next year!

The stalls in the marketplace provided a wealth of knowledge and information -Hyndburn Park-

Brilliant student participation- Cottam Primary School

*The children from St Veronica's said- **we like how you can learn more, and it's been fun.***

Other comments included-

'Thank you for a very successful event. So glad to be invited again. Confident, enthusiastic, and engaging pupils and teaching staff visiting everyone in the marketplace!'

'An incredible day at The Sustainability Conference at Ewood Park with likeminded schools. The afternoon 'Trashion Show' was spectacular.'

'A brilliant day connecting with old friends at the NW Eco Schools Conference, at Blackburn Rovers Football Club'

'The children have had a fantastic time and are fired up to continue to move Cop Lane forward with its eco focus. Thank you.'

'Met some inspirational truly wonderful people who are on the same journey of sustainability. Can't wait for the next conference. The next generation were inspiring.'

'A great day, it was great to meet up with some old friends.' Wayne Dixon

*A superb day out at the Sustainability Conference. Meeting like-minded schools and colleagues. Working collaboratively with Skipton Girls High School. An inspirational afternoon session '**There is hope on the horizon, I see it in the eyes before me**' We were challenged today to bring a 'Waste Free' lunch. Headteacher Greenwood School. Skipton*

'This was a very successful conference for both exhibitors and schools. Our exhibition frame full of naïve British Honeybees caused a real buzz with students and teachers alike. We feel privileged to have been part of such a wonderful day and look forward to next year when we hope to be able to offer even more. We are still replying to all the enquiries about school visits with our buzzy bees and bees in schools programme which we launched at the conference.' **The Bee Centre**

Davis Penney

The students in my group agreed that we are in a Climate Emergency and urgent action is needed. They indicated that Climate Change should be a central distinct subject in the Curriculum (as it impacts on every aspect of life) and not hived off as an afterthought in or adjunct to Science or Geography subjects.

It was a great success. A wonderful experience for the children. I am in awe of the tremendous organisation you do to provide it. Susan Coop

The Sustainable Schools Website will be updated by David Reid in September 2023. This report and a gallery of pictures will be added to the Site. <https://www.school-sustainability.org/>



Our effective learning environment- just a few pictures that reflect the day

Learning for Sustainability. Learning beyond the classroom.



The Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum thanks everyone who supported this event and made it a great place to learn lots about Education for Sustainability.

The date and venue for the 2024 conference is yet to be confirmed. Please email schoolssustainabilityconferences@btinternet.com to reserve a place in the marketplace or to offer a workshop or CPD session. We hope that readers of this report will want to be part of the next event.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2024!