

Sheila Baillie  
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18/05/2023

Dear Sheila Baillie and Mandy Whorlow,

### **Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback**

Congratulations to everyone at Portpatrick Primary School for achieving an amazing 6th Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award!

I have very much enjoyed reading through your journey. You have worked really hard on your wide-ranging actions to make your school a more environmentally friendly place to be. Well done!

You have fitted a huge number of amazing actions into the past year since I reviewed your last application, and it is fantastic to see that your whole school and community are involved in your Eco-Schools work. You have clearly embraced sustainability and made it part of your school ethos, which is brilliant.

You have done fantastic work to connect to your local community on this journey. Your partnership with ONUS has obviously been very rewarding. It is lovely to see the photos of them joining you to collect so much litter on your Spring Clean litter pick. Your new fruit trees from Incredible Edible look great and I'm sure they will be a great benefit to pupils and local wildlife. Make sure you have a plan in place to look after your trees as they grow and mature.

You have learned a huge amount on this journey, and it is great to see how much of your Eco-Schools work relates to the curriculum. You have used your Energy topic to embrace extensive opportunities to learn about renewable and sustainable energy sources, whilst creating partnerships with lots of local organisations in the process. I especially like the sound of your Lego Wedo kits. It is great that you were able to link your learning about energy to what you do outside school by pledging to reduce energy waste at home.

You have obviously had a lot of fun carrying out your Eco-Schools actions, which helps towards your Health and Wellbeing topic. It is great that you could experience the health benefits of music with Feis Rois and the Lighthouse Musicians. You have evidently learned a lot about keeping yourselves safe from local experts, which is brilliant. I love how much tasty food you have learned to make to help keep yourselves healthy. I especially like the look of your yummy Halloween treats. Congratulations on your silver Rights Respecting Schools award and your completion of your active school challenge.

You have worked really hard to benefit your local and national community on this journey through your reverse advent calendar, winter clothing sharing and supporting charities such as Children in Need and Red Nose Day. It is fantastic that you promoted biodegradable noses for Red Nose Day.

Well done on all your work to reduce waste on this journey. You have done some great work to reuse lots of different materials and recycle those that could not be reused. It was great that you were able to identify that food wrappers were a source of litter in your grounds and took action to encourage the use of bins and healthy, packaging free snacks to combat this issue.

For your next journey, keep up all the good work with reusing materials. I hope you can continue with your plans to hold another book swap event. Think about whether there are any other items you could reuse at a swap event, such as everyday clothes and shoes.

It is great that you got involved with Sustrans to try and increase active travel to school, identifying ways to make this work in your rural community. I hope this is something you can continue and maybe expand on to improve physical health, as well as combatting climate change.

For your next journey, I would challenge you to take your energy learning further and try to calculate your school's carbon footprint and use this information to reduce your school's greenhouse gas emissions. We have a resource to help you do this, which is available in our Eco-Schools resources page. This is a tricky task, but I think it is one you can achieve.

Overall, you have done a fantastic job and are highly deserving of this Green Flag Award. Tomorrow will definitely be a better day if we work together.

As you continue your Green Flag renewal journey, remember that you should plan to log on to the application site and start your new journey right away. After you have elected your new Eco-Committee, completed your Environmental Review, chosen three Topics (one of which must be Climate Action) and one UN Sustainable Development Goal, you will then submit your Draft Action Plan for approval before you begin work, ideally within three months of your last award date.

Please make sure that the three Topics you choose cover the same two-year period and that all three Topics are linked to your chosen UN Sustainable Development Goal. Do not forget to include all activities and ideas you have in your Action Plan to make sure they are all captured. With the online system we encourage you to upload as you go, in real time.

Congratulations once again and we wish you every success as you move on to your next application.

The Education and Learning Team

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