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Dear Carol Robbie and Sandra McNaughton,

### **Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback**

Congratulations to everyone at Beattie School for achieving your 5<sup>th</sup> 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, Responsible Consumption and Production, as well as having learned about Litter prevention, reducing environmental pollution, Waste Minimisation, Waste Management, Global Citizenship 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 by contributing their time and efforts the pupils can contribute to the solutions of climate change. The Eco-code

shows great input of the pupils. This is nice to see.

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 imbedded 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 liked learning that you included Eco themed activities in their annual plans. This has provided the children with the opportunity to 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. These activities have also allowed pupils to foster responsible behaviour within the school and wider community. The planting at street signs has allowed the children to enhance the appearance of the community and to increase local wildlife – pollinators.

The Litter actions – litter picks have helped to increase children understanding of the harm litter brings to the environments. The actions have also provided them with practical skills to prevent and manage litter and waste to prevent this from happening and encourage long-term positive behavioural change in their communities and beyond. The actions have also allowed children to play a part in caring for the environment; to bring about positive change in their school and community; and to learn to respect the environment. The litter picks have helped to enhance outdoor learning experiences; to develop children's fine motor skills; and to greater hand-eye coordination.

Taking part in the 'Your Water Your Life' campaign has helped to raise the pupil's understanding, and – more importantly – value of water and to encourage children and staff the use refillable water bottles and cups. The activities have also allowed the children to learn about that water is vital for life.

I was very inspired that you were able to link Food and the Environment and Global Citizenship through the International School programme. Well done for achieving the international school award, Foundation level, introducing internationalism. The international partnership and classroom activities and Earth Table have helped make the children aware of and understand the wider world and their place in it. The gardening activities have allowed the children to develop their sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them. Growing your own foods has helped to promote a sense of exploration and discovery. The gardening has helped the children to learn how plants grow and develop; how to look after them; and how growing your own foods contributes to sustainable lifestyles. The Fairtrade fortnight week has allowed the children to become aware of fairtrade produce, the treasure hunt has helped to widen their understanding of the products. 'The World We Want' has allowed the children to express their feeling; to discover and explore how climate change is making an impact on our planet. The activities have also allowed the children to become aware to which rights they and others are entitled; to exercise these rights appropriately; accept the responsibility that goes with them; and to show respect to the rights of others. The Global Citizenship actions have allowed the children to explore the connections between their own lives and the lives of others throughout the world.

The food collection to support a local food bank has helped to make a tangible impact on the lives of those the charity helps. It was great to hear that the children had a fantastic time being in the fresh air completing their sponsored walk for 'Street Walk'. The funds raised should make a great contribution to the work of the charity. The collaboration with the rangers at Almondell

Country Park has allowed the children to enhance the local biodiversity by planting acorns.

The pupils have become aware that by contributing their views, time, and talents, they can play a part in bringing about positive change in our school and wider community. Their 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.

Please, be aware that since August 2021 the topics of Litter and Waste Minimisation have merged into one. Since September 2022, the new Core Topic is Climate Action. We still like to encourage you to incorporate a (Community) litter pick in your future journeys 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 Beatlie School 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.

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