

Glynwood Community Primary School



Eco Schools Policy

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Introduction

Glynwood Primary School is committed to educating its children about caring for and respecting the environment and developing responsible citizens that are able to make valuable decisions. The Eco Council at Glynwood Primary School has a key role in achieving this and it represents the whole school community.

The purposes of our Eco Council are:

- To ensure a whole school approach to caring for the environment.
- To give pupils responsibilities and promote team work.
- To develop pupils' skills in the decision-making process.
- To develop an awareness of environmental issues.
- To develop a structure to implement the national Eco-Schools Programme in the School.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Eco Schools Programme at Glynwood Primary School are:

- To become more sustainable in the school environment and reduce any negative environmental impact of the whole school.
- To promote environmental awareness
- To develop an awareness of global issues
- To develop a whole school approach in promoting environmental awareness amongst pupils, all staff, governors, parents and members of the local community.
- To help develop pupils' decision-making skills
- To link environmental issues in with the curriculum as well as the daily running life of the school.

Eco Schools Scheme

Glynwood Primary School is a member of the Eco Schools programme. This is an international initiative that encourages pupil-led, positive change to the environment. It provides a structured system for the environmental management of schools. (Eco Schools Website - <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>)

The structure of the Eco-Schools process is made up of seven elements and this forms the basis of the programme.

The seven elements include:

- The Eco Council
- The Environmental Review (completed once a year)
- The Action Plan (informed by environmental review)
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Involve and Inform the Wider Community
- Eco Code

The Eco Schools scheme covers the following topics: Biodiversity, Energy, Litter, Waste, Water, School Grounds, Healthy Living, Transport and Global Citizenship.

The pupils play an important part in the scheme and become involved in participation and decision-making to help improve the school environment.

The Eco Schools programme has three levels of awards: Bronze, Silver and the Green Flag award. There is a criteria set for each of the awards that schools need to meet in order to achieve the award. The Bronze and Silver awards are achieved through a self-assessment against the criteria set and the Green Flag Award is completed by an Eco Schools Assessor which visits the school. The Eco Schools programme is a long term activity which works towards the achievement of the Green Flag Award.

Glynwood Primary School has successfully completed the bronze and silver awards of the Eco Schools Scheme and is working towards achieving the Green Flag Award.

Eco-Schools is operated globally by the [Foundation for Environmental Education \(FEE\)](#), and was launched in 1994 in response to the 1992 UN Rio Earth Summit. Environmental charity '[Keep Britain Tidy](#)' is the Eco-Schools National Operator for England.

Electing the Eco Council

The Eco Council consists of pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 and a teacher (the Eco Schools Co-ordinator - Currently Miss Amy Crawley). Two children from each class in Years 2-6 are elected by their peers at the beginning of the school year with children in Year 1 being elected at the beginning of the Spring Term. To stand for election, pupils prepare a speech to present to their class explaining the reasons why they should be chosen to represent their class on the Eco Council. All pupils in the class then complete a secret ballot choosing the two children they think will be the best for the job.

The Running of the Eco Council

At Glynwood Primary School we aim to maintain Eco-Schools meetings on a half-termly basis. It is the responsibility of the Eco Council and Eco-Schools Co-ordinator to ensure an environmental review and action plan is completed at the beginning of each academic year. The topics from the Eco Schools Programme will be used in focusing on actions. The Eco Code will also need to be reviewed and amended if appropriate after the environmental review and action plan have been completed. It is the responsibility of the Eco Council members to report back to their class about the meetings for five minutes following the meeting and ask for their ideas on issues discussed.

The Curriculum

Glynwood Primary School aims to link Eco-School activities into the curriculum in different ways. Activities will be incorporated into lessons that link in with Eco Schools topics; covering different curriculum areas to embrace a cross curricular approach.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Head Teacher and Eco Schools Coordinator will monitor the ethos and culture of the school to ensure it reflects a school that values caring for the environment. The Head Teacher and Eco Schools Co-ordinator will ensure there are adequate resources and if appropriate training for staff to ensure the school can educate and promote caring for the environment.

The Role of the Eco Schools Coordinator

- To update the policy.
- To complete Action Plans each academic year alongside the Eco Council.
- To participate in the Eco Schools Scheme.
- To apply for the Green flag when appropriate.
- To keep staff informed of actions and new developments.
- To co-ordinate empty classroom day.
- To keep the Eco file up to date.
- To involve the community.

Inclusion

All pupils shall have the opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of caring for their environment and developing a caring attitude. The school will promote equal opportunities.