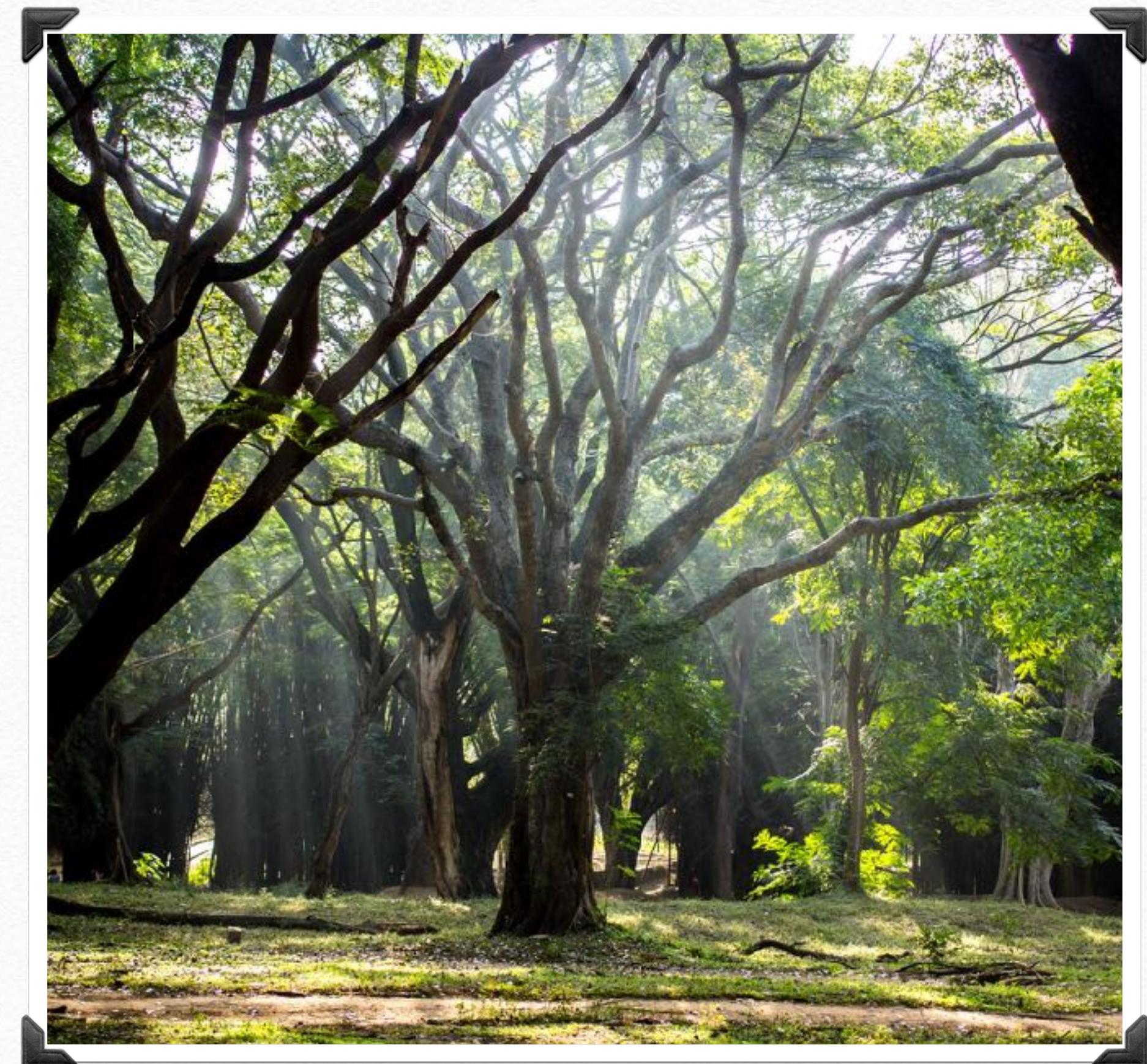


# Nature Based Education

Learning in the great outdoors

# What is NBE?

As a resident of Bangalore, you're likely familiar with the fast-paced environment of the city. But what if learning could happen outside the confines of a traditional classroom? Nature-based education (NBE) is an approach that integrates the natural world into the curriculum, fostering a love for the environment and a deeper understanding of various subjects.



# Different Schools of Thought in Nature-Based Education

- ❖ **Forest Schools:** This approach originated in Scandinavia and emphasises regular outdoor learning experiences, even during harsh weather conditions.
- ❖ **Waldorf Education:** Inspired by Rudolf Steiner, Waldorf education incorporates nature walks, gardening, and nature-inspired crafts into the curriculum.
- ❖ **Place-Based Education:** This approach focuses on connecting students to the local environment and its unique ecological and cultural features.
- ❖ **Reggio Emilia Approach:** Emphasis on child-initiated learning and rich learning environments.

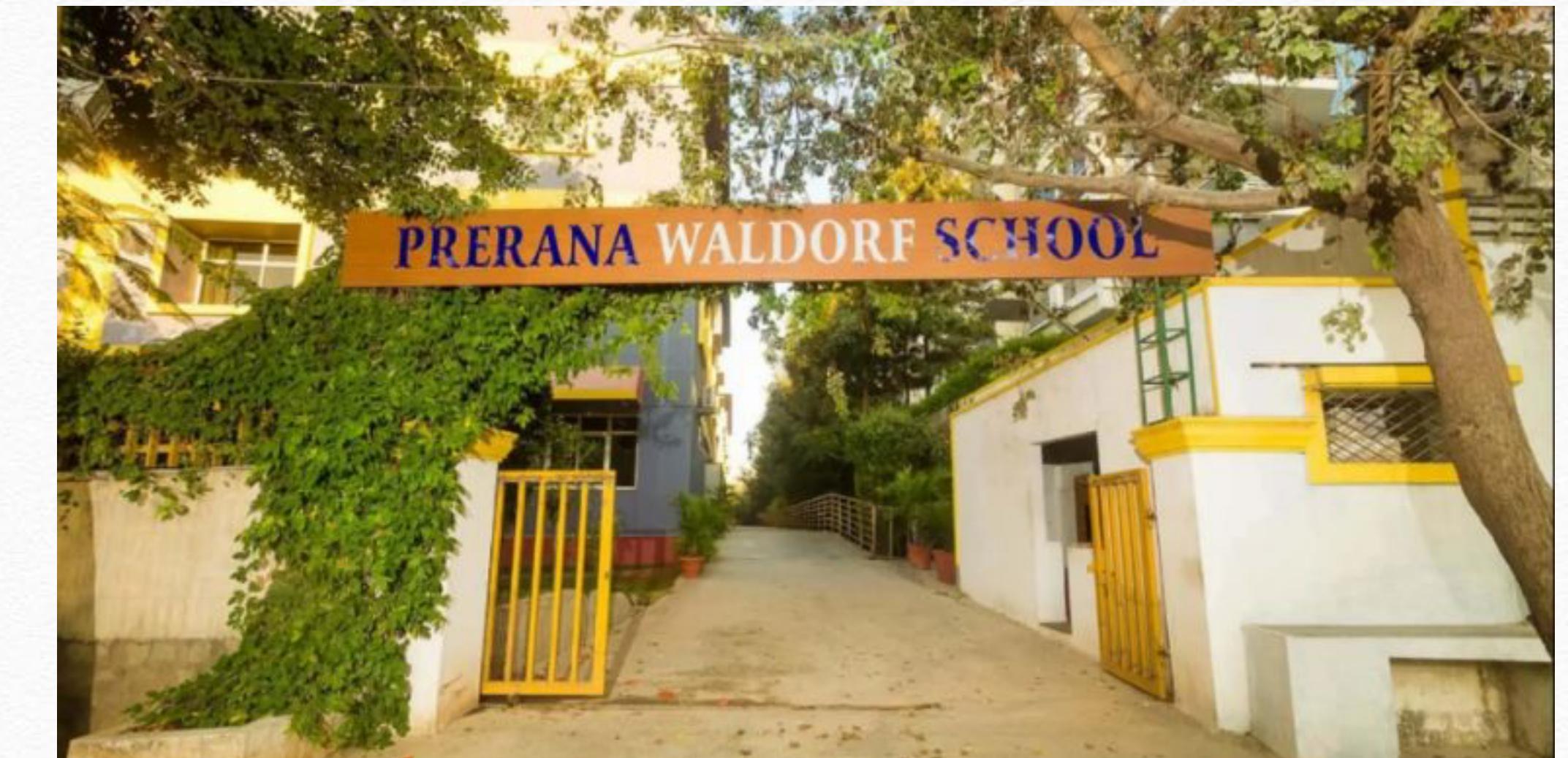
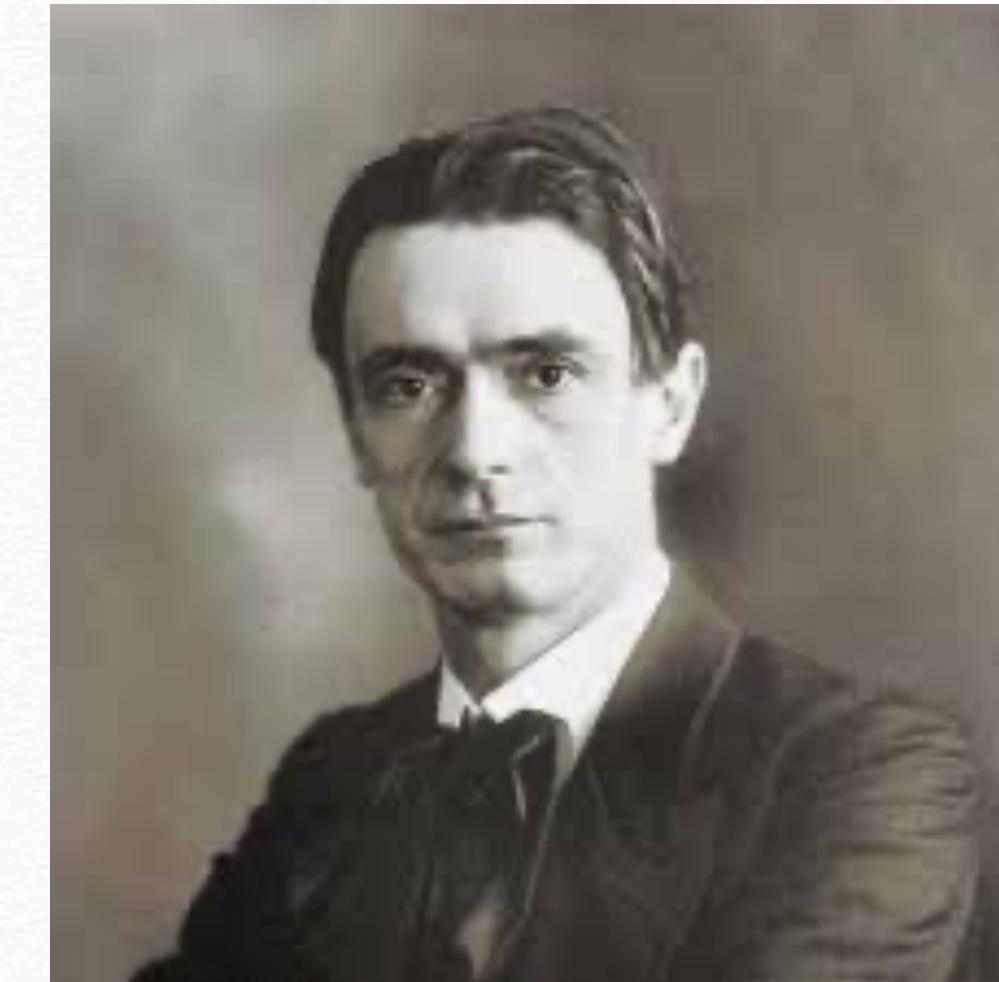
# Forest Schools

- ❖ Originated in Scandinavia, particularly Denmark.
- ❖ Emphasises regular outdoor learning experiences, regardless of weather conditions.
- ❖ Focuses on child-led exploration, risk-taking, and developing resilience.
- ❖ Often involves activities like den building, mud play, fire-making, and nature observation.



# Waldorf Education

- ❖ Founded by Rudolf Steiner, a philosopher and social reformer.
- ❖ Holistic approach that integrates art, music, and movement with academics.
- ❖ Nature is seen as a living teacher, with outdoor experiences integrated throughout the curriculum.
- ❖ Emphasises sensory learning, imaginative play, and a connection to the rhythms of nature.



# Place-Based Education

- ❖ Focuses on connecting students to the specific environment where they live.
- ❖ Curriculum is rooted in local ecology, history, and culture.
- ❖ Involves field trips, community partnerships, and hands-on projects that address local environmental issues.
- ❖ Aims to foster a sense of stewardship and belonging to the local community.



# Reggio Emilia Approach

- ❖ Originated in Reggio Emilia, Italy.
- ❖ Emphasizes the child as a competent and curious learner.
- ❖ Focuses on creating an "environment as the third teacher," where the learning space is rich in materials and opportunities for exploration.
- ❖ Nature is often integrated into the learning environment through gardens, natural materials, and outdoor exploration.



# Schools in Bangalore Pioneering Nature-Based Education

**Prakriya Green Wisdom School:** This school's philosophy revolves around education from nature. Their curriculum is designed around outdoor exploration, hands-on activities, and fostering a connection with the environment. This most closely aligns with Place-Based Education.

**The Valley School:** Known for its strong outdoor program, The Valley School incorporates nature into various subjects, encouraging students to learn through exploration and discovery. They combine elements of Forest School and Place-Based Education.

**Shibumi School:** With a focus on sustainability, Shibumi School integrates environmental education into their curriculum. Students learn about ecological principles and develop a sense of responsibility towards the planet. They strongly align with Place-Based Education and incorporates elements of Environmental Education.

**Basil Woods Nature School:** This relatively new school offers a unique nature-based curriculum for young learners. Their program emphasises play, exploration, and fostering a love for the outdoors. They most closely align with Forest Schools.

**Akshara Manèy Nature Shaalèy:** Inspired by Jiddu Krishnamurti's philosophy, this school uses nature as a learning tool. Their curriculum encourages inquiry and exploration in a natural setting. They are influenced by Waldorf Education and incorporates elements of Inquiry-Based Learning.

# Isha Foundation and other schools

- ❖ <https://youtu.be/GtgVKnIyJl4?feature=shared>
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/Wcn1trl-cg4?feature=shared>
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/LQWwYpJftfc?feature=shared>
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/E7vJ-3izKQc?feature=shared>
- ❖ [https://youtu.be/5a\\_2srojxQI?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/5a_2srojxQI?feature=shared)
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/ZoDK9NSERYU?feature=shared>

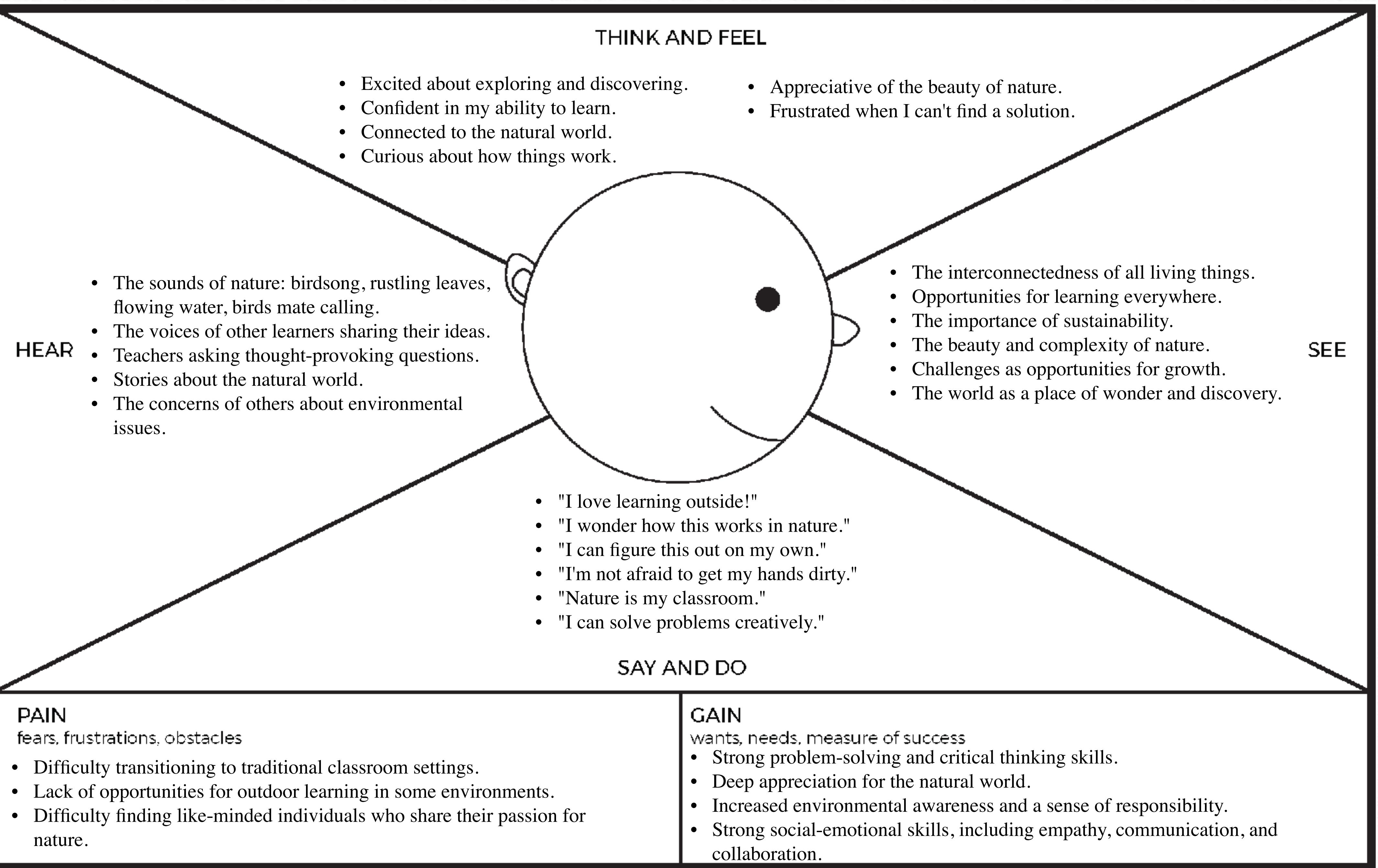
# Normal Education vs. Nature-Based Education (NBE)

## Standardised Education:

- Strong academic skills in specific subjects.
- Preparation for standardised tests.
- May lead to a focus on memorisation and less emphasis on critical thinking and creativity.

## Nature-Based Education:

- Improved academic performance in various subjects.
- Enhanced cognitive skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.
- Increased environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility towards the planet.
- Improved social-emotional development, including teamwork, communication, and self-confidence.
- Stronger connection to nature and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



# Why NBE?

- **Holistic Development:** NBE addresses the whole child, nurturing cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development.
- **Meaningful Learning:** NBE creates a more meaningful and engaging learning experience that goes beyond rote memorisation which brings them out of the confined learning space and gives them a hands on experience.
- **Preparation for the Future:** NBE equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a changing world, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and environmental stewardship.