

Lorraine Brown
Headteacher
Glenwood Family Centre
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20/09/2022

Dear Lorraine Brown and Marion Cunningham,

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback

Congratulations to everyone at Glenwood Family Centre for achieving your 7th Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading through your application and learning about the fantastic work you have carried out during this journey. We appreciate how challenging these times have been and celebrate that you were able to keep your Eco-Schools work going on despite all. You have covered all Seven Elements of the Eco-Schools programme.

Despite the restrictions that have been in place, staff and children have shown commitment and determination in completing your planned actions. Well done

Your actions were very positive, and it is wonderful to see that the children have been covering a really good range of issues through their work.

The children have achieved a good understanding of your chosen Sustainable Development Goal, Good Health and Wellbeing, as well as having learned about Litter prevention, reducing environmental pollution, Waste Minimisation, Waste Management, and food and the Environment through engaging, dynamic, and interactive activities throughout the journey.

Your Eco-Code has displayed a clear message of the school's mission in how the children can contribute to the solutions of Climate Change. I like how you have used the tune of the Addams Family to draw attention to your Eco-Schools' work.

You have used the noticeboard well sharing your eco vision, values, targets, and achievements this has helped to keep the whole school community up to date about your Eco-Schools work.

It is great to see that Learning for Sustainability is embedded within the curriculum. This has helped the children to achieve a better understanding of how to build a socially-just, sustainable, and equitable society. I loved hearing how you built upon the children's curiosity by enriching experiences across the curriculum. This has also provided the children with the opportunity to continually explore Eco and Environmental issues.

Your links with the community has allowed the children to take an active role in their community to work with others to make our planet more peaceful, sustainable, and fairer; and to foster responsible behaviour within the school and wider community. What a caring act of sending eco-hearts to the care home has helped to develop empathy and to increased sense of social connectedness.

By carrying out litter picks and sorting litter the children have been able to play a part in caring for the environment and bring about positive change in their centre and community. These activities have also allowed the children to learn about the harm litter can cause and how to dispose waste correctly. It was nice to hear that your practice in litter picks has provided valuable information for future events. It was great to learn that a reduction of litter was noticed by staff and the children. The discussions encouraged during litter picking has allowed the children to become aware that littering is an issue that needs engagement from everyone. Celebrating Earth Day and taking part in COP26 activities has helped developed the children's understanding of what climate change is and how they can contribute to the solutions of climate change. These activities have also intrinsically motivated children to think about Litter and waste responsibly. Carrying out plastic waste audits has helped you to identify your current methods of handling plastic waste and to determine what improvements can be made. The audits have also helped you to gain understanding of your waste materials, achieve better recycling levels, and identify recycling targets. It would be nice to see what actions you could implement to reduce further your plastic food print in a future application.

It was great to hear that the fundings have helped you to organise different events and activities, that allowed staff and children to learn new things about planting and growing. Growing your own foods was helped enhance the pupils understanding of how plants grow and develop; how to look after them; and how growing your own foods contributes to sustainable lifestyles. Using the harvest for snack and in basic food preparation techniques to help enhance children's life skills. The Family Fun Bags allowed you to share learning and has also allowed children to not only take actions in the centre but also at home. The Gardening activities have helped to promote a sense of exploration and discovery and has allowed the children to become aware of the features of their local environments and wildlife. These activities have also allowed the children to develop their sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them and has allowed them to play and learn in all seasons within a rich and sensory learning environment. Exploring food mileage has helped to develop children's awareness of where their foods come from; the distance foods travels; and the carbon footprint that goes along with it. The wormery has helped to develop the children understanding of natural biological processes and that everything is connected in nature. This should also have helped them to understand that it's important to preserve their environment and how to build a healthy relationship with it.

The Beat the Street Initiative has allowed the children to explore the ways journeys can be made; consider the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of transport; and discuss their impact on the environment. Walking in the community and exploring the Ziggy books has allowed children to demonstrate how to travel safely. These walks have also allowed the

children to build a sense of identity within the community. The children have developed comprehension in Health and Wellbeing as part of their involvement in Wellbeing Buddies initiative – Save the Children, 30dayswild, Ballet initiative, and outdoor activities and play. These activities have also allowed the children to learn that being active is a healthy way to be and have helped to enrich social skills.

I was very inspired with all the outstanding work you have done to enhance the children's Holistic health and wellbeing by involving their internal and external families. All your actions have helped to develop the children's understanding that by contributing their views, time, and talents, they can play a part in bringing about positive change in our school and wider community.

The children's efforts throughout the journey should support them to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors.

Achieving a Green Flag Award means a good amount of versatility and commitment from staff and the children. The application shows that the highly qualified and motivated practitioners went above and beyond in taking a holistic approach supporting the children with their Eco-journey by creating coherent, rewarding, and transformative learning experiences.

Please, be aware that since August 2021 the topics of Litter and Waste Minimisation have merged into one. Since September 2022 Climate Action is our new Core Topic. For future journeys we still like to encourage you to carry out a (Community) litter pick as litter picks are a simple activity to enhance children's understanding of the harm litter can cause, provide practical skills to prevent litter from happening, and to foster long-term positive behavioural change in their communities and beyond.

Keep up the outstanding work and a big congratulations again to Glenwood Family Centre from everyone at Eco-Schools Scotland!

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 Litter & Waste) 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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