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Introduction

“Our ambitions must live up to the scale of the challenge, and our actions must live up to our ambitions” - Nicola Sturgeon

Saint Joseph's Primary School is committed to educating our pupils and wider community about the importance of protecting and cherishing our environment and raising awareness of climate change. The school recognises that it has a duty to develop our pupils within the Four Capacities as well as inviting them to be stewards of all of God's creation.

“You are called to care for creation not only as responsible citizens, but also as followers of Christ!” - Pope Francis

In line with this call to action and Developing the Young Workforce, Saint Joseph's hopes to prepare our children with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution by improving our local area. We therefore aim to develop good habits and behaviour patterns amongst staff, pupils and the parish.

This Eco Policy was established in October 2019, and we will reflect on our journey in 2021.

What is Global Citizenship

“Developing global citizenship within Curriculum for Excellence is about recognising our responsibilities towards each other and the wider world. The outcome will be our young people as global citizens, able to take up their place in the world, contribute to it confidently, successfully and effectively, understanding the rights and responsibilities of living and working in a globalised world.” Education Scotland, 2010.

Learning in an international context is an essential element of Curriculum for Excellence which is designed to prepare our children to meet the challenges of the

21st century. Global citizenship equips learners with the skills, knowledge and values which they will require to understand and address complex global issues. Within the context of our Eco Policy, we aim to help our pupils understand the interdependence between people and the environment and the impact of actions, both local and global, now and in the future.

Not only is it an essential part of the Curriculum for Excellence, but it is also the right of every child, as stated by the UNCRC.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Aims and Objectives

The Eco Committee plays a key role in raising awareness and understanding of the effects of our actions upon the environment in which we live and work. Within Saint Joseph's, we encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the local, national and global picture.

The ways in which we strive towards this goal is:

- To develop a whole school approach in promoting environmental awareness with pupils, staff, parents and members of the local community.
- To create a sustainable environment within the school.
- To develop an awareness of global and environmental issues through our teaching of Curriculum for Excellence.
- To empower our children to make decisions.
- To achieve the next Green Flag Award through 'Eco Schools'.

In order to achieve these aims we shall:

- Participate in a number of nationally run environmental activities, such as Switch Off Fortnight, The Big Pedal and The Big Battery Hunt.
- Run school-wide competitions to encourage positive shifts in behaviour around environmental issues. (Wrapper free Friday etc)
- Continue our Eco Schools work, in order to renew our Green Flag.
- Share our Eco-Code with the wider community through our eco notice board and website, as well as encouraging home activities through homework and family events.
- Hold an annual Environment Week. This may be in conjunction with STEM Week

- Ensure that we educate pupils and demonstrate practically, that we care for the world we live in by providing and protecting habitats for indigenous species of plants, insects, birds and mammals.
- Ensure our curriculum includes global dimension including Fairtrade.
- Review our school travel plan annually.
- Promote car-sharing, public transport, walking and cycling to and from school, to pupils, parents and staff.
- Recycle as much of our waste as we can, exploring ways to further recycle our waste and encouraging staff, pupils and parents to recycle through the school where appropriate e.g. providing a clothes recycling bank, battery recycling bucket, shoe collections, STEM resources buckets, Mary's Meals bags, pen recycling etc.
- Continue to seek ways of reducing our usage of energy, water and resources.
- Encourage our pupils to take their ideas home and share them with their family and friends.
- Ensure that one term per session will be given over to IDL involving Environmental Issues, or Global Citizenship.
- Provide CLPL for staff in order to better equip them to teach about these Environmental Issues in an engaging way.
- Create a bank of resources which can be used by teachers and families to ensure continuity in learning for our children.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of School

- Provide recycling bins for different materials, including food waste.
- Ensure that we adhere to Sustainable procurement duty of the Scottish Government (<https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/sustainable-procurement-duty/>, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/sustainable-procurement-duty-tools/>)
- Share activities and achievements with the wider community through Twitter and the school website.
- Raise issues and achievements with the PTA to ensure transparency and parental involvement/support.
- Ensure that the school kitchen conforms to our environmental ethos where possible.

Role of Teachers

- Undertake CLPL opportunities to ensure high quality learning.
- Provide rich and meaningful learning opportunities for all children, using real-life contexts and exploring real-world issues.

- Set a good example to learners of how to be Global Citizens: reducing waste in the classroom; recycling where possible; encouraging this behaviour in children; encouraging children to avoid food waste at lunch.

Role of Learners

- Work as part of the school family towards our common goal.
- Take responsibility for their actions; helping with litter-picking, recycling, and reducing waste.
- Look after the school garden and trees.
- Share their learning with other learners and family members.
- Bring a reusable water bottle to school every day.

Role of Parents and Carers

- Encouraging children to continue good practice at home.
- Consider snacks with reduced packaging.
- Encourage healthy eating of fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Attend school-led activities where possible.

Ways to Get Involved

- 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' topic (<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org>)
- Wrapper Free Friday
- The Big Battery Hunt
- The Big Pedal
- Switch Off Fortnight
- Help with the school garden
- Volunteer for master classes related to environmental issues
- Mary's Meals bags
- Tweet Your Treat
- Grow £5/Circular Economy
- Masterclasses
- Donate used books
- Donate to charity shops
- Recycle Week (23rd - 29th Sept. The theme will be '**Recycling. It's in our own hands**')
- Switch to the ECOSIA search engine

Useful Resources

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk>

<http://www.gtcs.org.uk/web/FILES/the-standards/standard-for-career-long-professional-learning-1212.pdf>

https://issuu.com/ltscotland/docs/dgc_resource

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org>

https://www.scilt.org.uk/Portals/24/Library/resources/Learning_together_international_education.pdf

<https://www.yearofengineering.gov.uk/feature/eco-innovators-competition>

<https://practicalaction.org/>

https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources?tag_filter_1_title=&tag_filter_2_title=175&tag_filter_3_title=&resource_search_action=search#resources_search

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

<http://www.recycling-guide.org.uk/schools.html>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/getting-started/recycling-at-school/set-up-scheme>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/recycle-week-campaign>

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/recycle-week-2020/>

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/recycle-week-2019>