

St Nicholas CE First School



Eco Schools Policy

“Learning and believing, growing and achieving”

It is the aims of St Nicholas CE (VC) First School to:

Create a happy, stimulating environment in which all children develop a positive and independent attitude to learning.

Raise standards by successfully meeting individual children's needs and by investing in the professional development of all adults.

Create a sense of belonging to the school and the wider community with a respect for the environment and nurturing a sense of trust, care and consideration.

Teach children about Christian traditions and incorporate Christian values into their lives whilst developing an understanding and respect of other major world religions and ways of life.

Promote effective relationships between staff, governors, parents and the wider community so that we can encourage each other, enjoying and excelling together in all aspects of school life.

Ensure pupils personal development is catered for which will help them to be safe and to go on and lead safe, secure, healthy lifestyles.

Nurture the school community to become creative thinkers with enquiring minds that will help them face new challenges and situations with increased confidence.

Offer high quality teaching and learning opportunities within an innovative, stimulating environment which prioritises the basic skills of literacy and numeracy.

Establish a rock-solid foundation to ensure that all pupils achieve mastery of reading, writing and maths, to equip them for future life.

St Nicholas CE (VC) First School is working towards being a Green Flag Eco School. This award will compliment these values and further enhance children's educational experiences.

Principles of Eco Schools at St Nicholas First School:

An opportunity to empower children to drive change and improve our environment.

An opportunity to improve children's skills, raise environmental awareness and improve the school environment.

An opportunity for children to become one of the 18 million attending Eco Schools worldwide.

An opportunity for the whole school to work together to bring about change.

An opportunity for closer links to be developed between schools and their communities.

How does it promote fundamental British Values and SMSC:

British Values – Pupils will experience democracy through leadership, decision making, team meetings and accountability. They will also experience rule of law through making policies and creating an Eco Code. Pupils will gain respect for the environment and the world they live in.

Spiritual Development – Pupils will be learning about the world and how to look after it. Pupils will be using their imagination and creativity to think of ideas about how to become more eco- friendly. Pupils will be reflecting on their work and the effects it is having.

Moral Development – Pupils will learn the difference between right and wrong in terms of how we treat the world we live in. Pupils will understand the consequences of our actions upon the world.

Social Development – Pupils will learn a range of social skills through working within the eco community and engaging with the wider community. Pupils will participate in activities that require social skills. Pupils will be engaging with the British values of democracy and the rule of law.

Cultural Development – Pupils can learn about the approach of others cultures on environmental issues. Pupils can learn about the negative effects on the environment and how it affects the whole world, as well as their local environment.

Introduction to Eco School:

Eco-Schools is a global programme engaging millions of children across 64 different countries, making it the largest environmental schools programme in the world. The programme provides a framework for learning and action around ten topics – marine, biodiversity, energy, litter, global citizenship, healthy living, school grounds, transport, waste and water. It follows a very simple seven-step process to lead schools on their journey to achieving a Green Flag Award. The programme is pupil-led and encourages whole school involvement. It also encourages closer links between schools and their communities. It offers many benefits for individual pupils, developing their knowledge and skills and improving their well-being. There are also many benefits for schools, with an added bonus of saving money.

In order to achieve Green Flag status, three topics must be covered. The topics that will be covered at St Nicholas First School are:

- Energy
- Water
- Healthy Living

Requirements for the Green Flag Award:

- Miss Griffiths is in charge of the Eco Committee, which is made up of two pupils from each class from Year 1-4. Meetings will be carried out at least once every half term and minutes will be recorded.
- An Environmental Review has been carried out. This will be reviewed every two years (see appendix 1).
- An action plan has been put into place (see appendix 2) to cover these three areas. This will be regularly reviewed.
- An Eco Code has been developed and displayed in every classroom (see appendix 3).
- There is a prominent Eco Display in school.
- The wider community has been involved in projects (see appendix 4) and will continue to be involved in future projects.
- Environmental issues should be covered within three areas of the curriculum. Teachers are to support this requirement by sending any lesson plans/evidence of work to Miss Griffiths.

All Staff and Pupils should sign the Eco Agreement (see appendix 5).

Energy:

- Lights, computers and IWB's should be turned off when not in use. Child produced posters are situated around school to remind pupils and staff.
- Heating should be used efficiently – keep windows and doors closed to keep heat in. Only have heating on when necessary.
- Natural light should be used where possible – open blinds and turn off lights.
- The Eco-Committee will carry out half termly monitoring and report back to Miss Griffiths. Actions will then be carried out to improve if required.
- Energy usage and costings will be monitored by Miss Griffiths and the Eco Committee. This will then be analysed and actions put in place to improve if required.

Water:

- Taps should be turned off when not in use. Child produced posters are situated in toilets around school to remind pupils and staff.
- Dripping taps should be reported to Miss Griffiths, who will then pass this on to the Caretakers.
- Water should be conserved wherever possible.
- A water butt will be installed to catch rain water to water the school garden.
- The Eco-Committee will carry out half termly monitoring and report back to Miss Griffiths. Actions will then be carried out to improve if required.
- Water costings will be monitored by Miss Griffiths and the Eco Committee. This will then be analysed and actions put in place to improve if required.

Healthy Living:

- Healthy snacks and lunchboxes are greatly encouraged.
- Pupils are encouraged to choose a healthy school meal which includes eating fruit and vegetables.
- Pupils are only allowed to bring water in their water bottles.
- Physical activity is greatly promoted through a wide range of clubs and sporting opportunities, including competitions.
- Mr Mills runs the Daily Mile, which is optional for children to take part in at lunch times.
- Optional structured games are carried out at playtimes and lunchtimes to encourage physical activity.
- Children will grow their own fruit and vegetables in the Eco Garden. All year groups will have involvement in this.
- The Walking Bus scheme encourages walking to school.
- Anti-bullying and friendship lessons are carried out regularly. Teachers to send any evidence to Miss Griffiths.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Environmental Review

Appendix 2: Action Plan

Appendix 3: Eco Code

Appendix 4: Evidence of involving the wider community

Appendix 5: Eco Agreement