



Anne Marie Absolom
Headteacher
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Dear Anne Marie Absolom and Lauren Leyden,

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award status

I am delighted to confirm that your school has successfully attained an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. This is an outstanding achievement, so please pass on our congratulations to everyone involved. I suggest that you write to your local MSP and press to make them aware of your award, as it is truly worthy of recognition. Well done!

Assessment Feedback

Congratulations St Clare's Primary School on successfully achieving your first Green Flag Award! The work carried out during this journey has been fantastic despite the challenges and interruptions brought by the pandemic, and it has been a pleasure to assess your application. Your chosen topics of Litter, Energy and Waste Minimisation were all covered extremely well, showing your commitment to each of these topics and to your chosen SDG of Responsible Consumption. You have covered all seven elements of the Eco-Schools programme, with an excellent Eco-Committee that has involved and engaged every stage within the school, taking great responsibility for their role while also sharing their work and passion. It was clear to see that the use of a wonderful noticeboard was key on this and I thought your Eco Code and the many mottos that you have used during this journey were all extremely inspiring. You have demonstrated a very good capacity for monitoring your actions and reflecting upon the results, a great approach at using your actions as an opportunity for learning and attaining the curriculum, and an excellent practice of connecting with the wider community through your work. We know this has been a particularly complex period due to the pandemic, so a very big 'well done' to everyone for these achievements and for keeping up with the Eco-Schools spirit!

We also noticed aspects of your work as being examples of good practice. We may use these on our website and social media as case studies to support other schools with their Eco-

Schools Scotland work.

My goodness St Clare's PS, what busy years you have had! There have been so many interesting aspects of this journey that it will be hard to just pick few to mention. Being this your first Green Flag journey, it is very inspiring to see how enthusiastic and thorough you have been in your work as Eco-School and as a Laudato Si School. Your passion and commitment towards actively looking after your school, community and environment shine through your actions and through all what you shared with us, and that beautiful school banner with all your pledges summarises this eagerness of yours to 'become the change' exquisitely.

I have been very impressed by all the effort and work placed on litter and reducing your waste and use of resources, and being a large school it has been very inspiring to learn how you didn't just achieve to create a new litter policy, but to embed it as part of who you are as a school. I was very pleased to see in your graph the trend of reduction in litter found in the playground thanks to your work, and was very encouraged by how you learned that some of the litter that falls in your playground can be blown to the fields nearby, as that increased your level of awareness and brought more ideas for future actions. As you are not far from the Earn Water, this finding is particularly relevant as by now you might know that most of the litter found in the oceans comes from inland via rivers, which means that even the one in and near St Clare's could make it to the Atlantic if we don't pick it up! The mindfulness that children and staff alike have placed in reducing the use and waste of paper and in changing disposable packaging for reusable packaging for their lunches and snacks are also extremely encouraging and I am sure that when restrictions allow to go ahead with a Packaging-free Week challenge, the results will be tremendous and hopefully long lasting.

Without a doubt, one of your strengths as a school is your understanding of your position as a community and global member, and this also shines through your application. It has been very inspiring to see how despite the restrictions that covid brought in terms of mixing groups and meeting/working with different people, you were still able to use the opportunity of your Eco-Schools work to being a proactive member of the world, and to learn from the outside world. In this sense, I thought that writing to your local authority to help you moving towards a better system of recycling was a brilliant idea and an excellent example of this capacity, as it was your constant support for the local foodbank and the fantastic experience that P5s had through learning about the Global Water Crisis and fundraising for filters. This journey has clearly been an excellent experience thanks to everyone's dedication, and I really hope you all feel very proud of these exceptional achievements. I believe your aspiration for becoming future world changers is already materialising!

Your Green Flag is valid for a period of two years. As you now start your journey to renew your award by working through the Seven Element process please take into account the following suggestions.

For your next journey I would like to encourage you to keep developing further the element of Measuring and Monitoring as this will enhance your work, experience and application. Besides the many opportunities that this element offers for the development of skills on numeracy and critical thinking, planning your work with simple but effective ways of measuring the situation at the beginning, during and after your work, allows children to understand even more the impact of their work. It is also an element that teaches our children how through hard work it is possible to set goals that are important to them and to achieve them. Our general advice for this element is that once you have agreed on which topics you are going to be focusing on your next journey, ask yourselves questions like 'what do we want to achieve?', 'what would we like to change?', and of course 'why do we want to do this?' before deciding on your next actions. Once you

know where you want to arrive (your targets), your actions and how to measure their progress will become very clear and will be relative to those targets.

I would also like to remind you that your next journey will be two years long as your Green Flag Award will need to be renewed by the end of May 2023. I noticed as well that for this journey you used the environmental review template created by Eco-Schools in England. This is not a problem in itself, but their programme covers slightly different topics than ours, and therefore their environmental review does the same. It would be great if you could have a look at the templates that we have on our website as they are relative to our 10 topics, and use it or adapt it to your needs for the coming journey.

Keep up the great work, and a big congratulations again to St Clare's PS from everyone at Eco-Schools Scotland!

Our team may use aspects of your work as examples of good practice on our website and social media to support other schools during their applications.

Next Steps

- Log in to Eco-Schools Scotland and click 'Start New Application'.
- Make sure all contact details are up to date.
- Start working towards your Renewal Application, due 24 months from when you received this communication.
- Upload your new Draft Action Plan within three months.

Congratulations once again, on behalf of the whole of the Education and Learning Team, we wish you every success as you move on to your next application.

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