

Evaluation of International Activity 2022

Activity title : Eco Schools Award

Activity Lead: Mrs Hayley Hemnell

SDG Links: 7,11,12,13

Here at Whiston Willis Primary Academy, we have started the process of applying for an Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation. To gain green flag status, our school will have to complete seven steps of the Eco-Schools program.

Step 1 of the program was to form an Eco Committee. Our school now has their very own Eco-Committee. We meet regularly to discuss environmental issues and how we can improve our own school. The committee members have their own books where they can record issues raised in our meetings, then share these issues with their own classes. Minutes are recorded from our meetings by different members of our Eco-Committee.

Step 2 of our Eco-Schools program was completing an environmental review based on the ten topics. These ten topics are biodiversity, energy, global citizenship, healthy living, litter, marine, school grounds, transport, waste and water. Once all the information was gathered, the children began step 3 which was to form an action plan.

The action plan is a working document to help our eco-committee plan and manage actions for 3 Eco-Schools topics of their choice, which they will then work on throughout the school year.

During the school year our Eco-Committee have driven forward the remaining steps in order to apply for the Green Flag status. Our school have made curriculum links, informed and involved the school and wider community, monitored and evaluated our eco journey followed by creating our very own personalised Eco code.

The three topics are eco committee voted to work on for this school year were school grounds, biodiversity and waste. Throughout our school we have developed our well-being garden with the help and support of The James Greenop foundation. Large raised beds have been erected for our children to grown their own vegetables. We have grown strawberries, carrots, courgettes and tomatoes. Our bug garden has been enhanced by staff and the children in Nursery and Reception. Bird feeders have been made and left in trees, bug hotels have been created to enhance biodiversity. Wildflowers have also been planted to attract bees and butterflies. Our school have tried to cut down on the amount of waste produced. We regularly recycle, collect old batteries and have discouraged the use of single use plastics where possible. Paper recycling is collected at the end of each school day and fruit and vegetable peelings and waste are now added to our new turning compost bin.

Pupil evaluation comments (please include year group):

- what did you enjoy about this activity?
- what new ideas and information have you learned?
- what would you like to learn/do next?

Isaac Year 3- 'I love being on the Eco Committee. It's very important to recycle and reduce our waste. I recycle at home too.'

Una Year 1- 'I've made my own eco garden with my mum at home. We are growing potatoes and plants in it.'

Oscar Year 5 - 'I love bees. I love watching the bees getting the pollen from our plants. Bees are so important, we need to look after them and save them. Some people are scared of bees, but I'm not. We need them.'

Teacher evaluation comments (please include Key Stage):

- what was effective about this activity? How could it be improved next time?
- what impact did this have on you and any other staff involved?
- what impact did this activity have on the pupils? on the school generally or on the wider community?

Eco-Committee have inspired the whole school and staff. Children are much more aware about the amount of waste they produce and how they can reduce this. Our pupils are making a conscious effort to reduce, reuse and recycle when possible. Staff and children are using containers for sandwiches as we are reducing the amount of waste we produce as a collective.

The amount of paper wasted and simply put in the bin was a huge concern to our eco committee. Recycling bins are used in classrooms with our eco members being responsible for recycling their own class waste.

Children, staff and parents are excited to see how our vegetables grow and develop. Our aim is to utilise our produce in our cooking lessons. We would also love to donate our school grown crops to local food banks or other charitable causes.

Parent/Visitor/Governor/Wider community evaluation comments:

- what impact has this activity had on your child?
- what impact has this activity had on you?
- how could we improve this activity next time?