



ECO POLICY



Banbridge Nursery School is an 'eco school'. We became involved in the Eco Schools Programme in Sept 2009, and, by December 2009 had achieved a **Bronze award**. In June 2010 we achieved a **Silver award**. In June 2011 the school was awarded a **Green Flag** and in June 2013 a second **Green Flag**. This is a prestigious and internationally recognised award to show how well pupils have done in relation to environmental issues.

'The children at this nursery were very knowledgeable on many topics within the Programme. They were able to talk about recycling, saving water through the use of the water butt and various plants, birds and insects in the garden. The school grounds were lovely and I particularly liked the tick charts for the amount of litter.' (Assessor - June 2011)

We hope to maintain what we have achieved, develop new ideas, and reapply in 2014/15 for our third Green Flag Award.

AIMS

- To maintain our eco standard and investigate new initiatives.
- To work together (parents, staff and children) to make our school environmentally friendly.
- To make the children aware of the need to take care of our school environment by keeping it litter free, and looking after our plants and wildlife.
- To encourage the children to recycle within school and at home.
- To help the children to appreciate a range of outdoor environments by visits to Peatlands Park, Exploris and walking trips into Banbridge.
- To gain knowledge about environmental issues by our visits / visitors to school such as RSPB, TACT, Phil's Farm, World of Owls etc.
- To save energy by switching off unnecessary lights, computers and other electrical equipment, and by using the heat efficiently.

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THESE AIMS

Our School motto is **E**veryone

Cares for Our school

'Congratulations to all concerned – staff and pupils alike, and not forgetting the caretaker and many parents who helped the school achieve its environmental targets' (Eco- Schools Admin Officer – June 2011)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Parents will have been informed about eco issues at the induction meeting (May/June) before their children even start school. During the year they are made aware of events/topics via our monthly newsletter. They can view our 'Eco Notice board' in the hall, and this is regularly updated to show what we have been doing in school. We have an 'Eco' link on our new website (June 2013)
- Parents are always encouraged to come into nursery school to see what their children are doing.
- Parents help us to recycle and raise funds for the RSPB by recycling old ink cartridges.
- Parents always help on our school trips, and we have a 'Parent Support Group'.

STAFF INVOLVEMENT

- We have an Eco committee which consists of all our permanent school staff. The Board of Governors is updated on events, and we regularly discuss issues with the children.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN

- Our children are very young. They are only 3 or 4 years old, and while they do not sit on the 'Eco Committee' they are certainly very involved with our Eco topics, and, on many occasions, 'lead' the way. All topics are discussed with the children, for example, recycling, bird watching, care of our birds, planting seeds, eco jobs etc.
- As we have a new intake each year all these topics are revisited annually. We have to start all over again with certain issues, for example, how to use the water butt, where our compost bin is situated etc.
- The children all take turns with their 'Eco Jobs' and are presented with a certificate at the end of their week 'on duty'.

LINK WITH OTHER SCHOOLS/COMMUNITIES

- We have links with other nursery schools with whom we have discussed eco topics.
- When possible, we have attended cluster meetings and have joined the RSPB forum.

- We have been involved with recycling schemes.
- We regularly visit the local community and enjoy our topic on 'People Who Help Us'.

OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ECO JOBS

The children all participate in rota to do their 'Eco jobs' each week:-

- Collecting litter
- Recycling
- Taking care of our plants and wildlife.
- Turning off unnecessary lights and closing doors .

TOPIC - BIRDS

- The children feed the birds in school as part of their 'Eco Job'
Our outdoor area has a bird table, bird bath, variety of feeders and nesting boxes.
- We have enjoyed the involvement of the RSPB. Their Education Advisors have a child friendly interactive approach, and have provided us with a vast amount of knowledge about birds and their habitat. In Feb 2014 we sponsored a Red Kite named ' Carly '. The children have made bird feeders and a minibeast area with Jen and Katherine from the RSPB.
- We take part each February in the 'The Big and Little Schools' Bird Watch'.
- We have regular bird watching sessions in small groups in the spring term.

TOPIC - RECYCLING

- The children recycle card, paper, and milk cartons daily.
- We have a compost bin and water butt.
- We make models using recyclable materials and have made our own paper.
- We have been involved in recycling schemes.

VISITS/VISITORS

- We have a wide variety of trips during the year, for example, Peatlands Park, Exploris, and local businesses in Banbridge.
- We have a range of visitors such as TACT, RSPB, The World of Owls and Phil's Farm.

ENERGY

- We turn off unnecessary lights and computers and turn the heating down to conserve energy.
- The school has had new double glazed windows in March 2010.