

THE DIRT IS GOOD PROJECT

The Dirt Is Good Schools Programme inspires and enables young people across the world to take action on the causes they care about. Below, you can find five examples of projects created by changemakers in the UK.

CASE STUDY 1: PROJECT GROW



Young Changemakers in the field, putting their skills into practice - planting trees!

A group of 12 & 13 year olds from Benfield High School in Newcastle, had the idea of growing fruit and vegetables to provide healthy options for use within school and to provide for people in the local community.

The project soon progressed as a way to **reduce CO2** by reducing the transport miles of food, raising awareness of where food actually comes from and how it grows.

Gardening, tree planting and plant identification are just a few of the skills these young people developed. The biggest impact, however, was with the young people's **confidence** and **true friendships** formed with others on the project.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:



Students have worked to restore derelict greenhouses so that they can be used by all in the school.





CASE STUDY 2: PROJECT BREATHE



A group of 10 Year 8 students from Archbishop Blanch School wanted to create a project to improve the air quality around their school, located on a very busy and polluted road.

It was important to them to **make a difference** in their local community and school, so they **planted trees** that could be used to create a **mini forest** in their local area, and to be used to learn from in subjects such as Design and Technology in school. They also planned, designed and **built wooden planters** for their school to enjoy.

When asked what they learnt through this project, students said “We learned how different trees need to be chosen to grow in certain areas, as they will die if they are not in the right conditions.”

They added “**We have learnt that we can work with charities such as Mersey Forest and the Earth Restoration Service to make a difference in areas without having to raise lots of money to make a change.**”

They have planned with their school how more spaces can be created so that everyone can experience nature.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

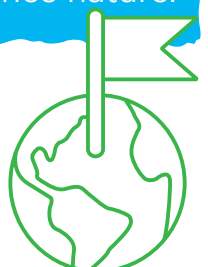
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



15 LIFE ON LAND



CASE STUDY 3:

OUR PLANET MATTERS

Young people in the Dirt Is Good Groups at Ormiston Forge Academy felt inspired to **be creative with litter**, and turn it into something beautiful. These young people ran litter art workshops and hosted a final showcase to **inspire others** at their school in the hope of **reducing litter** in their local area - all while forming great **friendships** along the way!



Students at split into **three groups** to work on tackling litter, poor air quality in their school, and also mental health and period poverty.

Students worried that there were not many plants in or around their school and wanted to do something about this. These young people decided to **write a letter** to an office plant supplier who responded and offered to run a session for many students and provide some plants for the school. Over 40 teachers now have house plants in their rooms and are already feeling the **benefits of better air quality and beautiful surroundings!**

The final project group wanted to focus on more social issues, and were particularly keen to address **mental health and period poverty** in the school. They decided to order a range of sanitary products and organised with the school cleaning team to have these displayed for anyone in need to use in the school bathrooms. They also included items like deodorant so that **everyone would benefit**. To tackle mental health, they decided to order a range of fidget toys, mindfulness colouring books and coloured pens and run a sale of these items. The money they raised was **donated to the mental health charity 'Mind'**, which they chose so that their project would also benefit the mental health of others beyond their own school population.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:



CASE STUDY

4.

SUSTAINABILITY CYCLE

Year 5 students at Foxhole Primary School designed their own sustainability cycle to grow and sell food and flowers to their local community.

Community members worked with the school, donating wooden pallets for the students to make into planters to grow their seedlings.

The students have also engaged with other year groups in their school, encouraging them to spend more time in this green space which is “beneficial for the neuro chemicals in their brain.”

Through this project, the children developed their **knowledge of plants**, furthered their understanding of where food comes from and used their **creativity** to use recycled plastics as a host for their seeds.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



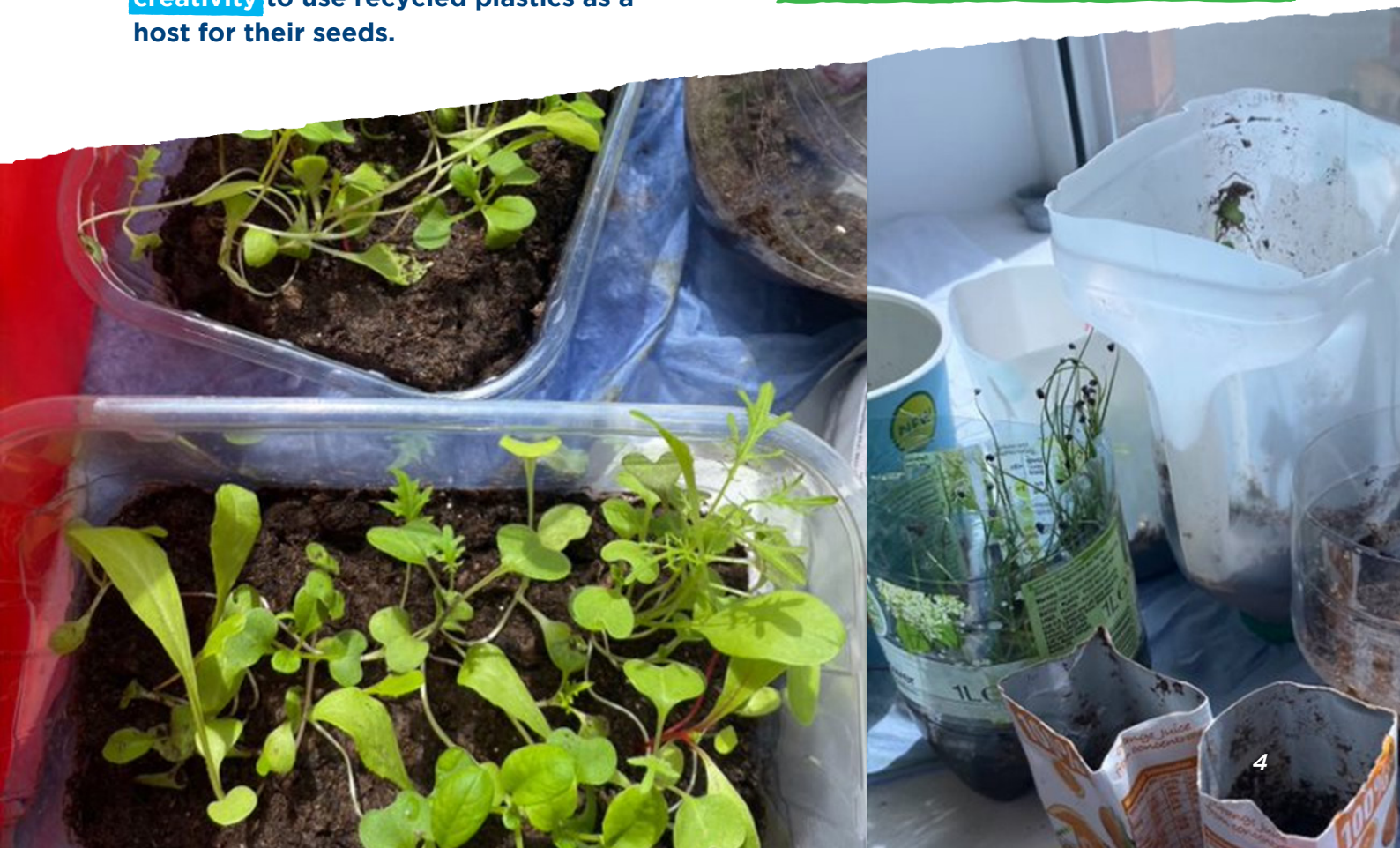
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The children have planted lettuce, coriander, broccoli and red and white spring onions.





CASE STUDY 5: STOP RACISM ON THE PITCH

Class 7WT at The Winston Churchill School started a Dirt Is Good project to combat racism in football. They collectively designed a day of football activities for the whole of their year groups.

Their aim was to show everyone can get together with
NO RACISM AND NO HATE.

When asked what they had learnt from the project, students said
“Working together to develop our skills of **compromising, listening, considering and developing ideas and reasoning.**”



These changemakers have done a great job raising awareness about this issue and have plans to continue to promote respect and equality during their **National Schools Sports Week.**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The Dirt Is Good Project is currently running in the United Kingdom, Chile and Thailand!

Explore more about the programme and get stuck in at:

DirtIsGoodProject.com