

Eco-Schools Action Plan

School name: **Whitehouse Primary**

Eco-Schools Topics: **Transport, Outdoor learning, Biodiversity**

Date range of this plan:**2022-23**

Keep an eye on progress throughout the year, perhaps you could use a traffic light system



Our overall aim(s) for this Topic:

To encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school, to make a positive impact on climate change and make positive lifestyle choices.

Problem Statement	Actions that can address the problem	How will you target the problem?	Timescale	Did you achieve your target?	What improvements could be made in future?
School car park is overwhelmed at drop off and pick up times.	Themed weeks. Develop Parental engagement through FB, website and seesaw. Work with Sustrans. Create parking areas for scooters and bikes.	Using Sustrans to promote a change in habit by having cycling and scooting skills sessions with each year group. Whole school assemblies led by the Eco team and Beverley from Sustrans. Post positive changes and themed weeks on fb and school website. Engage with the Department for Infrastructure regarding bike shelters.	3 years link with Sustrans	Graph shows a positive impact- more children bringing scooters and bikes to school. Designated space now assigned for scooter and bike parking. Majority of children, working with Beverly on scooter and bike sessions, engaged fully. A selection of Year 6 pupils took part in the National standards training course. Increased confidence in bringing and using bikes and scooters to travel to school. Bike shelters to be built by the end of the financial year.	Educating our parents on being safe in the car park and crossing zones. Continue to use FB as a platform to encourage use of bike shelters.



Impact transport has on climate change.	Increase awareness of sustainable travel	Using Sustrans to deliver educational workshops. <u>Foundation Stage</u> -Active Travel scavenger hunts <u>Key Stage 2</u> -Climate change sessions.	3 years link with Sustrans	Children have an increased understanding of how their choices effect climate change through taking part in sessions with Sustrans and themed weeks.	Is there a possibility of adding climate change into a Year groups WAU topic planners?
To create awareness of how healthy lifestyle choices make an impact on our bodies and the environment.	Theme weeks -Ditch the car and walk to school week Oct 22 -New Year, New You Jan 23 -Big Walk and Wheel fortnight – March 23 - Get outside and get active June 23 Parental engagement through FB, website and seesaw.	Using Sustrans to deliver educational workshops. All Key Stages have taken part in scooter or cycling sessions. <u>Key Stage 1</u> -Getting outside and getting active. <u>Key Stage 2</u> -Healthy body	3 years link with Sustrans	Increased awareness on making healthy choices through themed weeks and PDMU topics. More children using bikes and scooters to travel to school. Highlighted Amber because we still have another big themed week to promote walking and cycling to school which will give us daily data– Big walk and wheel challenge with Sustrans.	

Our overall aim(s) for this Topic: Outdoor Learning

To develop outdoor learning as a method to deliver the curriculum and to begin to develop a whole school outdoor learning area.

Problem Statement	Actions that can address the problem	How will you target the problem?	Timescale	Did you achieve your target?	What improvements could be made in future?
<p>Outdoor areas not used regularly by whole school.</p> <p>Outdoor learning only happening on themed days.</p>	<p>Access funding to be able to develop outdoor areas.</p> <p>Staff require training</p> <p>Identify in planners lessons that could be taken outdoors by highlighting and labelling as outdoor learning.</p> <p>Curricular leaders to base action plans for 2022/23 on outdoor learning.</p> <p>Shared education action plan 2022/23 to focus on Nursery and FS outdoor learning.</p>	<p>Apply for school pollinator grant through Live Here Love Here</p> <p>Staff have completed the EA Outdoor Learning webinar training.</p> <p>Through school development plan staff will have allocated time to develop outdoor learning sessions though Literacy and Numeracy.</p> <p>Specific areas are designed and resourced for effective use.</p> <p>Create a timetable for the whole school to use outdoor learning garden.</p> <p>Establishment of a gardening club.</p>	<p>By FEB 23</p> <p>By June 2023 children will have had the opportunity to take part in at least 4 outdoor learning sessions through literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2022</p> <p>Term 2</p>	<p>Successful application for Schools Pollinator Grant £4819 (June 2022 for the 2022/23 school year). NSSI HUB funding has been allocated to our school for professional development days and resources for KS1 and KS2 outdoor learning (2022/23 school year).</p> <p>Sessions have been planned for and all children have taken part in outdoor learning sessions and staff have seen the value for the children.</p> <p>Nursery and FS have taken part in the NI Forest Schools Programme (pre-Covid) through shared education projects. Some initial planning was shared between the schools.</p> <p>Community links with parent volunteers and local groups e.g. Newtownabbey Mens' Shed and The Croft have been established.</p> <p>This club has just started.</p>	<p>Continue to keep looking for opportunities to take learning outdoors.</p> <p>More time to share good practice.</p> <p>Develop more community links.</p> <p>Discuss with the children the types of equipment they feel is needed for outdoor learning.</p>

Our overall aim(s) for this Topic: Biodiversity

To encourage the diversity of animals/insects within our school grounds and understand the importance of a healthy eco system for all animals

Problem Statement	Actions that can address the problem	How will you target the problem?	Timescale	Did you achieve your target?	What improvements could be made in future?
Lack of variety of birds in school grounds.	<p>Take part in RSPB Big Bird watch</p> <p>To become more familiar with British garden birds and birds from other countries</p>	<p>To use the results of the survey to introduce a variety of bird feeders</p> <p>Year 3 will observe and record birds in the local environment.</p> <p>Children will make bird pudding and supply the grounds with a variety of bird feeders.</p> <p>Build bird boxes for outdoor garden.</p> <p>Year 3 independent research.</p>	ongoing	<p>Increase of number of birds and identification of a larger variety of birds.</p> <p>Community links – building bird boxes</p> <p>Share with the local community on the school website.</p> <p>Presentations to classes and shared to social media and school website.</p>	Use fb to encourage families at home and to share photos of birds visiting their gardens and to upload results to the RSPB.
Animals close to extinction.	Themed weeks to raise awareness	<p>Fundraise to support WWF and animals near extinction.</p> <p>Research animals near extinction and share findings with Buddy classes.</p> <p>Adopt an animal</p>	Summer term	Last year KS1 took part and classes all adopted an animal and made a video that was posted on school fb page. This action will take place again in Term 3.	Whole school to get involved.



Use school grounds to grow food and pollinating plants	<p>Begin a Gardening club</p> <p>Develop links with local community and external agencies to work with eco team and gardening club to develop planting in our grounds.</p> <p>Develop community links by helping The Croft intergenerational programme to start their own garden in the Spring.</p>	<p>-Club to work with local community and groups to plant seeds, bulbs etc.</p> <p>-Take part in the Croft intergenerational programme, working to help them develop their new spring garden.</p> <p>-Work with Inver Garden centre to plant bulbs and planters on the school grounds.</p> <p>-Work with grounds people to plant a small meadow in the outdoor learning garden.</p>	Term 2 and 3	<p>Gardening club started in March.</p> <p>Eco team have dates for April to begin working with the Croft intergenerational programme.</p> <p>Gary from Inver Garden centre has been to school to work with staff on staff development days and to work with the eco team</p> <p>The grounds people have been out to meet the team and mark out an area to create a small meadow – they are returning to turn the turf and help plant seeds.</p> <p>As part of Wellie Wednesday, Key Stage 1 are growing foods/plants outside their cloakroom door. All year groups have been allocated their own planters.</p>	<p>Get gardening club started again at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to miscommunication, the Men's shed gave away all the planters and bug hotel we had organised with them to make using the pallets we had taken to them. This has delayed the club and planting and growing of food.</p>
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Topic	Action	Target/Impact	Monitoring/Evidence	Timescale	Responsibility	Actual result achieved
General	Application forms given to Y3-Y7	Regular contact through weekly/fortnightly club	Application forms and introduction of team in assembly	Sept 2022	Eco team	Sept 2022
	Re-inforce awareness of Eco-schools through assembly/class presentations.	Reminders of particular areas/themes half termly.	Eco assemblies added to school calendar	Ongoing	Eco team	June 2023
	Environmental review	Eco Team review the Environmental results to decide on 3 topics for Action Plan	Results collated and shared with the school	Sept 2021	Eco team	Sept 2021
	Launch an Eco code competition	To make the school aware of this year's Eco code	Eco code winner shared with school, displayed on Eco notice board, classrooms, communal areas and the school website.	Sept 2022	Eco team	Sept 2022
	Maintain links with Eco schools – St James's Primary	Maintained links with St James' through Forest school (Nursery – Y1), Outdoor learning (Y2)	Selection of work and photographs	ongoing	Class teachers	June 2023
	Eco-Leadership and relevant training opportunities for staff- training course/webinars	Upskilling staff	Attendance at courses/webinars	ongoing	Eco-leaders and staff	June 2023



	Maintain links with Cash for clobber, Cancer Fund for Children, NI Water, Big Cleans, workshops provided by Keep NI Beautiful, Daily Mile.	These links keep the whole school aware of other aspects of eco schools if they are not on the action plan.	Assemblies/ class visits	ongoing	Eco team and whole school	June 2023
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This is a suggested addition to your Action Plan. For more information about the SDGs please visit www.eco-schoolsnri.org “About Us” section.

Which of the UN Sustainable Development Goals does our Eco-Schools Action Plan cover?

Circle at least one which we can link our Eco-Schools work to this year:

