

## Eco-Schools Primary Environmental Review

*This review is a suggested format, designed to be an audit tool for the Eco-Committee to use in your school. The questions are labelled so that you can tell which will require investigation by the pupils, which they will need to ask a member of staff about and which may take a bit of research.*

*The Eco-Schools programme does not require that you complete all the suggestions in this document. It is designed to be a stimulus that you can use to assess what happens in your school at the start of the programme and as a baseline audit each year.*

*You may not know all the answers to all the questions in each section but if you choose to work further on a topic the answers should be found by the next time you complete the review. It also might not include every possible idea that you could carry out, so please don't take the questions as exhaustive.*

*The questions will help Eco-Committee members to think of actions that can be undertaken in the school to improve the environment and the school's impact on our planet. The 3 chosen topics (1 major and 2 minor) for the year should then be put into an Action Plan.*

*Take the time to investigate every year as a lot can change over 12 months.*

**Date completed: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

**Completed by: Mrs Hutton and Eco Team**

### Key

	These are suggested links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For more ideas and information visit <a href="#">our website</a> .
	Pupils can find the answers themselves by looking carefully around the school.
	Pupils may need to ask an adult to find the answers to these questions.
	A little bit more investigation is required, maybe a survey or asking questions to other pupils.
	This is a way of <b>measuring</b> the impact that you are having on the environment so you can show how much you are improving. This is an important part of being an Eco-School.

# Litter



## Inside the school:

Is the inside of the school free from litter?		Yes ✓	No
Are there enough bins inside the school?		Yes ✓	No
Are the bins in the right places?		Yes ✓	No
Are the bins emptied often enough?		Yes ✓	No

## School grounds:

Are the school grounds free from litter?		Yes ✓	No
Are there enough bins around the school grounds?		Yes ✓	No
Are the bins in the right places?		Yes ✓	No
Are the bins suitable? E.g. does the litter blow out or are they too small/big?		Yes ✓	No
If litter is present, is it coming from children in school or from outside the school grounds?		School	Outside ✓

## Outside the school:

Is your community generally litter free?		Yes ✓	No
Are there enough bins in the community?		Yes	No ✓
Does the school help to keep the community clean?		Yes ✓	No

## General:

Does the school have a clear policy on litter?		Yes ✓	No
Do all pupils know the problems caused to the environment and wildlife by dropping litter?		Yes ✓	No
Do you keep a record of what, where, when and amount of litter found?		Yes ✓	No

## Litter action points/comments:

The eco team collect litter in the school grounds on a daily basis. The Glen Community Church which uses the school premises promotes an environmental day when members of the community can take part in a litter pick and clean-up of the area. In the past they have picked litter outside the school grounds once or twice in the year.

**This year they want to ensure they pick litter twice and as a team we are going to write to the council to have a bin erected outside the school gates.**

**Please note Eco-Schools NI consider balloon releases a form of mass littering. Having a balloon release at school may put your Green Flag status in doubt. Please consult the litter topic section of the Eco-Schools website for more information.**

## Waste



### Reduce:

Does the school use email to send newsletters?		Yes ✓	No
If you send letters, is it one per family?		Yes ✓	No
Do teachers photocopy back to back when they can?		Yes ✓	No
Do pupils bring their packed lunch in reusable containers?		Yes ✓	No

### Reuse:

Is there scrap paper trays in the classrooms?		Yes ✓	No
Are the toilet paper and hand towels made from recycled paper?		Yes ✓	No
Does the office and photocopier use recycled paper?		Yes ✓	No
Do you reuse any packaging in the classrooms (e.g. junk models)?		Yes ✓	No
Do you have a swap shop for school uniform/games/ books/DVDs?		Yes ✓	No

## Recycle:

Which of the following do you recycle? (circle or highlight)					
<u>Paper</u>	<u>Plastic</u>	Cans	<u>Cardboard</u>	<u>Clothing/Material</u>	
<u>Batteries</u>	Phones	Stamps	Glasses	<u>Food</u>	<u>Ink Cartridges</u>
Do you have a compost bin/area that is in use?				Yes ✓	No
Do you use your compost on the school grounds?				Yes ✓	No
Are there enough recycling bins around the school?				Yes ✓	No
Do the recycling bins always have the right things in them?				Yes ✓	No

## Information:

Do you measure how much waste you are preventing from going to landfill sites?		Yes	No ✓
If so, does everyone in the school know how much waste you are saving from landfill?		Yes	No
Do pupils in the school know the issues of landfill?		Yes ✓ KS2	No

## Waste action points/comments:

<p><b>There will be two Cash for Clobber collections in October and March</b></p> <p><b>The school have more recently took part in battery recycling and it has successfully recycled over 350 kg of batteries in the last 3 years.</b></p> <p><b>This year the eco team are going to use Tetra Cycle to encourage teachers and pupils to recycle old/used pens, felt tips, tipex etc.</b></p> <p><b>Bins will be placed in each classroom for suitable stationery waste.</b></p> <p><b>There will be a Waste Week again this year in March 2019, with a 'plastics' focus to inform children more about the harm it causes to the environment and the different types of plastic used in products we buy.</b></p>
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# Energy



## Gas / Oil:

Are windows and doors always kept shut when the heating is on?		Yes ✓	No
Does each classroom have a thermometer so you can try and keep the temperature at 18 degrees centigrade?		Yes ✓	No
Is there insulation in the roof of the school building to reduce heat loss?		Yes ✓	No

## Electricity:

Are lights <b>always</b> turned off in empty rooms?		Yes <b>Mostly</b>	No
Are lights turned off as soon as there is enough daylight?		Yes ✓	No
Are projectors/whiteboards, computers and monitors switched off when not in use?		Yes <b>Mostly</b>	No

## General:

Do pupils understand how our energy is generated, how it effects the environment, and the benefits of renewable energy?		Yes ✓ KS2	No
Do pupils or an adult keep track of the electricity readings?		Yes ✓ adult	No
Has the school investigated possible sources of renewable energy?		Yes	No ✓

What is your Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score? You should be able to find it in your school or <a href="#">online</a> . It's a really useful document to track your school's energy efficiency between years.		D-76-100
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## Energy action points/comments:

**As part of their daily duties (displayed on their eco warrior profile in class), the eco team will have to ensure that class monitors turn lights and IWB off when not in use and that doors/windows are closed/opened when required.**

# Water



Is the school free from dripping taps?		Yes ✓	No
Do pupils always turn the taps off fully?		Yes ✓ Turn off automatically	No
Do you have water saving devices in the toilet cisterns? <i>e.g. a Hippo bag or bottles filled with water</i>		Yes	No ✓
If you have push taps, do they dispense the right amount of water at the right speed?		Yes ✓	No
Do you have a water butt to collect rainwater for watering plants?		Yes ✓	No
Is rainwater collected and used for anything else around the school? <i>e.g. flushing toilets or maintaining pond levels</i>		Yes ✓ Water Play	No
Do you learn about water issues in other countries?		Yes ✓	No
Is the school involved in any river or coast conservation projects?		Yes ✓	No
Are pupils or an adult able to take water readings from the meter or from the utility bill? (NI Water may be able to help you with this)		Yes	No ✓

## Water action points/comments:

**The eco team will be sourcing Save a Flush bags to place in cisterns from NI Water.**

**If necessary they will be funded by fundraising from plant sales, Cash for Clobber and Santa's Grotto**

# Transport



Do most pupils walk, cycle or catch the bus to school?		Yes	No ✓
Do you survey how people travel to school?		Yes ✓ Through class Numeracy sessions and during Walk to School Week	No
Is there somewhere dry and safe to store bikes?		Yes ✓	No
Does the school provide cycle instruction for pupils?		Yes ✓ P7	No
Do you hold regular walk or cycle to school events/days?		Yes ✓	No
Is it safe to walk or cycle to school?		Yes ✓	No
Do cars park away from the entrance to the school?		Yes Coned off area	No
Do pupils understand the environmental benefits of sustainable transport?		Yes ✓	No
Have you taken part in a sustainable transport challenge i.e. the Translink Travel Challenge?		Yes ✓ P5	No

## Transport action points/comments:

**More children are travelling to school by bicycle and scooters thanks to our bicycle shed.**

**Our annual Walk to School Week will take place in May 2019**

# Outdoor Learning



Are there games painted on the playground?		Yes ✓	No
Are there murals, mosaics, sculptures or other artwork?		Yes ✓	No
Are there plenty of things for climbing and balancing on, jumping and swinging from?		Yes ✓	No
Are there quiet places to sit and talk?		Yes ✓	No
Do you grow your own vegetables or fruit in the school grounds?		Yes ✓	No
Do you have an outdoor classroom/log circle area?		Yes ✓	No
Do you have friendship stops or buddy benches?		Yes ✓	No
Are any lessons held in the school grounds?		Yes ✓	No
Do you keep count of how many lessons are held in the school grounds?		Yes	No See note
Do all pupils have the opportunity to suggest what changes or new things they would like in the school grounds?		Yes	No ✓

## Outdoor Learning action points/comments:

**As our school has lost Extended School Funding we can no longer sustain Super Saturday Eco Warrior events where parents and children could learn about the outdoors together.**

**An Outdoor Learning Club has been introduced to our 'Afterschool's' programme this year. Most Monday's about 20 children meet to help garden, tidy grounds and help develop learning areas.**

**There have been a lot of improvements to the FS and KS1 learning areas outside.**

**This year it is hoped that a reading room will be added to the FS area courtesy of the PTA.**

**It is hoped that fundraising will allow a learning board to be installed at STEM trail 4 to aid learning for KS2 children. They will benefit from Literacy, Numeracy and Science based themes prompted by questions on the learning board.**

**While all our planners in school document Outdoor Learning activities we do not keep a direct log of those that have happened.**

**The eco team with support from teachers, will record any class lessons taught outdoors this year in P3-P7. P1 and P2 teachers will record their own.**

# Biodiversity



Does the school have trees in the grounds?		Yes	No ✓
Does the school have more hedging than fencing around the parameter?		Yes	No ✓
Are some of your trees and hedging native species?		Yes ✓	No
Does your school have a pond or marshy area?		Yes	No ✓
Does your pond have an exit route for frogs, toads, newts and hedgehogs?		Yes	No
Does your school have a wildflower meadow?		Yes ✓	No
Does your school have areas of long/undisturbed vegetation linking habitats together?		Yes	No ✓
Does your school have any of the following aids to biodiversity? Please circle/highlight the ones that you have:		Yes	No
<p><u>Log pile</u>      <u>Stone pile</u>      <u>Minibeast hotel</u>      <u>Scented flowers/herbs</u></p> <p><u>Butterfly bushes</u>      <u>Bird feeders</u>      <u>Water for birds</u></p> <p><u>Bird boxes</u>      <u>Bat boxes</u>      <u>Swift houses</u>      <u>Bee homes</u></p> <p><u>Hedgehog House</u>      <u>Hedgehog passages (i.e. under/through fencing)</u></p>			
Are the school grounds free from herbicides and pesticides?		Yes	No ✓
Do you always use peat-free compost?		Yes ✓	No
Have you carried out a biodiversity survey of your school grounds?		Yes	No ✓

## Biodiversity action points/comments:

**The eco team and various year groups will be fundraising this year through plant sales/ Cash for Clobber and Santa Grotto to purchase bird baths and some additional bird feeders to STEM trail 1, 2 and 7.**

# Global Perspective



Does your school have an active link with a school in another country?		Yes	No
Do the teachers have Fair Trade tea and coffee in the staffroom?		Yes	No ✓
Are there any other Fair Trade products used in school? (fruit juice, footballs, bananas)		Yes	No ✓
Do pupils recognise the Fair Trade symbol and understand its meaning?		Yes P7	No
Do you have any visitors from the local community/Eco-Schools delivery partners to talk about local or global issues?		Yes ✓	No
Are pupils aware of their Rights and Responsibilities (linked to the UN convention on the Rights of the Child)?		Yes ✓	No
Do you have any whole school awareness days to support people in other countries/situations?		Yes ✓	No
Do you ever raise money or collect clothing/toys for charities working in developing countries?		Yes ✓	No
Are pupils aware of, or are lessons linked to, the UN Sustainable Development Goals?		Yes	No
Do pupils understand that choices/behaviours in the developed world can effect people in the developing world in an unfair way?		Yes	No ✓

## Global Perspective action points/comments:

**Teachers are aware that Fair Trade products are not chosen for the staff room. This will be discussed through the year and action taken next year**

Do you have a fruit tuck shop that is run by pupils?		Yes	No ✓
Are pupils encouraged to bring fruit for break?		Yes ✓	No
Do you measure how many pupils bring a healthy break/lunch to school?		Yes ✓	No
Do pupils have the opportunity to suggest what healthy choices they would like to include in the dinner/canteen menu?		Yes	No ✓
Is there free drinking water available to pupils all day?		Yes ✓	No
Do all pupils get to experience growing and then eating their own food at school?		Yes ✓  Most year groups	No
Is there a fitness programme established in the school?		Yes ✓	No
Does the school invite outside health agencies to come and talk to pupils about their health?		Yes ✓	No
Does the school have an anti-bullying policy?		Yes ✓	No
Does the school run any mindfulness and meditation lessons?		Yes	No ✓

## Healthy Living action points/comments:

**Most teachers have incorporated and use the polytunnel in their lessons throughout the year.**

**P1- cress/apples**

**P2- lettuce/carrots**

**P3 – apples/beans**

**P7 - potatoes**

**Children in most year groups benefit from the apples in the orchard. It is hoped that as the blackberry and raspberry bushes mature they can also benefit from these berries.**

**As time progresses it is hoped that all year groups will grow veg/fruit to eat.**

# Climate Change



Do pupils understand the difference between weather and climate?		Yes KS2	No
Is there an understanding of the contributing factors to climate change i.e. the use of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere?		Yes ✓ Age appropriate level	No
Do some classes study the effects of climate change on different people and wildlife around the world?		Yes ✓	No
Do pupils understand their carbon footprint and know ways to reduce it?		Yes ✓ Age appropriate level	No
Which of these things do you do to reduce the school's carbon footprint: Circle all that you are doing:  <u>Walk/cycle/take the bus to school</u> <u>Recycle all the waste you can</u>  <u>Buy local food</u> <u>Carpool to school</u> <u>Save energy</u>  <u>Plant trees</u> <u>Use less plastic and paper</u> <u>Save water</u>  <u>Offset air travel through the Global Forest Fund</u>		Yes	No
Do you measure any of the above actions you have taken?		Yes Batteries	No
If yes, have you used an online carbon calculator to see how much carbon you are saving? <i>Hint one is available in the Eco-Schools Resource Library.</i>		Yes	No ✓

## Climate Change action points/comments:

**The school take part in a Walk to School Week and Tran slink Travel Challenge. With the installation of the bicycle shed many more children are travelling to school in this way.**

**We are hoping to recycle stationery this year through Tetra Cycle. This will be monitored.**