

BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eco Policy 2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Byron Court Primary School is committed to the core aims and objectives of the Eco Schools programme. Having achieved our Bronze and Silver Awards, we are now seeking to qualify for Green Flag Status. As a school, we encourage pupils and staff to follow the Eco Code as detailed below. The code was decided as the result of a whole school competition involving children from KS1 and KS2.

Eco Code

Our World needs help!

Use water only when you need it,

Run, walk and ride a bike.

We need a healthy planet,

Only use lights when you are in the room.

Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Look after our school and our world,

Don't throw rubbish on the ground.

2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 It is important for the Byron Court Primary School community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live and work. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.
- 2.2 We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. We encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.
- 2.3 The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to reduce the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, recycle and re-use materials wherever possible and respect our neighbours and our environment.

3.0 LITTER

- 3.1 Pupils will be educated on the impact of litter in their local environment as well on the wider world, during the course of the curriculum and Eco Projects.
- 3.2 All members of the school community should take responsibility in reduction and prevention of litter.
- 3.3 Assemblies and audits should show pupils that litter prevention improves the environmental quality of the school and the neighbourhood.

4.0 WASTE MINIMISATION

We will endeavour to reduce the amount of waste produced by the school.

4.1 Consumables

- 4.1.1 Writing and printing on both sides of the paper whenever possible.
- 4.1.2 Paper will be re-used within the classroom.
- 4.1.3 Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.
- 4.1.4 Using text messaging service where possible to inform parents.
- 4.1.5 There are clearly labelled bins in each classroom indicating the everyday materials which can be recycled.
- 4.1.6 Cartridges from computer ink and photocopiers are collected in a labelled bin.
- 4.1.7 The eco-club will continue to evaluate our recycling scheme and add to the materials for recycling when necessary.
- 4.1.8 Gardening waste will be put into the school compost bins.
- 4.1.9 We will reuse materials, including containers, by using them as containers for gardening or for use in art.

4.2 ENERGY

- 4.2.1 Use of energy at school will be monitored by pupils and the caretaker on a regular basis through meter readings.
- 4.2.2 We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
- 4.2.3 We will keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- 4.2.4 The eco-club will audit the amount of energy used.
- 4.2.5 The eco-club will appoint class monitors to ensure these recommendations are carried out.
- 4.2.6 Pipes are being replaced on a rolling programme.

4.3 WATER

- 4.3.1 All members of the community should endeavor to reduce unnecessary water usage.
- 4.3.2 Automatic taps are fitted to reduce amount of water used.
- 4.3.3 We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
- 4.3.4 We aim to raise awareness of simple actions which can substantially cut down water use.
- 4.3.5 We will educate pupils and the wider community to show how conserving water is vital for the future of our planet.
- 4.3.6 At Byron Court we will raise awareness of the link between clean water and good health in a global context.
- 4.3.7 Water collection barrel installed in the wildlife area for gardening purposes.

5.0 SCHOOL GROUNDS

- 5.1 The school grounds should provide teaching and learning opportunities to enrich the experience of the pupils.
- 5.2 Pupils should be able to play, learn, relax and make good connections with the natural environment within the school grounds.
- 5.3 Habitat creation should promote biodiversity within the school grounds.
- 5.4 Opportunities for gardening and growing produce should be encouraged.

- 5.5 The school grounds should be viewed as a part of the local community and as such pupils and staff alike should endeavour to make them a good show case for Eco work within the school.
- 5.6 School grounds enrich all areas of the curriculum, particularly Science, by providing a unique and varied context for learning; Stimulate motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils to develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding.
- 5.7 The school has planted trees and we have areas set aside for wildlife and planting and growing.
- 5.8 School habitats such as the pond, hedgerows etc. are used by the children to study flora and fauna and their habitat. Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.

6.0 BIODIVERSITY

- 6.1 Byron Court aims to raise awareness of the term 'biodiversity', as a measure of the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems, particularly in our local area, and increase pupils' understanding of it.
- 6.2 We aim to communicate the benefits and values associated with biodiversity.
- 6.3 We are committed to providing a range of local, outdoor experiences involving first-hand contact with nature, and those working to care for it in our wildlife area.
- 6.4 Byron Court will encourage choices which improve the biodiversity of our local surroundings, and which use natural resources in more sustainable ways.
- 6.5 We will make national and international links with other schools to explore the local and global aspects of biodiversity issues e.g. seed exchange with our partner schools.

7.0 TRANSPORT

- 7.1 The school provides adequate support and information about travelling to school for pupils and staff.
- 7.2 We encourage parents and children to use public transport and to walk or cycle to school.
- 7.3 We support and encourage walking buses.
- 7.4 We will continue to encourage children to walk to school by following the JRSO 'Walk to school' initiative.
- 7.5 Having achieved our Bronze and Silver Awards, we are now seeking to qualify for the Gold award.
- 7.6 We will continue to take part in the Bikeability scheme to encourage safe cycling.
- 7.7 We will encourage staff to share transport when going on courses etc.

8.0 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 8.1 The school has a comprehensive programme of physical activity and encourages pupils and staff to participate at all levels.

- 8.2 The school has a rigorous PSHE programme which promotes healthy attitudes and information pertaining to social and emotional development at all stages. Awareness of the risks of smoking, drugs, alcohol, internet/social networking abuse, sexual relationships, poor diet and bullying are part of the programme.
- 8.3 The school is committed to improving the aesthetic qualities of the grounds to provide a pleasant environment for all to work in.
- 8.4 Fruit is available for children in KS1 during playtime. In addition, many children in KS2 bring their own fruit.
- 8.5 We will endeavour to compost the remains of the fruit and have several compost bins on site.
- 8.6 Hot healthy meals available on site free to KS1 and a charge to KS2.

9.0 SUSTAINING OUR WORLD

- 9.1 The school aims to carefully control its use of energy and new raw materials.
- 9.2 The school aims to cut down on pollution and waste.
- 9.3 To minimize waste and pollution the school will investigate a possibility of adopting a green procurement policy suggested by Eco schools initiative.
- 9.4 The school encourages the recycling of used materials. Currently we recycle: paper, printer cartridges, textiles, batteries, cardboard.
- 9.5 The school aims to protect fragile eco-systems.
- 9.6 The school aims to share more fairly between different social groups and peoples through Harvest Festival assemblies, visits from Sudbury Luncheon club members, numerous charity activities.
- 9.7 The school aims to share more fairly between present and future generations.
- 9.8 We have achieved a Sustainable Travel higher standard level.
- 9.9 In 2014/15 the school achieved the International Schools Award - Intermediate Certificate.
- 9.10 We are aiming to obtain the International School Award accreditation in which children will explore the global citizenship theme of sustainable living and environmental change in an international context.

10.0 NATIONAL CURRICULUM

- 10.1 Environmental Education is directly referred to in the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 in Science, Geography and PSHCE. At Byron Court Primary School, Environmental Education is not taught in isolation, but is linked to all areas of the primary curriculum, for example: Geography, Science, English, Mathematics, Art, D&T, Music, History, PSHCE, Drama, Computing and PE.
- 10.2 We are an equal opportunities school and ensure that Environmental Education is accessible to all children.

11.0 PLANNING

11.1 Implementation of Environmental Education is carried out by cross curriculum reference through the Key Stages of the National Curriculum. Each year group plans collaboratively to decide which topics they will do throughout the year, identifying links within subjects for the teaching of Environmental Education.

12.0 REVIEW

12.1 **Date of Policy:** Autumn 2015

12.2 **Date of Review:** Autumn 2018