

Mandy Whorlow
Headteacher
St Joseph's RC Primary School
Lewis Street
Stranraer
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04/04/2025

Dear Mandy Whorlow and Dawn Mann,

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback

Congratulations on achieving your Green Flag Award!

Starting with Litter & Waste, I really liked how proactive you've been with your regular litter picks. It was great to see that these aren't just limited to the school grounds—you've taken your actions into the wider community and even the beach! The way you've involved your Eco Committee and set up a proper rota shows great organisation, and the partnership with community safety wardens adds another brilliant layer of learning. I especially enjoyed reading about your contributions to campaigns like the Great British Beach Clean—it's fantastic to see your pupils taking part in such important national efforts. I also thought your rag bag collections and uniform swap shop were brilliant practical solutions. They're not only eco-friendly, but also supportive for families. The fact that you've found so many ways to encourage reusing and recycling in school is great.

When I looked at your Climate Action work, I was really inspired by how many creative and meaningful activities you've included. From encouraging reusable water bottles to hosting swap shops for Halloween costumes, you've thought about both environmental impact and inclusion. It's great that you had participation in Earth Hour and Walk to School Week, and the fact that you included lessons on food miles, sustainable diets, and renewable energy made it all the more powerful. The Glasgow Science Centre Roadshow and TechSheCan webinars were great way to engage pupils in climate education through fun and accessible learning. Well done.

There's so much going on in your School Grounds topic. I loved the mural designed by the children, and your creation of squirrel habitats, fruit orchards, and pollinator-friendly planting was just fantastic. You've not only improved your school's outdoor space, but you've created so many opportunities for pupils to connect with nature in a personal, meaningful way. It's great that you've involved local groups like the Red Squirrel Organisation and Incredible Edible makes it even more special. I also thought your improvements to play equipment, storage, seating, and outdoor shelters showed a real commitment to wellbeing and enjoyment of outdoor learning.

Once again, congratulations on achieving your Green Flag Award, you'll all very deserving of it! We invite you to celebrate your fantastic achievements this year by taking part in our Eco-Schools Celebration Week. Get involved by hosting a One Planet Picnic during the week 9 -13 June and joining us for our celebration assembly with other Eco-Schools nations on Friday 13 June. You can find resources to help you plan your picnic and register for the assembly on our celebration page: www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/eco-schools/celebrate/

Your award is due for renewal on 04/04/2027.

Your next steps are to select your Eco-Committee, complete a new Environmental Review and write a draft Action Plan for the aims that you want to work towards in the next two years. Please remember that you should plan your work around Climate Action plus at least two other Topics and you must include at least one litter pick per year. We advise that you start a new online application and upload your draft Action Plan within three months of the date of this letter.

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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