

**Eco-Schools Post Primary Environmental Review**

*This review is a suggested format, designed to be an audit tool for the Eco-Committee to use in your school. The questions are labelled so that you can tell which will require investigation by the pupils, which they will need to ask a member of staff about and8 which may take a bit of research.*

*The Eco-Schools programme does not require that you complete all the suggestions in this document. It is designed to be a stimulus that you can use to assess what happens in your school at the start of the programme and as a baseline audit each year.*

*You may not know all the answers to all the questions in each section but if you chose to work further on a topic the answers should be found by the next time you complete the review. It also might not include every possible idea that you could carry out, so please don’t take the questions as exhaustive.*

*The questions will help Eco-Committee members to think of actions that can be undertaken in the school to improve the environment and the school’s impact on our planet. The 3 chosen topics (1 major and 2 minor) for the year should then be put into an Action Plan.*

*Take the time to investigate every year as a lot can change over 12 months.*

**Date completed: September 2023**

**Completed by: Eco-Committee**

**Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | These are suggested links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For more ideas and information visit [our website](https://eco-schoolsni.etinu.net/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=38). |
|  | Pupils can find the answers themselves by looking carefully around the school.  |
|  | Pupils may need to ask an adult to find the answers to these questions. |
|  | A little bit more investigation is required, maybe a survey or asking questions to other pupils. |
|  | This is a way of **measuring** the impact that you are having on the environment so you can show how much you are improving. This is an important part of being an Eco-School. |

**Biodiversity**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Does the school have trees in the grounds? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does the school have more hedging than fencing around the parameter? | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Are some of your trees and hedging native species?  | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does your school have a pond or marshy area? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does your pond have an exit route for frogs, toads, newts and hedgehogs? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does your school have a wildflower meadow? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does your school have areas of long/undisturbed vegetation linking habitats together? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does your school have any of the following aids to biodiversity?Please circle/highlight the ones that you have:*Log pile Stone pile Minibeast hotel Scented flowers/herbs**Butterfly bushes Bird feeders Water for birds**Bird boxes Bat boxes Swift houses Bee homes* *Hedgehog House Hedgehog passages (i.e. under/through fencing)*  | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Are the school grounds free from herbicides and pesticides? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do you always use peat-free compost? | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]Have you carried out a biodiversity survey of your school grounds? | Yes | No |

**Biodiversity action points/comments:**

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| --- |
| * **Create with the Live Here Love Here Grant ‘Green Haven’ our outdoor classroom and nurture space – all items to be ordered and paid for before October 31st 2023**
* **Continue to link with the gardening club to develop the green spaces in our college grounds and to aid with growing vegetable packs for the local community**
* **Liase with AR and the new school build contractors about the location to which our hedgerow can be planted, and when this can take place**
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**Climate Change**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900434929[1]Do pupils understand the difference between weather and climate? | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Is there an understanding of the contributing factors to climate change i.e. the use of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere?  | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do some subjects study the effects of climate change on different people and wildlife around the world?  | Yes  | No |
| MC900434929[1]Do pupils understand their carbon footprint and know ways to reduce it?  | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Which of these things do you do to reduce the school’s carbon footprint: Circle all that you are doing: *Walk/cycle/take the bus to school Recycle all the waste you can**Buy local food Carpool to school Save energy* *Offset air travel through the Global Forest Fund Plant trees* *Use less plastic and paper Save water* | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you measure any of the above actions you have taken? | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]If yes, have you used an online carbon calculator to see how much carbon you are saving? *Hint one is available in the Eco-Schools Resource Library*. | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Have pupils lobbied their local politicians on the issues of climate change and local solutions? | Yes  | No |

**Climate Change action points/comments:**

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| --- |
| * **Speak to CLT about completing carbon literacy training which can then be introduced across the wider school community**
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**Energy**

**Gas / Oil:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Are windows and doors always kept shut when the heating is on? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does each classroom have a thermometer so you can try and keep the temperature at 18 degrees centigrade? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Is there insulation in the roof of the school building to reduce heat loss? | Yes | No |

**Electricity:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Are lights **always** turned off in empty rooms? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Does the school use energy efficient bulbs? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are lights turned off as soon as there is enough daylight? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are projectors/whiteboards, computers and monitors switched off when not in use?  | Yes | No |

**General:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900434929[1]Do pupils understand how our energy is generated, how it effects the environment, and the benefits of renewable energy? | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]Do pupils or an adult keep track of the electricity readings? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Has the school investigated possible sources of renewable energy? | Yes | No |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MC900290890[1]What is your Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score? You should be able to find it in your school or [online](https://www.epbniregisternd.com/reportSearchAddressTerms.html?redirect=reportSearchAddressByPostcode). It’s a really useful document to track your school’s energy efficiency between years. | C |

**Energy action points/comments:**

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| --- |
| * **Regular checks to replace any signage that reminds staff to turn off their lights, boards and computers when not in use**
* **With the new school build there will be increased roof insulation, solar panels and the use of energy efficient bulbs with the updating of light appliances**
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**Global Perspective**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900441498[1]Does your school have an active link with a school in another country? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do the teachers have Fair Trade tea and coffee in the staffroom? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are there any other Fair Trade products used in school? (fruit juice, footballs, bananas) | Yes | No |
| Do pupils recognise the Fair Trade symbol and understand its meaning? | Yes  | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do you have any visitors from the local community/Eco-Schools delivery partners to talk about local or global issues? | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Are pupils aware of their Rights and Responsibilities (linked to the UN convention on the Rights of the Child)? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do you have any whole school awareness days to support people in other countries/situations? | Yes | No |
| Do you ever raise money or collect clothing/toys for charities working in developing countries? | Yes  | No |
| Are pupils aware of, or are lessons linked to, the UN Sustainable Development Goals?  | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]Do pupils understand that choices/behaviours in the developed world can effect people in the developing world in an unfair way?  | Yes  | No |

**Global Perspective action points/comments:**

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| * **Link with a school in another country**
* **Bring in visitors from the local community/Eco Schools delivery partners to widen pupil knowledge and outlook**
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**Healthy Living**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Do you have a fruit/healthy tuck shop? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do any vending machines in the school offer healthy options? N/A | Yes  | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are pupils encouraged to bring fruit for break? | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]Do you measure how many pupils chose a healthy break/lunch option?  | Yes  | No |
| Is salad/vegetables offered/a popular option in the canteen at lunchtime?  | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do pupils have the opportunity to suggest what healthy choices they would like to include in the dinner/canteen menu? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Is there free drinking water available to pupils all day? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do pupils get to experience growing and then eating their own food at school? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Is there an ‘off curriculum’ fitness programme established in the school?  | Yes | No |
| Does the school invite outside health agencies to come and talk to pupils about their physical/mental health? | Yes  | No |
| Does the school run digital detox campaigns?  | Yes  | No |
| Does the school have an anti-bullying policy?  | Yes  | No |
| Does the school run any mindfulness and meditation lessons?  | Yes  | No |

**Healthy Living action points/comments:**

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| * **Discuss with Science the possibility of students planting herbs within lessons which they can then grow at home – Eco Committee to assist with funding of this activity**
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**Litter**

**Inside the school:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Is the inside of the school free from litter? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are there enough bins inside the school? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are the bins in the right places? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are the bins emptied often enough? | Yes | No |

**School grounds:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Are the school grounds free from litter? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are there enough bins around the school grounds? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are the bins in the right places? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are the bins suitable? E.g. does the litter blow out or are they too small/big? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]If litter is present, is it coming from children in school or from outside the school grounds? | School | Outside |

**Outside the school:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Is your community generally litter free? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are there enough bins in the community? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Does the school help to keep the community clean? | Yes | No |

**General:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does the school have a clear policy on litter? MC900441498[1] | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Do all pupils know the problems caused to the environment and wildlife by dropping litter? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Have you run a pupil led anti-litter campaign at school?  | Yes  | No  |
| MC900290890[1]Do you keep a record of what, where, when and amount of litter found? | Yes | No |

**Litter action points/comments:**

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| * **Regularly update the litter level which is on the Eco Schools notice board**
* **Eco-Committee members and sixth form study students to litter pick throughout the school day now more litter pickers have been ordered**
* **Create a recycling ambassadors list so that during tutor time each tutor group has 1 ambassador who is responsible for emptying the recycling bins within the classroom / Eco Committee are then to empty the remaining recycling bins around the college**
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**Please note Eco-Schools NI consider balloon releases a form of mass littering. Having a balloon release at school may put your Green Flag status in doubt. Please consult the litter topic section of the Eco-Schools website for more information.**

**Marine**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900434929[1]Can pupils list 3 reasons why the marine environment/ocean is vitally important to us? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do some subjects study the Marine topic and the effects of plastics on wildlife and human health?  | Yes  | No |
| MC900434929[1]Do pupils know about other issues affecting marine wildlife and marine environment?  | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do the pupils know about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do the pupils know what ‘sustainable consumption’ and ‘responsibly sourced' mean? | Yes  | No |
| MC900300275[1]Has your school banned any single use plastics? Circle any actions that you are currently doing: *Refusing - plastic straws/ cutlery / bags / Styrofoam food containers* *Reducing – wrappers / packaging**Recycling - plastic / food waste*  | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do the pupils recognise the things listed below as sources of plastic pollution (macro and microplastics)? Circle all that you are able to identify:*Packaging Agriculture Construction* *Coastal Tourism Cosmetics and personal care products Shipping*  *Texiles and clothing Terrestrial Transportation Aquaculture*  | Yes  | No |
| MC900441498[1]Have pupils lobbied their local politicians or businesses on the issues of marine plastics pollution and single use plastics? | Yes  | No |
| Has your school taken part in a litter clean-up of a beach/river/or local area?  | Yes | No |

**Marine action points/comments:**

*Please list 3 ways you can prevent marine litter entering the marine environment*

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| * **Organise further beach cleans**
* **Create lesson plans to be used in PDP lessons to educate students on the reasons for us completing beach cleans**
* **Encourage further safe disposal of litter around the school site due to our proximity to the coast**
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**Outdoor Learning**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Are walking or sports areas available to pupils at break and lunch time? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are the school grounds an inviting and appealing place to spend time?If no, list some possible improvements below. | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Is there a variety of resources to use for learning outside the classroomi.e. a pond area, woodland area, greenhouse, vegetable garden? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are there quiet places to sit and talk/read? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you grow your own vegetables or fruit in the school grounds?  | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Do you feel pupils and teachers are aware of the cognitive benefits of learning outdoors? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do classes go beyond the school gates for learning i.e. field trips and residential trips? | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Are any lessons held in the school grounds? | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]Do you keep count of how many lessons are held in the school grounds?  | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do all pupils have the opportunity to suggest what changes or new things they would like in the school grounds? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Have pupils looked into the hertiage of the school grounds?  | Yes | No |

**Outdoor Learning action points/comments:**

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| * **Continue to link with the gardening club to develop outside spaces**
* **Where possible apply for grants to further develop outdoor learning**
* **When ‘Green Haven’ our outdoor classroom and nurture space has been finished, create a booking system for staff to use which will allow the number of lessons held in the school grounds to be monitored and for there to be a fair allocation to this outdoor learning space to all subjects**
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**Transport**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900434929[1]Do most pupils walk, cycle or catch the bus to school? | Yes | No |
| MC900290890[1]Do you survey how people travel to school? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Is there somewhere dry and safe to store bikes? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Does the school provide cycle instruction/maintenance workshops for pupils? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do you hold regular walk or cycle to school events/days? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Does the school have a network of safe routes to walk or cycle to school worked out? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do cars park away from the entrance to the school? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do pupils understand the environmental benefits of sustainable transport? | Yes  | No |
| MC900441498[1]Does the school have a travel plan?  | Yes  | No |
| MC900290890[1]Have you taken part in a sustainable transport challenge i.e. the Translink Travel Challenge?  | Yes | No |

**Transport action points/comments:**

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| --- |
| * **With the new school build new bike stores will be built to encourage students to cycle to school where possible**
* **Survey how students travel to school and analyse to find more sustainable methods if possible**
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**Water**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Is the school free from dripping taps? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do pupils always turn the taps off fully? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you have water saving devices in the toilet cisterns?*e.g. a Hippo bag or bottles filled with water* | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]If you have push taps, do they dispense the right amount of water at the right speed? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you have a water butt to collect rainwater for watering plants? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Is rainwater collected and used for anything else around the school? *e.g. flushing toilets or maintaining pond levels* | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Have pupils led a campaign about saving water?  | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Do you learn about water issues in other countries? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Is the school involved in any river or coast conservation projects?  | Yes  | No |
| MC900290890[1]Are pupils or an adult able to take water readings from the meter or from the utility bill? (NI Water may be able to help you with this)  | Yes  | No |

**Water action points/comments:**

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| --- |
| * **Discuss the possibility with the new build of the usage of push taps in all toilets rather than just some**
* **Purchase a water butt which the gardening club can use to water their plants**
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**Waste**

**Reduce:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900441498[1]Does the school use email to send newsletters? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Does your school control the use of resources such as paper?  | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]If you send letters, is it one per family? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do teachers photocopy back to back when they can? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do pupils bring their packed lunch in reusable containers? | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]Do pupils use reusable lunch boxes and water bottles? | Yes  | No  |
| MC900300275[1]Are there fresh water foutains/taps available to refill water bottles? | Yes | No |

**Reuse:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900300275[1]Is there scrap paper trays in the classrooms? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Is paper **always** used on both sides before it is recycled? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Are the toilet paper and hand towels made from recycled paper? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Does the office and photocopier use recycled paper? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you reuse any materials in the classrooms (e.g. for art/technology models)? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you have a swap shop for school uniform/games/ books/DVDs? | Yes | No |

**Recycle:**

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| --- |
| Which of the following do you recycle? (circle or highlight)MC900300275[1]*Paper Plastic Cans Cardboard Clothing/Material**Batteries Phones Stamps Glasses Food Ink Cartridges* |
| MC900300275[1]Do you have a compost bin/area that is in use? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do you use your compost on the school grounds? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Are there enough recycling bins around the school? | Yes | No |
| MC900300275[1]Do the recycling bins always have the right things in them? | Yes | No |

**Information:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MC900290890[1]Do you measure how much waste you are preventing from going to landfill sites? | Yes | No |
| MC900434929[1]If so, does everyone in the school know how much waste you are saving from landfill? | Yes | No |
| MC900441498[1]Have pupils visited a local waste/recycling facility?  | Yes  | No |
| MC900434929[1]Do pupils in the school know the issues of landfill? | Yes | No |

**Waste action points/comments:**

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| --- |
| * **Make posters to put up in all classrooms for tutor boards on what items can go into their blue recycling bins**
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