

## Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. Review of Application 2024

We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at St. Luke's CofE VA Primary School have been successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

We reviewed your application and noted the following:

It is evident that young people in your school are aware of environmental issues and passionate about protecting our planet - your large Eco-Committee, 17 members in total, clearly demonstrates this. Having multiple adults on your Eco-Committee is a great way to distribute the workload, set an example to young people, and prevent over-reliance on a single staff member. This approach will massively benefit your Eco-Schools activities. Allowing young people to share the recording of the meeting minutes is a great way of allowing them to take ownership of their school's environmental initiatives.

Your Eco-Committee was elected democratically, this approach will give selected members a confidence boost and empower them to maximise their Eco-Schools' impacts. The quote provided by Jonathan and Etienne reflects their interest in sustainability; it is brilliant that they have been chosen for your Eco-Committee, granting them the chance to create positive impacts in their local community and beyond.

Keeping your Headteacher updated on the progress of your Eco-Schools' initiatives, is a good strategy to guarantee buy-in and support from your entire school community. It is great to read that your Eco-Committee took responsibility for completing the Eco-Schools' Environmental Review, wholeheartedly embracing the task. Completing the Environmental Review allowed your Eco-Committee to recognise the positive changes your school has already made and appreciate the future impacts they can create.

Your Eco-Committee engaged with a variety of stakeholders including the office manager, site supervisor, kitchen staff, teachers, TAs, and Headteacher when completing their Environmental Review, this is a great way to engage with different members of your school community and gather their support. This year your Eco-Committee thoughtfully selected topics they were passionate about for their Action Plan. This is a strategic approach that will foster greater engagement leading to better outcomes. Your Action Plan contains a diverse range of activities aimed at creating positive behaviours, making an immediate difference to your local environment, and expanding your Eco-Schools' initiatives into your local community. Your curriculum links come from various year groups and subject areas, they are good examples of innovative and engaging environmental education.

The examples provided in your application are brilliant; you have used environmental issues to add an engaging, real-life context to learning in your school. This approach will enrich pupils' education whilst helping them understand the pressing issues our planet faces. We particularly liked reading that there has been an increased use of the outdoors for learning in all subjects. The Eco-Schools Team is pleased to read that you have partnered with 'Trees for Cities' to complete a project aimed at 'greening' your school and increasing awareness of the biodiversity around school grounds.

Your Eco-Committee has placed a lot of emphasis on informing as many members of your school community as possible about their Eco-Schools work, including through assemblies, school newsletters, social media and, and the school Eco-Board. Your Eco-Committee's efforts to inform their school community are brilliant, especially well done to them for having the bravery to deliver an assembly about their work – this can be quite a nerve-wracking experience. Your Eco-Committee expertly used its school newsletter to extend its environmental initiatives beyond school boundaries, maximising the impacts of its work. You have worked with an impressive array of different groups this academic year, we especially enjoyed learning about your work with Trees for Cities, Zero Carbon Schools, RHS, Newham Council, and Terracycle. You state that the most significant success of your Eco-Schools' work is long-term sustainability and we agree that this is a

phenomenal achievement. It was great to read that despite the challenges you faced including time and budget you still managed to make enormous impacts.

The Eco-Schools' activities you and your Eco-Committee have delivered over the last 12 months will raise awareness, create an immediate positive impact, and change behaviours. You have participated in the *Great Britain Spring Clean* and have a team of litter busters who go around each lunchtime and keep the grounds clean and litter-free. You have saved on energy by turning off lights when not needed and made the school greener— phenomenal achievements. We loved reading about your environmentally-themed trip to the River Lea learning about river features, land use, and biodiversity.

Your Eco-Code serves as a motivational, direct call to action for protecting our planet. Displaying your Eco-Code in various prominent positions is a great way to ensure that it is treasured by everyone at St. Luke's CofE VA Primary School. It has been an absolute joy assessing your application and learning about the impact you have had, not only on our planet but also on the young people you work with every day. We can't emphasize this enough—take great pride in your achievements, and congratulations on your Eco-Schools' Green Flag with Distinction 2024.

Well done St. Luke's!