

Eco-Schools Scotland Interim Green Flag application



Our Green Flag Journey: Cross Arthurlie Primary
G78 1JF

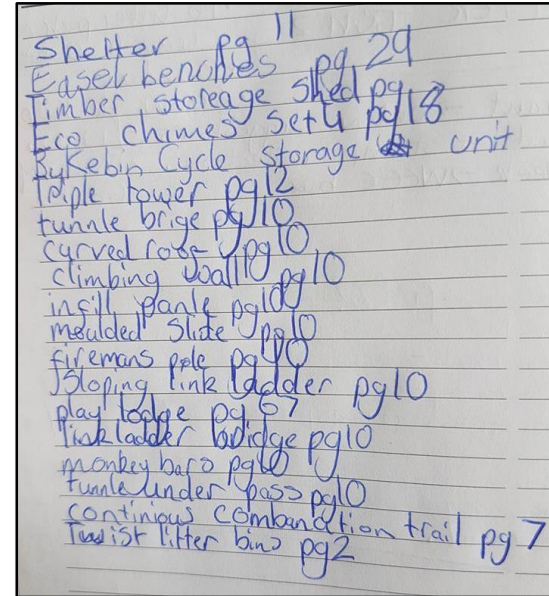
By: Lucy, Ella, Gillian, Emma, Brooke, Molly, Kaitlin,
Dean, Rory, Hayley, Sophie, Arran and Aimee
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Eco-Schools is a pupil-led award, please make sure that this is reflected in your answers and that any photos submitted are clear and represent what you are trying to communicate.

Our Voice (1 of 6)

How did you form your Eco-Committee? How did you make decisions? Please share a story that demonstrates your success as a committee.

- There is a whole school application process and pupils and staff vote on representative for each class (P2 – 7).
- Transition Committee meeting (held annually in June)– old committee shares experiences, lessons and hopes with future committee. Members of the management team and parent council attend.
- Cross party meetings, discussions and decisions – eco committee worked with the pupil council, janitor and head teacher.
- Dedicated parent council – eco committee have presented and shared ideas in parent council meetings. Parents communicate often with committee and are invited to sit in on meetings each term.
- Tesco Greenspace Funding – encouraged community to work together. Parents, Staff and Pupils discussing changes they want to make to the school grounds to improve it for pupils and families. Eco Committee discussed these suggestions and chose their priorities. Families and friends of the school getting involved in projects.



When awarded with Tesco Greenspace funding, the Eco Committee gathered ideas from pupils, parents and staff on what to spend the money on. They then looked through brochures from local businesses to pick items that matched the given suggestions.

Our Learning Experience (2 of 6)

Which topics did you choose and why? Please provide details of how you linked your Action Plan to the school curriculum.

Environmental Review conducted annually in September – discussed points that had arisen as a committee along with our Management Team. We all agreed on these three topics:

Litter, Energy and School Grounds

School grounds was a big focus – everyone in Cross Arthurlie loves and takes care of their school grounds but many children had made the observation that there wasn't much in it. Previously, it has been thought of as being 'too risky' to place things in our 'open' playground for fear of vandalism. Other people were leaving litter at night. We knew we had to make a change. Aimee mentioned that if we clearly show that we really respect our grounds then other people will too.

We created our action plan and generated ideas. We developed our skills in mathematics when collecting and analysing data. We also worked creatively with others to create a solution to various problems and design problems. We have spoken in front of large audiences and developed our presentation skills when speaking to adults from our parent council, management team, janitorial services and local businesses.



Classes have taken responsibility of caring for the outdoor grounds, learning how to preen, plant and grow herbs from members of the community



On the 50th anniversary of the school, the Eco Committee decided to celebrate by creating a memory garden from pebbles painted by past and present pupils. They planned and organised a painting day as well as working with the janitor to measure out the plot and install the stones. The parent council provided the tree. Each year the P7 leavers will add stones to the garden.

Measuring Progress (3 of 6)

How did you know that you were doing a good job? What did you measure and how did you measure it? Can you provide some figures?

At Cross Arthurlie, we feel communication is one of the most valued measures of progress. If we remain in consistent open discussion with pupils, parents, staff and local businesses then we will be able to gauge the true impact of our work and how we can progress.

Litter – Litter picking events and litter free days where we took pictures and recorded how much litter was collected or how many pupils engaged in litter free days. We placed photos on our website, newsletter and local newspaper. We even got a mention on a local radio show! We got positive feedback from pupils and families about our projects. Additionally, even though our school are excellent at recycling paper, we felt that we were sending too much paper away to recycle. Therefore, Recycling Champions were elected in each class ensured that we recycled less bags over the year and Aimee surveyed the classes in Term 3.

Energy – Energy Focus Week survey.
WEEE bin (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) – took photos and created a pictograph of all the electrical items people recycled instead of throwing away.

School Grounds – Worked with local Tesco Barrhead to create a 'before and after' picture scrapbook of our ongoing work in grounds. Collected feedback from pupils about new playground games and took photos of children enjoying them.



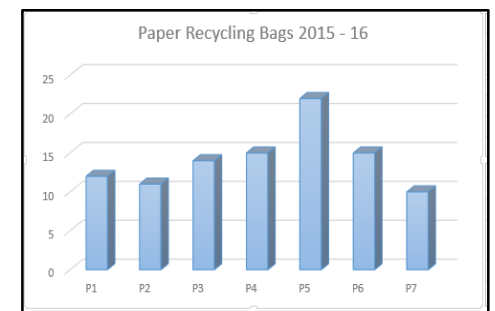
Community Litter Picking Event 2015 with East Renfrewshire Council's Michelle Thompson.



WEEE bin with a learning wall about at our Eco Noticeboard. The children took photos of recycled items.



P 5 – 7's enjoying their new playground games first thing in the morning!



Eco Members gathered data from classes on how much paper they'd recycled instead of litter being taken outside and dropped or thrown away.

Sharing Success (4 of 6)

How did you involve the rest of the school and community? Do you have a story about this?

In order to give the whole school a voice, each class has an Eco class representative who share ideas at regular meetings. We share our progress with the whole school community through issuing a termly Eco Schools newsletter as well as updating our school website, Twitter and Eco Blog.

When awarded with our Tesco grant, the children gathered ideas from all classes, parents and staff on how the money should be spent. All Eco reps spoke with their classes and teachers and created a 'wish list'. Hayley and Emma attended a cross party meeting with the Parent Council in order to gather ideas. The parents were motivated to help in any way possible and gave Hayley lots of ideas for involving the local community that she could take back to the Eco Committee. Twitter was also used to encourage more parents to contact the school with any ideas or skills they could offer. The whole school were informed of the final 'wish list' at assembly which revealed some of the most popular suggestions. These were also included in Term 3's newsletter.

School Website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/CrossArthurlie/school-life-3/eco-schools/>

Eco Blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/bbhcaecoschools/>

Press: Barrhead News (local newspaper):

[http://m.barrheadnews.com/news/14385837.Kind_heart_ed_Cross_Arthurlie_pupils_prove_their_sporting_credentials/\[URL\]/](http://m.barrheadnews.com/news/14385837.Kind_heart_ed_Cross_Arthurlie_pupils_prove_their_sporting_credentials/[URL]/)

Press: Pulse Radio (local community radio station):

Michelle Thompson from East Renfrewshire Council talked about how she has worked with our school on community litter picks.



P5 pupils awarded with 1st prize and £500 for Eco development in Cross Arthurlie at the CRNS *Next Big Idea* Competition at their Annual Conference at the Scottish Parliament. The children shared photos from their experience at assembly.

Evaluate and Celebrate (5 of 6)



Was your Green Flag Journey a success? Please collect and insert comments from the following people...

- Pupils - It's so important to do what you can to look after the environment. If everyone does their bit to look after their school and house and community then the planet will be a better place.
- Parent – I like to see the children taking responsibility of their school. They've been learning so many skills and the ideas that they come up with amaze me. As parents, we feel like we've really been able to help make a difference in the school through working with the committee.
- Teacher – It has been excellent to see the children working creatively together towards a shared goal. Children across all stages were motivated to create positive change and influence their peers, parents and staff.
- Head Teacher- A very well prepared action plan and everything on it was achieved. It was nice to see lots of different people involved in implementing change in the school. The committee was well led.
- Community member – The school grounds are looking much more interesting and colourful. It's been good to get involved in gardening with the children, passing new skills onto them. Seeing the children out and about in the local area has definitely sent out a positive message to others.
- Local Partner: Community Group, Business or Environmental Organisation – Tesco/ Greenspace – We are continuing to work with Cross Arthurlie to develop their school grounds to include things such as an outdoor classroom, vegetable patch and substantial playground equipment. We are working together to create more opportunities for community projects. Our community litter picking events have been a success.

If you did work with a partner what was their role? How are you continuing to work in partnership?

Next Steps... (6 of 6)



- Please check that you have provided us with evidence that you're happy with. We may use it to share with others as part of our new application/assessment process.
- Make sure that you have permission to share photos
- Save this as a pdf (yourschoolname.pdf)
- Send it as an attachment to sde@keepscotlandbeautiful.org along with a copy of your **Action Plans** covering the renewal/award period
- Email title: School Name Our Green Flag Journey

Explore...



We'll be in touch soon to let you know the result of your application. Until then have a think about what you want to do for your next Green Flag application and how that fits in with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.