

# A Journey through Literacy and Numeracy

A case study: how Plascrug School integrated the LNF using Sustrans' Education Resource for KS2



**“Sustrans’ resource provides a great approach for pupils to learn literacy and numeracy skills in a meaningful way”**

*Carol Macy, Year 6 Teacher, Plascrug*



**96% of schools surveyed would recommend the resource to other schools**

## Embedding Literacy and Numeracy in the Curriculum

Plascrug Community School in Aberystwyth gave learners the opportunity to apply the requirements of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework [LNF] in a meaningful way that had relevance to their everyday lives.

Using Sustrans' LNF Education Resource for KS2, teachers delivered a range of lessons and activities all linked to the cross-curricular theme of active and sustainable travel.

Over the 2013-14 academic year pupils in Plascrug used the resource to develop their literacy and numeracy skills and a large number have been able to apply their learning outside the classroom. Many are deciding to travel to school actively and are confident to talk about how they get to school and why active travel is important.

We visited the school to speak to teachers, parents and pupils to find out how the resource was used to develop literacy and numeracy outcomes.

### What is Sustrans' Resource?

Sustrans LNF resource for Key Stage 2 sees each element of the framework covered at least once throughout the 28 activities.

The resource, available in Welsh and English, is aimed at years 5 and 6. Assessment for learning is integrated, with assessment challenges reflecting the format of national tests, so that schools can develop assessment strategies linked to the LNF.

For older learners, Sustrans has also produced a resource to develop outcomes of the LNF at KS3 using a thematic approach - turn to p.4 for more information.



The development, production and staff to support the resource have been funded by the Welsh Government.



## Developing Numeracy using Real Data



Teacher Carol Macy at Plascrug used the resource to give Year 6 learners a real-life context to integrate numeracy. As Carol states, “at Plascrug we have found that numeracy outcomes can be challenging to integrate, particularly around handling data, but the lesson ideas here were used to create numeracy links around the subject of active travel.” Activities in the resource develop students’ abilities to select, organise and analyse numerical data. For example, students conducted surveys about travel to school and used this to create frequency graphs and determine mean, median and mode averages. Carol adds that “our Eco Co-ordinator really appreciated the work created and it has been used as exemplar evidence for our Eco-School award.”

### Some responses to the activities from the community in Plascrug

*“You have to do some work but it’s mostly fun work.”* Pupil

*“...they are standalone, hour lessons, short, sweet, to the point, they’re visual, they’re fun, they’re a bit different.”* Teacher

*“It’s always better to do stuff that they can relate to on a practical basis.”* Parent

*“All the other times we’ve done stuff like this it’s all fake, but this time it’s actually the real thing.”* Pupil

*“Finding things that are specifically teaching the objectives of the LNF is difficult...but this resource is catering for the LNF and is hitting the targets that we need to hit.”* Teacher

*“There’s more children scooting and cycling to school and they’re more aware of why it’s a positive thing.”* Teacher

## Integrating Literacy with Structured Writing

The resource was also used to develop new opportunities for learners to produce extended writing. Using maps of the school area and a checklist, Years 5 and 6 got out and about to analyse the suitability of their immediate environment for walking, cycling and scooting. Students collated their findings by writing reports for their headteacher. Combining images, illustrations and text, students chose appropriate vocabulary and implemented writing features and layout to structure their research and ideas clearly. Carol described this as “providing a great writing opportunity for our learners, which allowed teachers and pupils to be creative with their ideas.”



## Active Travel and Children’s Rights

Travel choices affect how young people experience their rights, as laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC]. A community supporting young people to walk and cycle is upholding the best interests of the child (UNCRC Article 3): not only does active travel enable young people to arrive at school alert and ready to learn, it also affects young people’s right to healthy development (UNCRC Article 6) and their right to play and leisure (UNCRC Article 31).

With a quarter of households in Wales having no access to a car, supporting walking and cycling is a solution from which every child in Wales can benefit. Giving families and children the ability to access their local area, regardless of their financial background, is an important part of Sustrans’ work in Wales.



## What have other teachers in Wales said about Sustrans' KS2 resource:

*"A very useful resource to fire the pupils' imagination."*

*"Interesting and fun, real-life situations."*

*"Great to have a resource that so clearly allows us to link health, fitness and well-being to LNF objectives."*

*"Great links to the LNF ensured that teachers felt they were covering the skills whilst taking part in alternative activities."*

*"The resource was easy to dip into and link with other areas of the curriculum."*

*"Great way of providing numeracy/literacy activities to environmental impact. Involves the pupils and shows how they impact the world around them."*

*"The resources were very clear to follow and were very interesting and made learning 'real' for the children."*

*"Tied in nicely with Eco-Schools and Healthy Schools objectives."*



### Also available

Sustrans' **FREE** LNF resource for KS3 uses films, images, short texts and interactive activities to develop all the oracy outcomes for Year 8 through a cross-curricular project about the school journey. All classroom resources included.

Order your **FREE** copies of our LNF resources for KS2 and KS3 at: [www.sustrans.org.uk/wales/curriculum](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/wales/curriculum)

### Sustrans Cymru

Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. Our work makes it possible for people to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

Our curricular-linked resources are designed by teachers to enable young people to form considered opinions and make informed choices about the way they travel. Find out more about our work with schools and young people in Wales at [www.sustrans.org.uk/wales](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/wales)

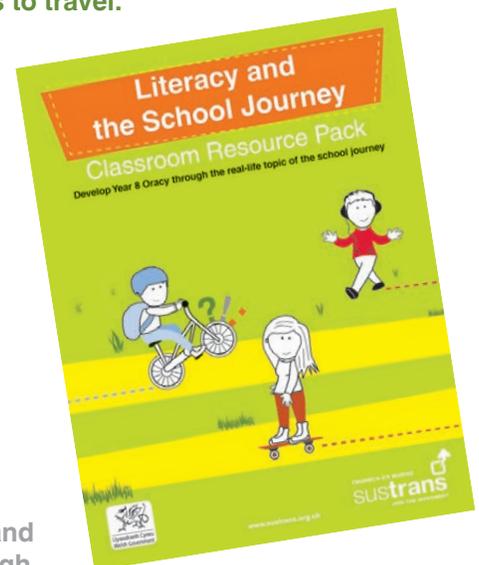
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**149 schools in Wales evaluated Sustrans' KS2 resource. 91% said the activities had changed pupils' attitudes to travel.**



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