

Eco-Schools Scotland Interim Green Flag application



Our Green Flag Journey: Langcraigs Primary School, PA2 8QE

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Eco-Schools Coordinator(s): Mrs Gibney.

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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.

Every child in the school was given the chance to apply for the role of being a member of our eco committee. 6 children from each class were then interviewed by our Eco Representative, Mrs Gibney.

One pupil per class was selected from P1-3, and two pupils per class from P4-7. Successful candidates were announced at a whole-school assembly. We decided to re-recruit four pupils who were valuable committee members last year, to provide support and advice for the new members.

'An example of a time we demonstrated success as a committee was our efforts to transform our eco garden and school grounds in a bid to attract more local wildlife and insects. We wrote to local businesses and charities asking for donations of bulbs and funds. We received a cheque for £100 from our local community council and a huge variety of bulbs from B&Q and Dobbie's Garden Centre which we then planted as a whole school, allowing us to successfully achieve our aims.' Mirren Bertram, P7 eco committee member.



Langcraigs Eco Committee 2015/16
(Pictured in front of our Eco Wall in the
main foyer.)

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.

‘The topics that we chose this session are Litter, Biodiversity and Sustaining Our World. We chose the biodiversity topic because the committee members felt passionately about improving our school garden in order to encourage more local wildlife to our grounds. Sustaining Our World was chosen as the third topic as we were very keen to support a global charity and learn more about Fair Trade.’ Kenzie Caddis, P6 eco committee member.

The action plan was linked to the school curriculum through many curricular areas, including social studies, maths, literacy, science, and health and wellbeing. One example of how a specific class linked all three topics to the curriculum is primary 6 participated in a 6-week outdoor learning topic named ‘Forest Schools’. They were awarded the John Muir award and Action Earth certificates for making a positive change to the school’s local community.



Forest Schools outdoor cross-curricular topic



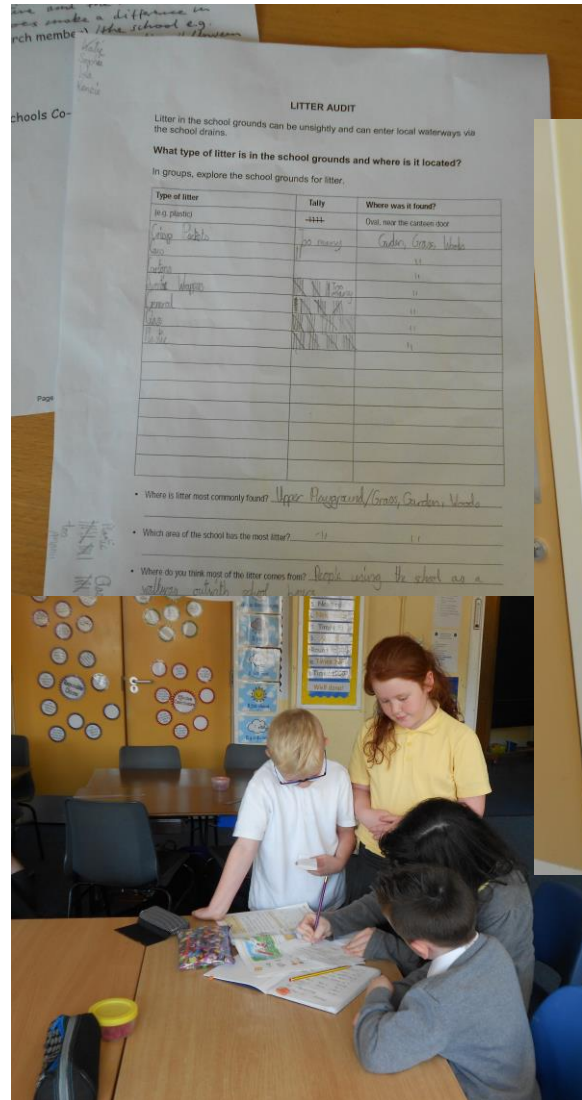
Measuring Progress (3 of 6)

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?

This session, the eco committee completed a playground litter survey at the start of our third term. They recorded the amount of litter in each part of the playground by firstly completing a tally chart, and then transferring the results onto bar graphs. They identified that the upper playground was the most affected by litter and the most common type of litter was sweetie wrappers. This information was shared with all pupils and staff at a school assembly.

'The eco committee brainstormed ideas of ways to raise awareness of the importance of not littering our school grounds. We decided to introduce rewards for the tidiest playground and ran a school-wide competition to design the best poster for deterring dropping litter in our school grounds.' Katie Nicholson, P6 eco committee member.

At the end of this term, we repeated the litter survey and we were very pleased to discover that the amount of litter found in our playground was greatly reduced- from 78 to 36 items. We made a visual display of our most recent findings to share it with the whole school and community.



Litter bar graph display.



Eco committee members completing litter audits.

Sharing Success (4 of 6)

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

We involved the rest of the school and its wider community by reporting at assembly, in class, through the school monthly newsletter and the local newspaper. Our eco wall is in a prominent place in the school foyer, and it is regularly updated with the latest environmental review, action plans, pictures of eco activities and meeting minutes.

Do you keep records on a school website or Glow?

Yes. We upload an Eco Newsletter to our school website, detailing our most recent activities and achievements.

Were your activities covered in the press ?

'Yes. Our eco fashion show, 'Langcraigs has Style', was featured as a centre spread in our local newspaper. Every school pupil designed and made clothing and accessories made entirely from recyclable materials and had the chance to showcase them to the whole school on the catwalk.' Kerry Smiley, P7 eco committee member.



These are our Eco News walls. They are regularly updated with our latest eco activities.



Evaluate and Celebrate (5 of 6)



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

- Pupils

'Our eco committee is very successful as we have worked to prevent waste by promoting clothing donation, holding an eco Rag Bag event. As well as this, we held a costume swap in October. We asked pupils to trade costumes, in return for a brand new costume that they didn't already have.' Katie Nicholson, P6.

- Parent

'The eco committee provides great experiences for Langcraigs' pupils to become more aware of a variety of Eco issues. Health and Eco Week allows the children to try an amazing amount of different sports with their friends and all the children are very enthusiastic and talkative about all the activities throughout the week.' Carol Shaw, Parent Council member.

- Teacher

'Our Green Flag journey has been a success because it makes the children aware of the world around the, and their responsibilities. It includes all pupils and staff and many of the activities include parents and are fun!' Mrs Love, P1 class teacher.

- Head Teacher

'Langcraigs' eco committee members have ensured our Green Flag journey has been successful because it is a pupil-led group. The group is very hands on, see issues from a pupil's perspective and the work that they carry out really does make a difference in the school, e.g. Recycling Halloween costumes.' Mr Maclean, head teacher.

- Community member

'It is amazing to see how involved Langcraigs pupils are in the school's eco policies. Every year they come up with fantastic ideas on how to become an eco-friendly school and they are very passionate and vocal about it.' Irene, pupil grandmother and school cleaner.

- Local Partner: Community Group, Business or Environmental Organisation

'Every year we get involved with eco activities at Langcraigs Primary School. Our team of church elders help with eco garden improvements and we help Langcraigs pupils take responsibility for their wider environment by completing a local community litter pick. The eco committee are very successful in involving and informing the school's wider community throughout their Green Flag journey.' Jackie Pirie, Glenburn Church elder

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

Every session, we work with a variety of partnerships including parents, church members, Active Schools (sports specialists), SPCA, RSPB, 'Hands Up Scotland', local and global charities including Race for Life and Classrooms for Malawi, staff and pupils from our local high school, Fair Trade shop Rainbow Turtle, Renfrewshire's Environmental and Restoration Group, and Rag Bag Recycling.

Each session we build our list of contacts and outside agencies who become involved in ensuring success on our journey to becoming a true 'Eco-School'.

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.