Schools' monthly eBulletin

Visit the schools extranet site schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

November 2026

Welcome to the **November Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**.

As we head into mid-Autumn, it is time to look ahead at all the projects and events coming up.

Upcoming events, projects and competitions:

- **Green Careers Week** runs from 2 to 7 November
- **Outdoor Classroom Day** is on Thursday 5 November
- **Plastic Clever Schools' International Day of Action** – Friday 6 November
- **World Fisheries Day** is on Saturday 21 November
- **National Tree Week** is from Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 November
- **World Sustainable Transport Day** is on Thursday 26 November
- **Buy Nothing Day** is on Friday 27 November (coincides with Black Friday)

Eco-Schools Roadshow – Taking place on several dates in November. Find out more below about available spaces left.

Deadline for submissions for our December ebulletin = Wednesday 25th November 2026

Take care and, as always, if you need any help or support do get in touch.

Follow us on Social Media

The Sustainable Schools Team have their own social media channels where you can keep up to date with all things related to sustainability in schools.

SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk
SustainableSchoolsExtranet
EcoSchoolsLCC
Sustainableschoolslcc
SustainableSchoolsLeicester
0116 454 6746

Eco Schools Training Session 1 – Tuesday 3 November, 3:45-5pm

- Are you wanting to find out about Eco-Schools and how your school can gain their Green Flag Award?
- Do you want a refresher about any updates to the Award?
- Do you want to find out about events and projects that could help you achieve the award?
- Are you wanting to connect with other school staff in Leicester schools and support each other to gain your Eco-Schools Green Flag Award?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes", then come along to our online training session to find out more!

We are running a free online Eco Schools Training Session to find out about Eco-Schools and how your school can gain or renew your Green Flag Award. This training, delivered by the Sustainable Schools team at Leicester City Council, will explain the Green Flag Award process including the 7 steps, provide top tips for working on Eco-Schools, and ideas for new projects.

The session is on **Tuesday 3 November, from 3:45-5pm via Teams**. Sign up using the **eform**.



Eco Schools Green Flag Award – support available

The Eco-Schools programme is a pupil-led initiative that empowers young people to lead sustainability efforts within their schools and communities. The programme provides a simple, seven-step framework that guides schools on their environmental journey, focusing on ten key topics, such as biodiversity, energy, litter and transport.

This structured approach ensures that schools develop long-term, sustainable habits, turning environmental action into an integral part of school life.

Sign up and registrations are now open for the 2026-27 award.

Register now at: https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/

Last year, 44 schools achieved their Green Flag Awards, the highest ever number in one year for Leicester!

If you need any help or support with any step of the process, feel free to get in touch and ask as Vicky can come to your school to go over the steps with you and your eco group, or can provide support via Teams or phone call. Email Vicky at victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk.

Eco-Schools Roadshow – Last spaces left – Book now!

We are excited to announce that our annual Eco-Schools Roadshow is back for another year, with some very exciting workshops taking place. We only have a few spaces left so book now before it is too late! A flyer has been emailed to all Eco Leads.

Each event will last for most of the school day. Each event will run from approx. 9.15am-2pm and will consist of a carousel of 3 interactive and informative workshops, related to the Eco-Schools topics.

Friday 6 November 2026	Sir Jonathan North College (1 space left)
Thursday 19 November 2026	The City of Leicester College (1 space left)
Friday 27 November 2026	Rushey Mead Academy (1 space left)



Why attend?

- Gain a greater understanding of **Eco-Schools** topics
- Develop new **campaigns** and identify ways of promoting sustainability in school
- Opportunity to network with other schools and learn about their **environmental projects**
- Find out about local and national **projects** and how to get involved

These **free events** are open to all registered Eco-Schools in Leicester and schools in the Lionheart Trust. Schools are invited to bring up to **15 students from KS1, KS2 or KS3** to attend. Further details will be provided on booking.

To book your place, please complete the eform.

For more information, please contact Victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk

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FREE assemblies and workshops on waste management, reduction and recycling for Leicester Schools

Did you know Leicester City Council's Waste Management team offer FREE assemblies or bespoke workshops on waste reduction and recycling for Leicester Schools. They offer a range of activities tailored to your school for all things recycling and waste related, including assemblies, workshops and classroom presentations, tailored to your needs and covering a range of topics.



For further information on the FREE activities we can provide please contact Kimberley Tilley, Service Development Officer (Waste Management), Leicester City Council - kimberley.tilley@leicester.gov.uk or 0116 454 6742

Leicester City Council offering FREE Bikeability sessions

Leicester City Council Offers free Bikeability Learn to Ride, Level 1 and Level 2 to **Y5 & Y6 students** at primary schools across the city. School children love learning these new skills that will give them the confidence to cycle to school independently, especially when they go to their next school in year 7.

What is Bikeability?

- Learn to ride - This programme is designed to get children riding on two wheels and is for those who cannot yet ride confidently in an enclosed space such as a playground or park.
- Level 1 - This programme is undertaken on the playground and teaches the children the four key skills in a learning environment; Observation, Communication, Position, Priority. This allows the instructors to assess the skills of those who can ride to determine if they are competent to put these skills into practice on the road for Level 2.



- Level 2 - This programme links the four skills into key activities; Start/stop, Pass a parked car and side road, U-turns, Left and right turns into/out of major/minor roads. Training takes place on suitable roads within the vicinity of the school, within school lesson time.

All of our instructors are professionally qualified, DBS checked and first aid trained. Bikeability is **delivered at no cost** to the school or parents. Do you want your pupils to benefit from Bikeability? Contact us at bikeability@leicester.gov.uk . Found out more about Bikeability here: Cycle Training for Everyone

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Flight-Free Schools Project

With the impact of climate change becoming increasingly clearer, many schools are looking for opportunities to reduce their emissions targets more quickly. Flight Free UK is currently running a free scheme called Flight Free Schools, which works with schools to help reduce emissions from school trips by reducing or removing the use of air travel.

Flight Free Schools is a project to help schools reduce emissions from trips by reducing or removing the use of air travel. Schools that take part in Flight Free Schools find it is one of the quickest and most cost-effective ways to reach net zero targets, and makes school trips less stressful, cheaper and more inclusive.

There are three stages: bronze, silver and gold, which can include anything from removing just one trip by air, to going completely flight-free. The project is run by the charity Flight Free UK, which works with the school at each step of the way, including carbon calculations from existing school trips, finding and suggesting flight-free destinations, help with route planning, and working with the wider school community.

Full details of the scheme are at www.flightfree.co.uk/flight_free_schools/ , along with a case study video of a school that has stopped flying, with interviews with staff and students showing why the school took this step, how it works in practice, and what effect it has had on staff and students. To register interest or find out more, email info@flightfree.co.uk

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Twycross Zoo FREE CPD Seminars – next week!

Our popular Conservation Careers Conference is back for 2026 and, for the first time, will be delivered virtually, making it more accessible than ever for learners across the UK.

Featuring a range of guest speakers from across the conservation sector, we will offer valuable insight into a variety of conservation-based careers. Attendees will hear first-hand accounts of career journeys, learn about entry routes into the industry, and discover practical steps they can take to improve their future employability. Attendance is completely **free**.

Event Dates are **4 November 2026, 4:00pm-6:00pm or 5 November 2026, 4:00pm-6:00pm**

Places can be booked via the links below:

Registration link to 4th November webinar (16:00-18:00): https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d585f695-25b7-4a01-96ac-f034d94153a0@70d6c2cb-7861-4ce0-b893-5a684c55b975?source=copyLinkLegacyShareLinkDialog

Registration link to 5th November webinar (16:00-18:00): https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/04416221-8c84-4e8a-bf38-876ec476e447@70d6c2cb-7861-4ce0-b893-5a684c55b975?source=copyLinkLegacyShareLinkDialog

SuDS in Schools and Natural Flood Management in Schools

Two schools in Leicester City have recently been supported by Leicester City Council to receive some new flood management to help reduce the impacts of flooding in their grounds.

Year 5 students at Catherine Junior School took part in a Natural Flood Management session to learn about the differrent types of management being built in their school. They also got to budget for and create their own landscape designs for their school, showing great creativity and critical thinking.

Students from Oaklands Mead Acedemy have also been learning about Sustainable Drainage Systems and designing which they would like to see built at their school, and looking at how different surface types affect water drainage and surface flooding, showing fantastic curiosity and scientific understanding.

With the work in their schools soon to be completed, Vicky will hopefully be going back in to show them the flood management and see if their designs matched the ones built!



(Photos: Left two - students at Catherine Junior School creating their designs, Right two – students from Oaklands Mead Academy have been studying SuDS and their benefits and also designing which they would like in their school grounds).

Funding and available grants

I am always on the look out for grants and funding opportunities for schools to help with environmental and sustainability projects. Please find below some of the current and upcoming opportunities:

- Edina Trust Science Grant - This is open for Primary, Infant and Nursery Schools to apply for grants of up to £1000, with Leicester City currently being a priority area. Schools can use their grants for science resources, gardening equipment, science weeks, science subscriptions, science visits (into or out of school) and improving school grounds for science.
- Culina Sustainability Fund – If you're a community group, educational organisation or school with an idea that supports a greener future, we'd love to hear from you. Take the next step towards making your sustainability project a reality with grants up to £5000.
- Ford of Britain Trust - We fund projects that focus on Education: Empowering learners of all ages; Environment: Protecting and enhancing our natural surroundings; Children & Youth Activities: Creating opportunities for young people; and People with Disabilities: Promoting inclusion and support. Please note this grant varies throughout the year so read website info carefully.
- Local Community Benefit: Initiatives that directly improve life in areas close to our UK locations.
- The Royal Society Partnership Grants - The Partnership Grants scheme funds schools and colleges up to £3,000 to work in partnership with STEM professionals from academia or industry to run an investigative STEM project. Closes 1st December 2026. There is also a separate extension to this grant for climate change and biodiversity topics: Tomorrow's Climate Scientists | Royal Society.
- Bernard Sunley Education Grants - The Foundation supports learning experiences and life skills for children and young people, particularly for the disadvantaged, those with disabilities or special needs. Trustees are keen to encourage young people to experience the outdoors and to try new pursuits. A key focus area for grants is Special Needs Schools / Colleges.
- Alpkit Foundation - We focus mainly on small awards that have a direct impact, with support in the region of £50-£500 and can be financial, or in the form of equipment support. This is to community groups, individuals and organisations that encourage people to get outdoors and tackle barriers that may prevent people from accessing the benefits.
- Blue Spark Foundation - We recognise that many individuals working in schools, colleges, cultural and sporting organisations are prepared to give their time to projects to enhance the education and development of young people, but that many worthwhile projects do not get off the ground because of the absence of the funding needed to turn them into reality. BlueSpark aims to help bridge this funding gap by providing grants for some of these projects.
- Sea Changers Grants - Sea-Changers gives one-off grants to UK-based charities and other organisations (including schools) carrying out marine conservation related activities. This year we're proud to launch the BMT Next Wave Fund - giving children and young adults (aged 5-18) who have limited access to the coast the chance to connect with the sea through conservation-led experiences.
- BTO Equipment Scheme - The BTO Equipment Donation Scheme (EDS) supports young people across the UK who cannot afford birdwatching equipment and guides and aims to inspire the next generation's passion for birdwatching. If you're under 21 or represent a school or university group, you can apply to receive donated optics, such as binoculars, or identification guides.

Opening in January 2027:

- Learning Through Landscapes Local School Nature Grants - Open to schools and early years settings, each grant includes outdoor learning training for staff, a school grounds climate survey, a Climate Curriculum Kit worth £150, and £500 of equipment from a catalogue of over 100 items.
- Ernest Cook Trust Outdoor Essentials Grant - The Outdoor Essentials Grant is an award to UK state-funded schools to remove barriers and enable pupils to connect to nature and learn outdoors. An award of £500 is offered to primary and special schools and a double award of 2 x £500 (£1,000) to secondary schools.
- The Outdoor Guide Foundation - Too many children watch outdoor learning from the classroom window because they do not have a warm coat or a pair of wellies. The Outdoor Guide Foundation funds and delivers Waterproofs & Wellies kits to schools so every child can get outside, stay dry and feel they belong.



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