



#SCOUSEFLOWERHOUSE



ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

A Specialist School for Sensory Impairment and Other Needs



Seeds of Change: Collective Climate Repair and Creative Action at St. Vincent's

Language of Repair – Breaking the Barriers to Climate Action

This project with funding secured by the Sensory Trust builds on exciting new climate science that highlights water's central role in climate action, offering accessible and practical ways for individuals and communities to participate in environmental restoration without requiring large-scale infrastructure changes. As climate chaos escalates, from floods to droughts, many feel limited in their ability to make a difference. This often stems from overly complex climate narratives and actions that seem out of reach.

At its core, climate change is a water crisis, manifested through increasing floods, wildfires, and droughts. This project focuses on water as the solution, engaging those who are not yet involved in mainstream climate efforts by offering simple, accessible actions to help repair the water cycle and restore landscapes. By increasing vegetation cover and improving soil health, we can store water and carbon in the land, making significant contributions to climate repair through small, manageable changes.

Project Principles:

The project will focus on two core actions to maximise water capture and improve environmental sustainability:

- **Increasing vegetation cover and diversity** – including tree planting, wildflower sowing, and creating mini forests.
- **Storing water and carbon in the soil** – through mulching, soil improvement, and creating rain gardens and mini wetlands.

Together with partners and communities, we will co-develop resources, guidance, and on-site activities, creating demonstration tools to inspire, support, and measure progress in climate action. The project will prioritise recycled and re-used materials to ensure affordability and broader participation.

Outcomes:

- **Empowerment:** Participants will gain the knowledge to identify effective and affordable climate actions, reducing feelings of powerlessness and increasing their connection to nature, sense of purpose, and motivation to act.
- **Community Engagement:** Communities will benefit from shared learning, gaining practical skills and resources to pass on to others.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Repairing local water cycles will enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, create more resilient green spaces, and support broader environmental restoration efforts.

Programme Timeline and Ambition

Work will begin in **February**, with the beginning of cutting and grout preparation to reinstate former areas to their past glory, and with an initial briefing to introduce students to the project and its alignment with the school's broader goals. This session will ensure full engagement from the start. The main activities will involve sowing wildflowers and improving soil health around the school, continuing St. Vincent's tradition of environmental initiatives, and reinforcing the school's position as a leader in sustainable practices.

In **March**, students will participate in wildflower sowing, contributing to the school's regional RHS event on-site and furthering the school's commitment to environmental sustainability. This project will also contribute to the wider environmental movement, placing St. Vincent's School firmly within both regional and national climate action efforts.

Key Themes:

- **Collective Climate Repair:** Empowering students to make small, collective actions, such as sowing wildflowers that drive long-term environmental change.
- **Creative Action:** Using artistic practices to express and deepen students' connection to the natural world and climate action.

Programme Breakdown: Suggested Sessions

Session 1: Introduction to Collective Climate Repair and the Water Cycle

- **Objective:** Introduce students to the concepts of wildflowers, soil health, and their roles in climate repair, with a focus on how small actions like planting and soil regeneration can improve the water cycle.
- **Activities:** Sensory exploration of soil, seeds, and plants; overview of wildflower sowing and its importance in biodiversity.

Session 2: The Circular Economy, Soil Health, and Water Retention

- **Objective:** Explore the circular economy with a focus on soil regeneration through composting and using recycled materials to restore soil health.
- **Activities:** Hands-on soil preparation and composting; discussion on the impact of healthy soil on the water cycle and climate resilience.

Session 3: Creative Ceramics, Songwriting, and Sowing Wildflowers

- **Objective:** Integrate creativity with climate action through hands-on activities such as ceramics and songwriting, as well as continuing wildflower sowing to support biodiversity.
- **Activities:** Sowing wildflowers around the school; creating eco-themed ceramic art; group songwriting to express thoughts on climate repair and environmental action.

Community Celebration and Performance

In **September 2025**, as part of the **British Festival of Science in Liverpool**, we will hold a celebratory event on-site at St. Vincent's, showcasing the students' work, linking to the RHS connections. This will include performances of the song created during the programme, an exhibition of the ceramics, and displays of the wildflower sowing efforts. The event will highlight the school's dedication to climate action and sustainability, providing an opportunity for local communities to engage with the work and further the region's commitment to environmental restoration.

Outcomes and Impact

The project will not only empower students to engage in meaningful climate action but also allow them to understand their work as part of a larger national and global effort to repair the water cycle, promote biodiversity, and enhance local environments. By combining hands-on learning with creative expression, this programme will help instill a sense of agency and purpose, making the experience accessible, enjoyable, and impactful for all participants.