

July 2019

What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Eco-Schools

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Environmental Education Coordinator based in the Energy and Sustainability Team who works with schools to help them become more sustainable in all that they do.

As well as one-to-one support, schools are able to engage through termly #EcoTeachMeets, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools conferences & celebration events and can keep up to date through a dedicated Twitter account, monthly eBulletins and termly newsletters.

The Eco-Schools programme provides exciting opportunities for students in curriculum time as well as outside the classroom. Learning outside the classroom (LOTC) has been identified as 'memorable activities leading to memorable learning and positively contributing to pupil safety'. LOTC provides positive benefits to all groups of young people and supports a rich, relevant, broad and balanced curriculum.



How to find out more



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@EcoSchoolsLCC

f EcoSchoolsLCC

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Our 2019 Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration

Welcome to the July Leicester Eco-Schools newsletter. It's that time of year when we say 'where did the year go ...?' and this year is no exception. This year has been all about helping schools to achieve their green flag awards, as well as bronze and silver. We participated in the Litter Less Campaign with over 30 schools taking part. We also focussed on reducing single use plastic and started to work toward the climate emergency which was declared in Leicester in February (more to come on that!). Next year will be even bigger and better and lots of exciting things are being planned over the summer break. As always if you need any support, just let me know, Lee.







Eco-School Awards

Schools can register for Eco-Schools for free at www.eco-schools.org.uk/register

There are 3 levels of award: Bronze, Silver and Green Flag which were **updated** in September 2018.

At **Bronze** level your school has set up an Eco-committee, carried out a review, created an action plan for three topics and shared this with the whole school.

At **Silver** level your school has done the above plus involved the whole school and wider community and carried out three in-depth pieces of work on three of the ten topics. You have also identified where environmental issues are covered in the curriculum.

At **Green Flag Award** status, your school has done all of the above plus monitored and evaluated the in-depth project work for the same three of the ten topics and developed an Eco-Code which reflects the topics you have worked on.

Bronze and Silver are self-certified online. For Green Flag, schools submit evidence online and are visited by an external assessor at a mutually agreed time.







Newsletter

Our Eco-Schools newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is the 30 August 2019. We ask for around 200 words, at least 1 photo and contact details e.g. name and email address to: eco-schools@leicester.gov.uk

This term has been really busy so if I have missed you off the award list do let me know Since April 2019

Recently registered or re-engaged

Merrydale Junior School

Bronze Award

Montrose Primary School Nether Hall School St Mary's Fields Primary School St Patricks Catholic Voluntary Academy Uplands Junior L.E.A.D. Academy

Silver Award

Buswells Lodge Primary School King Richard Infant and Nursery School Nether Hall School Spinney Hill Primary School St Mary's Fields Primary School Uplands Junior L.E.A.D. Academy

Green Flag Award

Church Hill C of E Junior School Dovelands Primary School Fullhurst Community College West Gate School

Green Flag Renewal

Bridge Junior School Rushey Mead Academy

Correct as of 07/07/2019

Eco-Schools & Food for Life Celebration 2019

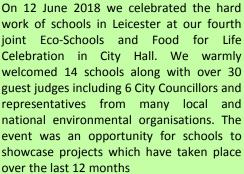












Activities came from a wide selection of project ideas including recycling, biodiversity and healthy eating. Judges commented again how difficult it was to pick winners with such enthusiastic students and staff. Following the more formal judging, students were given the opportunity to judge the other schools' stalls and pick their Eco-Factor. Prizes were kindly announced and awarded by Cllr Deputy Adam Clarke. Citv responsible and for Environment Transportation. We also awarded our second year of Healthier Air for Leicester Schools Awards which was great news!











There were so many good photos that we couldn't include here. They are all available on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/EcoSchoolsLCC



Eco-School of the Year - Bridge Junior School



Eco-Schools project – For their Eco project they showcased their Plant-Growing, Planet Protectors project. They have been planting and growing in school and in their community. They have planted vegetables at their local farm plot, flowers at their local park's raised bed and trees in the National Forest. With help from parents, children and community members they have also created a mindfulness garden in their school grounds. They helped the Elders Group at their local community centre to plant some flowers and held their annual Let's Get Growing event where they sold all the plants the whole school took part in growing.

'Growing you own' has taught children about healthy living, how it reduces waste and pollution, how it increases biodiversity and improves wellbeing.

Food for Life School of the Year – Oaklands School



Food for Life project — Oaklands School showed improvement in cooking in the curriculum at their schools- they had a display of their cooking sessions. They also displayed photos from their gardening sessions - food growing in school.









Judge's Special Award – Braunstone Community Primary School



Eco-Schools and Food for Life project — Braunstone Community Primary have been working on growing and cooking in school and developing their outdoor allotment with the Wilko Eco-Schools Officer. They have been working with lots of different year groups in school to raise awareness of food growing and looking at developing this further in the next year.

There were so many good photos that we couldn't include here. They are all available on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/EcoSchoolsLCC



Eco-Factor Award – Sandfield Close Primary School

Eco-Schools project - This year Sandfield has been working with the Sustainable Goals to try and improve the Air Quality around school. With the help of Danni, we have set up a new Eco Club called Lichen Lookers and have begun to identify lichens on the trees in and around school. We have also led an anti-idling campaign to increase parent/carer awareness of the pollution created by leaving their engines running. We have tried hard to promote walking and cycling to school instead of arriving by car.

Food for Life project - Grandma's Helping Hands Project

Have you seen the improvements to Sandfield's growing areas? With the help of a group of Grandmas, children have worked hard to plant seeds and nurture them into plants that can be picked and eaten. We are also proud of our Kitchen Garden next to the school Kitchen that hosts an amazing set of mint plants, herbs and lettuces that are also friendly to pollinators. We can't wait to taste them and see them flower.









We would like to make a special thank you to the Central England Co-operative who kindly sponsored our awards.

Healthier Air for Leicester Schools Award winners were:

- **Bridge Junior School**
- Sandfield Close Primary School
- Land of Learning Primary School
- Leicester Islamic Academy
- **Mayflower Primary School**

The winners were:

- Food for Life School of the Year -Oaklands School
- Eco-Schools School of the Year -**Bridge Junior School**
- Judges' special award Braunstone Community Primary School
- **Eco-Factor** Sandfield Close Primary School

The schools who attended were:

- **Braunstone Community Primary** School
- **Bridge Junior School**
- Catherine Junior School
- Christ the King Primary School
- **Fosse Primary School**
- Land of Learning Primary School
- Leicester Islamic Academy
- **Mayflower Primary School**
- Oaklands School
- **Overdale Infant School**
- Rushey Mead Primary School
- Sandfield Close Primary School
- Sparkenhoe Primary School
- Spinney Hill Primary School

Clean Air Day 2019





















Supports the Eco-Schools transport topic and many others

Catherine Junior School, in Belgrave, worked with the city council, with support from walking and cycling charities Sustrans and Living Streets, to close the road outside the school and to let pupils enjoy classes and other activities outdoors on a traffic-free street. Brandon Street was closed to traffic on Thursday 20 June from around 8am until 5pm. Pupils, parents and school staff were encouraged to walk, cycle, scoot or skate to school and leave the car at home. The whole school was able to use the closed street for a morning yoga session to warm up for the day, open air classes and playtimes in the street.

A special event for pupils, families, staff and residents in the street was held at the end of the school day with more fun activities – including street cricket, kabaddi, rickshaw rides and pedal-powered smoothie making.

There was also a range of information stalls giving information and advice on walking and cycling, offering free checkups for people's bikes and highlighting some of the problems with school run parking.

Jennie Nurse, headteacher at Catherine Junior School, said: "Our children are very passionate about the environment and we do a lot of work around various environmental issues. Clean Air Day is a chance for the children to demonstrate their knowledge and passion and hopefully persuade the local community and the parents to think before they park and try alternative ways of coming to school other than driving."

Deputy City Mayor Cllr Adam Clarke, who leads on environment and transportation, said: "Clean Air Day is a good opportunity to inject some fun into the serious issues around air quality and help encourage more children and parents to think about the link between their day-to-day journeys and air pollution.

"Closing the road outside a local school is a very effective way of showing the difference that leaving the car at home can make. It's something that we can all do to cut pollution at the school gates and help improve air quality and road safety for all our children."

This is the second year that a Leicester school has closed the road outside its gates for Clean Air Day. Last year Glebelands Primary, in Beaumont Leys, was the first school in Leicester to take part in the national event in this way. National Clean Air Day is organised by environmental charity Global Action Plan as a chance to find out more about air pollution, share information with friends and help make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone.



How to find out more

Amita Miles

- schools.Leicester.gov.uk/HealthierAir
- © 0116 454 4139

Grow Your Own Grub 2019





















This year's Grow Your Own Grub competition featured the mealbarrows organised by the city council's Eco-Schools and public health teams, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), and Food for Life.

Schools were tasked with coming up with a healthy, nutritious and creative menu idea for a three-course meal and then growing at least five of the ingredients they'd need – whether fruit, vegetables, salad crops,

The 'mealbarrows' idea - where crops are grown in wheelbarrows - means even schools that don't have much growing space can take part in the competition. Eighteen city schools have participated, and the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour were on display at Evington Park on Saturday 29 June, from 12pm until 3pm, outside Evington House. Members of the public, plus friends and families from the schools, were invited to view the mealbarrows and vote for their favourite.

Their votes were combined with those of a panel which has already visited all of the participating schools, judging against criteria such as the condition of the crop and how environmentally-friendly the growing methods have been.

Prizes of garden centre shopping vouchers will be awarded for first, second and third mealbarrows at a celebration event, which will be held at the winning school in the autumn term.

City council public health funding has been used to support the competition. Cllr Vi Dempster, assistant city mayor for public health, said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in setting up this competition, since we know that children have a better understanding of their food, and are more likely to try new and healthier options, if they've had a hand in growing it.

"Promoting nutritional, sustainable food options like these can help to combat obesity as well as demonstrating that growing your own grub is easy - and fun. It's a message that children can then take home to their families."

The winning schools were first - St Barnabas C of E Primary School, second - Nether Hall Special School and third - Judgemeadow Community College. Congratulations to everyone that participated. Watch out for next year's competition coming soon! All the photos from the day can be found on our Facebook page.

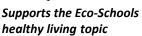












How to find out more

Grow Your Own Grub Competition

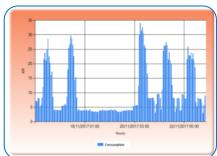
□ GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk

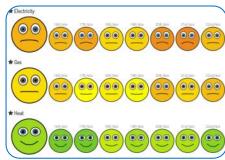
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BESS Energy and Water Management in Schools

Worried about increasing energy costs? Wanting to save money and improve your environmental credentials?

Energy and water is one of the biggest spends for schools after staffing. Leicester City Council has worked closely to develop an offer as part of the BESS schools to develop tools and reports to empower staff and students to take control of their energy.







What is included in the service

- Monitoring equipment installed and maintained throughout your subscription
- Access DynamatLite, the half hourly energy and water monitoring website used by Leicester City Council for your own unique data
- Identification and reporting of excessive use/wastage
- Strategies & activities to engage your staff and students to reduce your energy consumption

This service will launch in September 2019 on a pro-rata cost basis until April 2020

- Development of heating policy to improve school wide savings
- Annual energy and carbon report with suggestions for improvements
- Follow up support in school (workshops, meetings, training)
- Regular updates via email and face to face briefings

Primary £750 Secondary £1500

This offer is only available to schools already part of the BESS Schools offer

Confirm your interest via email to: lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk by 30 August 2019





RHS Secondary Competition



Green Plan It is a student-led project which encourages Year 8 and 9 students to discover the wonderful world of plants, and rethink the role of green spaces.

Over ten weeks in the autumn term, student teams will be paired with a volunteer horticultural mentor and challenged to research, plan and build a model of a garden they'd like to see in their school or community. Their mentor will offer guidance on designing a garden from scratch, share practical plant knowledge, and facilitate your young people to make decisions about their ideal green space.

Through Green Plan It, your students will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the incredible world of plants
- Discover how plants affect people and the planet
- Work with a skilled mentor from the horticultural industry
- · Develop their confidence, leadership and decision-making skills, creativity and teamwork
- Compete against local schools for a chance to win a trophy!
- Apply for funding to create their garden for real

The deadline for this year's competition has passed, but if you are interested in participating please get in touch as places may still be available. https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/11-19-years/Green-Plan-It









Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds topic

Wild Stories 2019





Phoebe (pictured) from Christ the King Voluntary Academy won 1st prize - a storytelling chair and area for her school.
 Rafi from Leicester Preparatory School won 2nd prize - a story trail for his school grounds.

and Rutland Wildlife Trust

The three winners were:

We recently ran a short story writing competition for KS2 children in Leicester city. 7 schools entered 26 stories. The stories were judged by people from BBC Radio Leicester, Leicester Mercury, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire

 Ruqiya from Sparkenhoe Community Primary School won 3rd prize - a bundle of wildlife themed books.



Supports the schools grounds and biodiversity Eco-Schools topics

Earthwatch and Air Quality Education

This one day course will give delegates the skills and knowledge to deliver exciting and relevant science lessons around **brand new** innovative Earthwatch resources and Air Quality Education from Leicester City Council. **This course is suitable for primary and secondary teachers (resources developed at KS2 and KS3 students)**

Monday 30 September 2019 Sandfield Close Primary 9.30am-3.30pm School, Leicester, LE4 7RE

Free and open to all schools in Leicester City















Why attend?

- Become confident in using resources developed by Earthwatch and Leicester City Council – Air Quality Education team
- Develop learning opportunities linked to the curriculum around the resources for your school
- Who would benefit from this course?

All primary and junior school teachers, primary science leads, Eco-Schools coordinators, teaching assistants, curricular Science/STEM club organisers, teachers of secondary science (KS3)

- Be aware of free support to schools around Earthwatch's Teach Earth and air quality education offers
- Network with other teachers and organisations to support your school







Refreshments and lunch will be provided

Fairtrade Schools Competition 2019



Congratulations to Scraptoft Valley Primary School that won the Fairtrade Schools competition 2019 earlier this term. Here is their write up what they did. Well done for participating. Scraptoft Valley Primary School have won a £50 Central England Cooperative voucher to spend in store. Perhaps on a Fairtrade party? ©

Good job! Welldone to the speckers a dancers a drummers. Loved the song the girls sang. It should be on a TV advert!

Supports the Eco-Schools Global learning topic

Thankyon

we + howeverty enjoyed the presentation what a lovely afternoon, it was bollant and learned alof to see the children taking part in will aspects of the event. Tell done to everyone

This year, Scraptoft Valley, as a Fair Achiever school formed a subsidiary group of the school council 'The Fairtrade group'. They had lots of ideas and were very enthusiastic and wrote a targeted action plan. The final idea they decided upon was to hold a Fairtrade tea party so that's what we did! We still continued with the same activities and learning as previous years across the whole school but planned the tea party with the aim to involve the wider community and to use pupil voice to get the extend the message about Fairtrade.

The children planned everything from start to finish over the months from September to February. They wrote handwritten letters inviting people, schools and the community to the event, produced fliers, wrote PowerPoint presentations and planned the day out in detail. In January the choir began rehearsals for their song as did Class 12 and during weekly singing assemblies the whole school learnt the Fairtrade songs.

When Mrs Richardson announced in assembly that the Fairtrade group would like some singing at the event three girls took it upon themselves to write their own Fairtrade lyrics to Shawn Mendes song 'Stitches' during that playtime. They had written it and performed it to Mrs Richardson and Miss Craig (the head teacher) during the same playtime, some ten minutes later (Incredible!) and asked if they could sing it at the Fairtrade event!

On Thursday 28th February 2019 we held a Fairtrade assembly where the whole school attended. The winners of the two competitions were announced and they received Fairtrade chocolate bars as this year's theme was 'Cocoa'. On the day everyone came to school in Fairtrade colours and brought in a contribution of £1 to go towards the Fairtrade foundation. Breakfast club and tea time club held a big Fairtrade event again doing a range of learning activities around Fairtrade and Cocoa.

The tea party on Thursday 28th February was a huge success! We were blown away by the generosity and involvement in the event and had over fifty members of the community who come along. A big well done to all the children in the Fairtrade group. We blew last year's amount raised out of the water, raising a total of £432.95 (after expenses were taken off) we sent this amount to the Fairtrade Foundation.







Schools Ride 2019













Around 400 schoolchildren and adults from 11 schools took part in a mass ride into the city on Friday 5 July. Leicester City mascot Filbert Fox lead the young cyclists as part of the annual schools' bike ride.

The ride gives Year 5 & 6 schoolchildren from across the city and county the chance to put into practice the Bikeability skills they have learned and make the most of the city's cycle tracks and neighborhood routes.

On Friday 5 July, schoolchildren set off on their rides – supervised by teachers and ride leaders – to converge at Cathedral Gardens, in front of Leicester Cathedral, from 11.30am.

Once there, they watched a demonstration from mountain bike stunt rider Danny Butler, enjoyed a comedy show with comedian Jay Foreman and were awarded with Bikeability certificates by deputy city mayor Cllr Adam Clarke.

ClIr Clarke, who is responsible for environment and transportation, said: "We have a growing network of improved cycling routes across the city, and ambitious plans to expand, using money from a recent successful bid to Government called Transforming Cities. This ride is a great chance to introduce children to our cycling network so they know how easy it can be to get around by bike. They can then take that message home to their parents. We're facing a climate emergency, which means we all need to make better choices about how we travel. More cycling helps to improve air quality, reduce city congestion and it's often the quickest way to get around. It's also fun!"

The ride marks the start of a summer of cycling in Leicester, with a programme of events suitable for all cyclists of all abilities. Photos of the day can be found on the Choose How You Move Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ChooseHowYouMove





Supports the transport Eco-Schools topic

How to find out more

Choose How You Move

□ choosehowyoumove@leics.gov.uk

CHYMLeics

www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk

Leicester's Kicking it to Plastics Project Environment Rangers - Leicester City Council



We would like to invite your school to visit our sculpture made by volunteers from waste plastic!

This unique opportunity has been supported by partners including: The Environment Agency, Trent Rivers Trust, Soar Catchment Partnership, Leicester City Community

Trust and Leicester City Football Club

Venue: City centre location to be confirmed nearer the time.

- Monday 23 September 2019
- Tuesday 24 September 2019
- Thursday 26 September 2019
- Friday 27 September 2019

- 9.30am
- 11.00am
- 12.30pm
- 1.30pm

For each slot, maximum of 2 groups at 30 minutes each, 30 minutes with LCC officers, the other 30 minutes - quiz provided for school staff in close vicinity











Why participate?

- See the plastic footballer sculpture floating in the river
- Participate in environmental activities relating to the project
- Learn about the link between plastic pollution, water quality and flooding
- A quick and simple opportunity to help children understand about the environment including a self guided opportunity to explore the local area
- Suitable for KS2 students
- Use as part of your Eco-Schools Award for raising awareness

We estimate group size is up to 30 at a time. Sessions will take approximately 30 minutes including visiting the plastic sculpture.





Supports your Eco-Schools award Eco-Schools

This project is completely free but has limited availability

Walk and Bike to School Day at Avenue Primary

On the 21 May 2019, Avenue Primary School participated in a walk and bike to school day. Children had a fantastic time taking part in various activities ranging from scooter workshops, designing badges for their shoes and walk to school board games. Younger children completed obstacle courses on their bikes after learning to wash them! Their coffee afternoon and bike maintenance workshop was well attended by 50 KS1 parents. They raised a fantastic £289.82 on the day for the charity 'Living Streets', who support the school with our Walk to School work. They had an amazing 'mountain' of shoes that we collected for children in Africa.

On the day their Year 6 walk to school champions — Billy and Oscar — recorded the following travel to school data from all the classes in the school:

- Walk 60%
- Park and Stride 17%
- Bike/Scooter 15%
- Car/Taxi 6%
- Bus/Train 2%

That meant a fantastic 92% of children walked, biked, scooted or park and strode – which really helped to reduce our air pollution around the school and beat our previous target of 85%. They had 8 classes in the school where there were no children at all who came in the car – well done!

"The day was really successful – we counted a total of 193 bikes and scooters at school!! Learning new tricks was also great fun in our scooter workshop." Billy Year 6.

"I made a helicopter badge to go on my shoe with a sparkly design and I enjoyed making a roller skate badge with sparkly gems on." Daniel and Oriel









Supports the transport Eco-Schools topic

School Nature Grants – Learning through Landscapes





The Local Schools Nature Grants Programme includes up to £500 worth of outdoor resources, which can be chosen from a mix of over 100 different products.

The packages offer a wide mix of products to appeal to a broad range of ages, are customisable, enabling Infant, Primary and Secondary schools to choose from a menu of items which best suit their learners and their setting.

The project is funded by Postcode Local Trust, which receives funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Several Leicester schools have been successful including Rushey Mead Primary and Uplands Infant School. There are deadline throughout the year, and the next deadline is 31 August 2019. Visit their website for more information.

www.ltl.org.uk/projects/local-school-nature-grants



Eco-Schools National Awards 2019



The Eco-Schools England team are incredibly excited to announce that on Thursday 12th December 2019, at the world-famous Etihad Stadium in Manchester, we will be hosting our very first Eco-Schools National Awards Ceremony and we want all of you to be a part of it! This has been made possible thanks to the Players of the People's Postcode Lottery. As our programme continues to grow, we wanted the opportunity to reward and showcase some of the amazing things we have seen in schools across England over the past 25 years.

There will be 16 Eco-Schools Awards presented:

10 Topic Awards

One award available for each of the ten Eco-Schools topics, celebrating the schools that demonstrate the most innovative, inspirational and effective topic action(s). Open to registered through to multiple Green Flag Eco-Schools.

3 Eco-Schools of the Year Awards

For schools from a variety of age ranges who can demonstrate they have best implemented the Eco-Schools programme to impact their school and local community. Only open to current Green Flag Eco-Schools.

Eco-Coordinator of the Year Award

For an individual who has gone above and beyond to promote and incorporate the Eco-Schools programme into school life. Only open to current Green Flag award-winning Eco-Coordinators.

Eco-Assessor of the Year Award

For the volunteer Green Flag Assessor who has helped the Eco-Schools programme grow and continue to inspire. Chosen by the Eco-Schools team.

Eco-Schools Lifetime Achievement Award

For a school from our Hall of Fame that has continued to be an outstanding Eco-School over a long period of time. Chosen by the Eco-Schools team.

Each award winner will be invited to bring 6 pupils and 2 adults to our first ever Eco-Schools National Award Ceremony at the Etihad Stadium on the 12th December 2019.

The event will begin at 11:00 with arrivals welcomed from 10:00, it will conclude no later than 16:00 with entertainment and a pupil-friendly, buffet-style lunch provided. Each winner will receive an Eco-Schools award, goodie-bags, professional photographs to remember the day and a very special, limited edition set of golden Eco-Schools badges.

If you would like to nominate your school or an amazing Eco-Coordinator please submit your entry on our 'Eco-Schools Award Ceremony' pages here before Friday 25th October 2019. Winners will be contacted during the week beginning 4th November!

For more information and to apply please go to https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/eco-schools-national-awards-2019/







Creates recognition for your Eco-Schools work taking place in school



1,817,996
CHILDREN INVOLVED IN 2019 SO FAR...

17,221 SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN 2019 SO FAR...





