

Eco-Schools Scotland Interim Green Flag application



Our Green Flag Journey: Colquhoun Park Primary
School, G61 1HD

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Eco-Schools is a pupil-led award, please make sure that this is reflected in your answers and that any photos submitted are clear and represent what you are trying to communicate.

Our Voice (1 of 6)

How did you form your Eco-Committee? How did you make decisions? Please share a story that demonstrates your success as a committee.

At Colquhoun Park Primary our Eco-Committee is made up of children, teachers, support staff and parents. All members are invited to meeting which take place at the beginning of each term.

Through Bike ability for primary 6's it was identified that children throughout the school were interested in opportunities to ride bikes. The children from the eco committee then thought it would be a great idea to make transport a main focus for Eco.

The Eco-Committee made an important decision to focus on the way we travel to school in order to reduce carbon emissions and promote healthier ways to travel. We worked in partnership with I bike to promote using bikes and scooters on our way to school.



Our Learning Experience (2 of 6)

Which topics did you choose and why? Please provide details of how you linked your Action Plan to the school curriculum.

Transport

The children of the Eco – Committee were excited and discussing how they all wished they were taking part in bike ability. This then led to a discussion of children saying they were going to start cycling their own bikes to school. We then realised that this would be a much healthier option than driving to school, it was also a better option for our environment as it would reduce carbon emissions as well as reduce the traffic in our car park. It was from this point we began to work in partnership with our schools Road Safety Monitors and requested I Bike to work with our school.

We identified the different ways in which the pupils of our school travel to school, and worked effectively with I bike to help encourage others to come to school. An example of this is if you are to bring your bike to school we will fix any issue with it.

Litter

Litter is always a big focus in our school, this particular time we ensured responsibilities were shared through class jobs. We also furthered our recycling with bottles in our infant classes. And recycling bottle tops to create beautiful art for our playground. There is also future plans to create a bike shed made up of 2 litre recycled bottles, similar to that of our current green house.

Biodiversity

Our schools IDL planners all linked nicely to the topic of Biodiversity through Animal kingdom world, It also worked in partnership with our science planners. This encouraged all classes and staff to get involved in our biodiversity topic and have responsibility over how to consider the preservation of the eco-system.

These topics all lent their self nicely to many areas of the school curriculum: Maths, Health and Wellbeing, Technology, Literacy, Science and Social Studies



Sharing Success (4 of 6)

How did you involve the rest of the school and community? Do you have a story about this?

At Colquhoun Park Primary School we always find it beneficial inviting and involving the wider school community we do this in many ways such as Gardening days. This occur twice in a school year around Autumn and spring, parents and the local community are invited to help look after our school ground and build different things such as our school sheds and outdoor kitchen. We always have a great turn out and all involved are rewarded with a BBQ picnic.

Some of the classes were able to share all their learning opportunities which they had experienced through the biodiversity topic at a whole school assembly where parents were also invited. They rehearsed there words at home as part of home learning, and practised there acting and performing skills. Parent and staff all were very proud of the children.

We have positive relationships with outside agencies who help get involved with our plans. Examples of this include I bike who are now active members of our school community and work on a weekly basis with classes in the school.

School responsibilities are shared out in classes and each class has a role that they need to undertake. These responsibilities are usually found from our Environmental Check list where the Eco committee decide which areas need focused on and we monitor this monthly, ensuring a difference is being made.

Parents are also involved in Bike ability where we trained member of the parent council as well as Support staff to take groups for OPAL. We also have another ECO group where children recycle lost property by sewing together cushions and throws for classes.

Do you keep records on a school website or Glow?

NO

Were your activities covered in the press ?

No



Evaluate and Celebrate (5 of 6)

Was your Green Flag Journey a success? Please collect and insert comments from the following people...

- **Pupils**

p1

"Yes, I liked doing the bottle top art."

p2

"Yes, I enjoyed having my own job to."

p2/3

"Yes, really liked having my own responsibilities."

p3

"Yes because we have reduced the litter and we made the whole school and parents aware of the affects pollution have on our sea life."

p3/4

"Yes I really enjoyed the bottle top art and having my own job."

p4

"Yes, loved my responsibility of cleaning the beaches"

p5/6

"Yes, working as part of a team and designing"

p6

"Yes because we have had the right idea and banned bottles in the playground and this is making our environment better."

p7

"Yes because we are making great changes for our school."

- **Teacher**

Miss Templeman Class Teach/ ECO Leader

"I have thoroughly enjoyed our Green Flag Journey. It has been great to take on board children ideas to better our school and environment. The children have loved being in charge of their own learning and having the responsibility to better our environment."

Mrs Durish SLA

"I feel as part of the Green Flag Journey. Bike ability was an important part of this giving children the opportunity to cycle to school and be out in the fresh air. It allowed them to be responsible citizens and confident individuals, I really enjoyed working with the children and providing them with life long skills".

Mrs Page Class teacher/ ECO Opal

"The children really took responsibility for their own learning and it was great to be involved with the Eco group. I truly believe our green flag journey has been a great success children have been effective in contributing to our environment, successful learners in bringing together all their learning to create different items and share their learning with the school. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves."

- **Local Partner: Community Group, Business or Environmental Organisation – Danny**

I Bike were involved in helping us in our schools travel plans and supporting individuals with how to ride a bike as well as bike safety.

"I have enjoyed being part of the school and being involved with different projects that are going the teacher and staff all get on great and make you feel welcomed. The children all have great ideas and work really hard to improve their school. I am looking forward to being more involved and see the school and children's plans develop further in the next 3 years."

Head Teacher
Mrs Brien



Our journey towards this green flag has been a superb example of our school's great team work! Over the course of the year I have been so encouraged to see the children in the Eco Committee working so closely together with the staff , Parent Council and members of the community to work on our areas of improvement and how best to meet these challenges together.

We are completely committed to embedding Eco work and ideals into our Interdisciplinary Learning as it is such an engaging, wide ranging and important context for learning. Although we are striving for our 5th? green flag, this is not the main focus, which reflects the amount that it is embedded into the curriculum at Colquhoun Park. As part of our main focus this year, pupils, staff and parents worked together, took part in workshops and as part of our OPAL groups (opportunities for Additional Leadership), collected, organised, designed and produced a magnificent piece of Bottle Top Wall Art for the Playground. The whole community are extremely proud of the finished product and we are all in progress of designing more for next session!

The second big focus has been working to become a Sustrans School and we have been working closely with our I Bike partners on this exciting opportunity. The impact is evident already with pupils proud to be able to ride 2 wheeler bikes, to parents buying bikes for their children who wouldn't otherwise have done so! Children are planning for safe cycle routes to school along with plans for bike racks and shelters to be added to our playground. All this valuable partnership work ties in with our Travel Plan which has the overall aim of ensuring safe, healthy travel to and from school for all.

Parent Comment



The Parent Council at Colquhoun Park Primary enjoys working with the Eco-Committee throughout each school year to educate and implement eco-friendly ways to better our environment and grounds at the school. Maintaining and enhancing our outdoor areas through our bottle top art installations (collected, designed and built by the students), twice yearly Gardening Days (planting, painting, and refurbishment) and the use of recycled materials for areas such as the Nursery playground. We also are involved in the bikeability program as well as iBike, which helps to teach children how to ride safely, but also educates them about the fumes and chemicals released into the environment via motorised transportation. We are very pleased and impressed by the Eco-Committee's commitment and dedication and are happy to support them in their endeavours.

Victoria E. Morrison
Head Chair
Colquhoun Park Primary Parent Council

Next Steps... (6 of 6)



- Please check that you have provided us with evidence that you're happy with. We may use it to share with others as part of our new application/assessment process.
- Make sure that you have permission to share photos
- Save this as a pdf (yourschoolname.pdf)
- Send it as an attachment to sde@keepscotlandbeautiful.org along with a copy of your **Action Plans** covering the renewal/award period
- Email title: School Name Our Green Flag Journey

Explore...



We'll be in touch soon to let you know the result of your application. Until then have a think about what you want to do for your next Green Flag application and how that fits in with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.