

Five Islands School
Carn Gwaval
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 ONA



'Believe and Achieve'

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The Five Islands School is an all-age, multi-site, Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's & Tresco.

Gable end Science wall at Five Island School -STEAM.

Outline.

The gable wall opposite the exit to the science labs is a large white wall. It is a canvas just waiting for something inspirational with a science background.

After agreement with the Headteacher, that I could start the project, we met as a team of teachers to flesh out what we saw as a possible way to progress our ideas. We wanted to get an image based on the experiences that children have here on the Scillies as they grow up on the islands and progress through the school. During 'National Science week' a competition was held for the school students to suggest an outline of what the wall might look like. The result of this was combined to give the framework of the Bishop Rock lighthouse surrounded by hexagons that contained contributions from every child on the islands as well as members of the local community and possibly further away. The lighthouse is a strong image for the island community who in bad weather soon see how difficult it is to cling to a small rock in the ocean and the hexagons tessellate to form a larger and more complex image like the islanders do.

The science behind the images will be more scientifically obvious as they increase their scientific understanding and the whole wall can be used in a multitude of ways for example: which hexagons 'are alive,' 'are mammals,' 'are members of a food chain,' 'are members of a food web?' There can be many different ways the final image could be used but that really depends on how the final image develops! It will show things that are inherently Scillonian and identifiable as being part of the island and will be the spur for discussions about the science and engineering behind real things. The wall will be open to all school visitors.

The next stage is to get the whole school population across the five islands to work on the images that will fill the hexagons. This is where we needed help and approached Paula Bolton and invited her to become our resident artist for the week. She had recently been working as part of a community project entitled 'Picturing the Mines', the World Heritage Site's Tenth anniversary celebrations of mining heritage. With community involvement in the project she had recent experience of drawing ideas out within a limited time frame. We had detailed discussions about her working with the off-island children and what we hoped for as an outcome, she then agreed to help generate their hexagonal image suggestions that would be added to the planned website for the project and the science wall production.

Project Steps.

Wall design.

Primary contributions.

Initial image committed to wall.

Hexagon sampling from primary contributions.

Hexagon filling from selected designs with community help.

Website with the raw images for community viewing (and contribution).

Further image committed to wall.

Community involvement in additional hexagon design and painting.



The Five Islands School website and portal for learning can be accessed via: www.5pfl.com