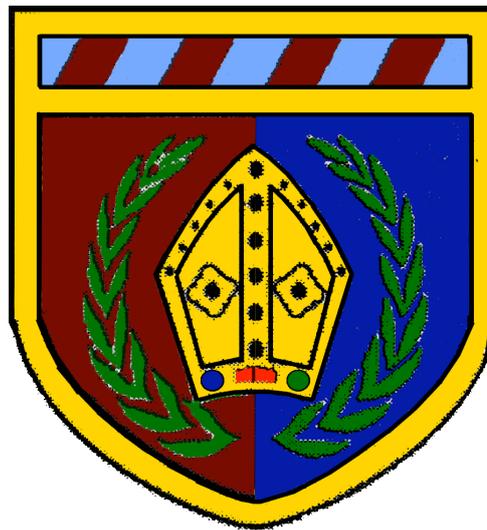


St John Fisher Catholic Primary School



Eco Schools Policy

"To live, love and learn and learn in our caring community"



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

ECO School Policy

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Introduction

St. John Fisher Catholic Primary school is committed to educating about caring and respecting for the environment and developing sensible citizens that are able to make valuable decisions. The Eco Committee at St. John Fisher has a key role in achieving this and is a paramount part of our Eco-Schools programme. The Eco Committee represents the whole school community.

St. John Fisher Primary School Eco Committee purposes:

- ❖ To ensure a whole school approach about 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 St. John Fisher School are:

- ❖ To become more sustainable in the school environment and reduce the environmental impact of the whole school.
- ❖ Promote environmental awareness.
- ❖ To develop an awareness of global issues.
- ❖ To develop a whole school approach in promoting environmental awareness - pupils, all staff, governors, parents and members of the local community.
- ❖ To help to create a shared understanding of what is needed in order to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.
- ❖ 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

St. John Fisher is a member of the Eco - Schools Programme. This is an international initiative that encourages pupils to engage with the environment and sustainable development issues. It provides a highly structured system for the environmental management of schools.

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 Committee
- ❖ The Environmental Review
- ❖ The Action Plan
- ❖ Curriculum
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation
- ❖ Involve and inform the wider community
- ❖ Eco Code

The Eco Committee is the key part in implementing the other elements. These elements are:

- ❖ Litter
- ❖ Waste minimisation
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Transport
- ❖ Healthy Living
- ❖ Water
- ❖ School grounds
- ❖ Global Citizenship

The adult members of the Eco Committee recruit children from to become members of the Eco Committee and meet with them regularly. The children are the main driving force behind the Eco Committee once they become familiar with what being a member entails and are supported by the adult members. The first task for the Eco Committee, at the beginning of the school year, is to carry out an Environmental review. From this an action plan for the coming year can be devised. The curriculum is also integrated. Progress is then evaluated and improvements are monitored. The Eco Committee needs to inform the wider community of their actions. The Eco Committee produce an Eco Code which is agreed with the rest of the school which is agreed with the rest of the school which reflects their aims and ethos. The pupils play an important part of the scheme and become involved in participation and decision making to help improve the school environment. Eco - Schools extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible citizens beyond school.

The Eco - Schools Programme has three levels of awards: Bronze, Silver and then the Green Flag Award. There is a criteria set for each of the awards that schools that schools need to meet in order to achieve the award. The Bronze and Silver awards are achieved through self

assessment and the Green Flag Award is completed by an Eco - Schools assessor through visiting the school. The Green Flag Award is re assessed and renewed every two years. St. John Fisher Primary School has achieved the Bronze and Silver Awards and are working towards gaining Green Flag Status this coming year. (2012/13)

St John Fisher Primary School Eco Committee

The Eco Committee consists of pupils from Year 2 to Year 6. Two pupils from each year group represent them, except for year 6 of whom there are 6 to 8 pupils. The year 6 children are the leaders of the committee but are overseen by the adult members. There are two teachers, one teaching assistant, a parent and a parent governor. The year 6 pupils volunteer for selection which is then decided by the adult members of the committee. At the start of the academic year, in the initial meetings, only the year 6 children will be involved. The pupils will be made aware of their roles and the responsibilities which are:

- ❖ Chairperson
- ❖ Vice chairperson
- ❖ 2 secretaries

It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to chair and manage the meetings. The Vice Chairperson takes over the Chairpersons roles in their absence. The secretaries take the minutes and records of all decisions made in meetings. of the meetings and collate their information and then present the minutes to the Committee. The minutes from the meetings must be written in a book and displayed on the Eco Schools notice board.

At St. John Fisher Primary School we aim to maintain Eco Schools meetings regularly. When the Year 6 pupils are more familiar with their roles, younger members of the committee, from Year 2 to 5 will be invited to meetings. They will put forward any suggestions from their class that have been requested and they will be dealt with in the following meeting.

It is the responsibility of the Eco Schools Committee and the Eco Schools Coordinator to ensure an environmental review and action plan are planned and carried out 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.

The Eco School Committee members are responsible for reporting back to their class about activities related to caring for the environment.

The Curriculum

St John Fisher Primary School aim to link Eco - Schools activities into the curriculum in different ways. Activities will be incorporated into lessons that link in with the action plan covering different curricular 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 and it is a whole school approach.
- ❖ To participate in and follow the Eco - Schools Scheme.
- ❖ To complete Action Plans each academic year.
- ❖ To monitor and implement national and local initiatives when they arise.

The Role of the Eco Schools Coordinator

- ❖ To update the policy.
- ❖ To complete action plans for each academic year to contribute to the school improvement plan.
- ❖ To participate in the Eco - Schools Scheme.
- ❖ To apply for the Green Flag Award.
- ❖ To keep staff informed of actions and new developments.
- ❖ To coordinate focus environment weeks.
- ❖ To keep a portfolio of evidence of action areas.
- ❖ To involve outside agencies.

Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of race, gender, culture or disability shall have opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of caring for their environment and develop a caring attitude.

Provision for Special Educational Needs

Educating children about caring for the environment forms part of our school policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. All children will be included in activities related to caring for the environment and teachers will differentiate activities to meet the needs of the children.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues will be considered in all activities and relate to the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Policy to be reviewed every two years.