

Eco-Schools – Other Areas

As well as global citizenship, school grounds and waste, we also continually work on the other areas: biodiversity, energy, healthy living, litter, marine, transport, and water. Below outlines ways we continue to address these areas.

Biodiversity: Biodiversity is about caring for all plants, animals and insects.

The current situation:

- The work of the school's Ground Staff already keeps the environment in mind:
 - They avoid blanket pesticide spraying and use organic soil-feeding composts/mulches rather than synthetic plant fertilisers
 - They are migrating to battery power kit and creating more permanent planting schemes
- Year 3 children look for seeds around the school grounds and at home when learning about seed dispersal
- Year 5 children look around the school grounds looking for different plant species
- Year 3's Nature Club made their own plant pots, planted seeds, and went on a bug hunt
- Year 5 took part in 'Grow Your Own Potatoes' as part of their Science work on life cycles
- We have planted new trees along the A6 to help protect air quality
- Animal Club is run in the Senior School
- Increase planting around the school of wildlife-encouraging plants
- We have installed habitats around the school for a range of animals, including birds, bats, and hedgehogs
- We have made fat ball bird feeders which have been put up around the school grounds
- Meet with Grounds staff to discuss a wildlife area near the Nursery building
- Planted trees donated by the woodland trust for the Queen's Jubilee
- The Junior School has run a competition to design a wildlife friendly space in the school's courtyard
- We took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch 2023



Our plans:

- Run a competition to build a bug house
- Run a Gardening Club in the Summer term
- Take part in 'What's under your feet'
- Sunflower growing competition
- Harvest seeds from flowers grown at school to make seed paper which can be given to the local community

What could be done at home:

- Create habitats for wildlife in gardens
- Use [this recipe](#) to create a fat cake for birds
- Follow what we are doing at school
- Keep areas in your gardens which are 'wild' – plant bee friendly plants, build bug houses/put up boxes.

Energy: It is important that we reduce the amount of energy used as a lot of this still comes from fossil fuels. Swapping to renewable sources is key!

The current situation:

- The School took part in 'Switch Off Fortnight in November 2019
- In 2023 we ran a competition to make a sign to encourage pupils and teachers to switch off the lights when they leave the room
- Put up 'switch off the light' signs in every classroom
- Auto-lights have been added to corridors around school to save energy
- The heating is only used when needed and staff are encouraged to let the Bursary know if the heating is on unnecessarily.



What could be done at home:

- Encourage children to turn off the light whenever they leave a room
- Talk about which energy companies you use and how much of their energy comes from renewable sources.

Healthy Living: The health of us all, and the planet are intrinsically linked. The promotion of health lifestyles is promoted across both the Junior and Senior school.

For example:

- A range of fresh and healthy food choices is provided each day for lunch. This includes vegetarian and vegan options. These food choices are clearly labelled to support informed choices
- Over recent years the Junior School has developed outside spaces for pupils' enjoyment and learning. This has included a woodland area and an outdoor musical area
- The Senior School has a small allotment, and the Junior School has a number of raised vegetable beds. Here, pupils can learn how to grow food and vegetables as well as enjoy spending time outside.



Litter: The reduction of litter across the school has been aided by the success of many of our waste reduction and recycling projects. Waste and recycling facilities are available in all classrooms and throughout outdoor spaces. As well as this, several initiatives have been put in places to reduce litter across the site.

For example:

- Sixth Form Prefects and staff are encouraged to take litter pickers on their break and lunch time duties. The involvement of Sixth Form pupils provides a role model for younger pupils
- The Eco-School Committee across both the Senior and Junior Schools have gone on litter picks at lunchtime, both within the school grounds and outside in the wider community.



Marine: The marine topic requires us to consider ways we, as a school community, can help to promote and protect water-based ecosystems, such as oceans.

However, Eco-Schools recognises that for some schools, such as SGS, aquatic ecosystems such as rivers, canals and lakes may also be significant in their local area. We have made attempts to reduce our impact on Marine ecosystems.

For example:

- To promote the reuse of plastics, Senior School pupils collected plastic bottle caps on behalf of the Plastic Shed based in Stockport. The bottle caps have been turned into a public artwork
- Alongside our work in reducing waste, we have banned single-use plastics in the Dining Hall. Reducing the risk of plastics entering marine ecosystems
- Plastic waste has been reduced by encouraging pupils to bring reusable water bottles
- The establishment of an 'Eco Hub' in the library encourages further plastic waste to be reduced e.g. cosmetics.

Transport: The nature of the school means that pupils travel from many destinations each day. With this in mind the Eco-School committee has been looking at ways to reduce the impact of this travel.



For example:

- The Junior School began a campaign to encourage parents in the school car park to switch off engines, thereby reducing emissions and improving air quality
- The Eco-School Committee developed pupil friendly information on alternative ways to travel to school. Including information on public transport options and ways to reduce the cost
- The school has also written to the school bus providers to remind drivers to switch off engines whilst waiting in the yard at the end of the school day.

Water: Consideration of water usage is school-wide from hand washing facilities to watering plants on-site. Water is a precious resource and it is vital that this is used in a sustainable way.

Across the school we have been working towards this aim.

For example:

- The Eco-School Committee have met with the Schools Grounds team to discuss water saving strategies e.g. installation of water butts and mulching flower beds to reduce watering requirements from over evaporation
- In a new flower/plant bed at the entrance of the school, a water butt collecting water from the roof of a shelter has been installed
- Eco-School Prefects have researched and presented information to Senior staff about possible water harvesting ideas
- Pupil hand washing facilities in school have self-stopping taps. More work is planned on ensuring staff facilities also have this
- In the Junior School, 'Save Water' posters have been displayed in the Science and Art rooms
- The Senior School have twinned two water fountains (one in Hallam Quad and one in the Woodsmoor Building) with taps in developing countries (Afghanistan and Nepal) to support improved water access elsewhere in the world.