news



What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Environmental Education team based in the Sustainability Team who provides free support to schools to help them become more sustainable in all that they do.

As well as one-to-one support and environmentally linked projects, schools can engage through termly #EcoTeachMeets, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools conferences & celebration events and can keep up to date through dedicated social media, 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

Lee Jowett / Amy Peace / Marc Tench **Environmental Education Team**

Phoenix House, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RN

- □ Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk
- schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools
- EcoSchoolsLCC
- EcoSchoolsLCC
- **I** EnvEducationLeicester
- © 0116 454 2271 / 4543 / 6746



Welcome to the September Leicester Schools newsletter. Welcome back to the new school year. We hope you had a lovely summer break. The first newsletter of the year is packed full of upcoming events and information for you. As you return to school you will see the infrastructure put in place to keep everyone safe including street stencils such as tigers and foxes as seen below. We have more information about back to school transport in the newsletter. We are looking forward to getting stuck in to the new year, increasing our number of Eco-Schools awards in the city and hosting the first ever Climate Action Fortnight featuring exciting challenges and inspirational speakers in November. As always get in touch if you need any support, Lee, Amy and Marc.







Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

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 monitoring and evaluation for three indepth 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 carried out in-depth project work for 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 normally visited by an external assessor at a mutually agreed time.

Welcome to Marc Tench

We would like to welcome Marc as the newest member of the team. Marc is working 2 days a week (Wednesday and Friday).



Marc was previously a Geography teacher at a secondary school in Warwickshire. He also works 2 days a week as a Ranger in the National Forest and is about to start an MSc in Wildlife and Conservation with SRUC, so he will be a very busy man!

He will be picking up all your Eco-Schools queries and questions and support the team with events and projects in the city.

Since July 2020

Green Flag Award

Inglehurst Junior School*
Linden Primary School*
Rolleston Primary School*
Rowlatts Mead Primary Academy
Sandfield Close Primary School*
Soar Valley College*
Scraptoft Valley Primary School*
Willow Bank School*
*renewals

Correct as of 01/09/2020

Newsletter

Our newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is **Friday 1 January 2021**. 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

#EcoTeach Webinars

During lockdown the Environmental Education team hosted EcoTeach webinars focusing on each Eco-Schools topic, highlighting the projects that Leicester schools can get involved in.

Featuring special guests from The Wildlife Trust, Food For Life, TCV and many others, the recorded webinars are available on our EcoSchoolsLCC YouTube Channel along and the accompanying PowerPoint available on the extranet. Each webinar is under an hour long and well worth looking at for project and topic ideas this academic year.











Eco-School awards in Leicester

Congratulations to all the schools who have achieved Eco-Schools Awards. Below are all the schools who are at bronze, silver or Green Flag. Looking forward to lots more Green Flag Eco-School Awards this academic year. If you would like contact details of your nearest schools, please let us know.

Bronze Award



Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School Catherine Infant School Falcon's Primary School Medway Community Primary School North Mead Primary Academy Shenton Primary School Slater Primary School
Spinney Hill Primary School
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy
English Martyrs' Catholic School

Silver Award



Al Aqsa School
Babington Academy
Madani Boys School
Madani Girls School
Moat Community College
New College Leicester
Sir Jonathan North Community College
Braunstone Community Primary School
Braunstone Frith Primary School
Caldecote Community Primary School
Evington Valley Primary School
Eyres Monsell Primary School
Folville Junior School
St Paul's Catholic School

Hazel Primary School
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
King Richard III Infant and Nursery School
The City of Leicester College
Knighton Mead Primary Academy
Tudor Grange Samworth Academy
Land of Learning Nursery and Primary School
Marriott Primary School
Mowmacre Hill Primary School
St Barnabas C of E Primary School
Thurnby Mead Primary School
Uplands Infant School
Woodstock Primary School

Green Flag



Number of * denotes how many Green Flags the school has attained in Abbey Mead Primary Academy
Avenue Primary School****
Barley Croft Primary School
Belgrave St Peter's C.E. (VA) Primary School
Bridge Junior School**
Buswells Lodge Primary School
Catherine Junior School**
Charnwood Primary School
Christ the King Catholic Primary School*
Church Hill Junior School
Coleman Primary School
Dovelands Primary School
Ellesmere College
Forest Lodge Primary School

Forest Lodge Primary School
Fosse Primary School
Fullhurst Community College
Glebelands Primary School
Green Lane Infant School
Highfields Primary School
Humberstone Junior School
Inglehurst Junior School*
Kestrel Mead Primary School
Leicester Islamic Academy
Linden Primary School*
Mayflower Primary School
Mellor Primary School

Montrose School **Nether Hall School** Orchard Mead Academy Overdale Infant School Overdale Junior School* Parks Primary School* Queensmead Primary School Rolleston Primary School* Rowlatts Mead Primary Academy Rushey Mead Academy** Rushey Mead Primary School Sandfield Close Primary School** Scraptoft Valley Primary School** Shaftesbury Junior School Soar Valley College* Sparkenhoe Community Primary School* St Mary's Fields Primary School St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy Stokes Wood Primary School* **Uplands Junior School** West Gate School Whitehall Primary School** Willowbank School - Children's Hospital School* Willowbrook Mead Primary School

Wolsey House Primary School

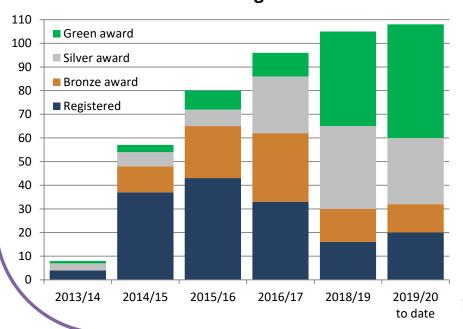
Wyvern Primary School

Dates for your diary – Eco events



Event	Event Summary	Further details (date/time/location)	
Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration event	An opportunity to showcase the fantastic work which Leicester Schools have done over the academic year.	Tuesday 22 September 2020, all day Online - Microsoft Teams Live	
Eco-Schools training	Top tips, ideas for new projects, things that have gone well, things that maybe haven't and a chance to pair up with colleagues.	Wednesday 23 September 2020 4.00-5.30pm Microsoft Teams	
Clean Air Day 2020	We all have a part to play to keep our air clean. Together let's make 8 October 2020 the cleanest Clean Air Day yet and feel the difference. To help keep you, your family, friends and colleagues safe, the campaign is being updated to be more virtual!	Thursday 8 October 2020 – all day	
#EcoTeachMeets	#EcoTeachMeets are a termly opportunity to share an activity which you have done or find out about exciting activities and projects in Leicester, as well as nationally.	Wednesday 14 October, 4.00pm - 5.30pm Online - Microsoft Teams Further #EcoTeachMeets to be confirmed in later terms	
Climate Action Fortnight 2020	Two weeks of climate action activities and inspirational guest speakers. This will all take place online.	Monday 9 November – Friday 20 November Online - Microsoft Teams Live	
Sustainable Schools Celebration	Celebrating the amazing schools of Leicester	Monday 9 November – 7.00pm – 8.30 pm Online - Microsoft Teams Live	

We now have 52 Green Flag Eco-Schools in Leicester!



We wanted to let everyone see how well Leicester is doing with engagement in the Eco-Schools program. As you can see from the graph, not only engagement growing each year, the number of Green Flags is at its highest yet. We are really proud to work with such inspired and inspirational young people Eco-Coordinators. Congratulations everyone involved and keep up the excellent work!







Eco-Schools Training

In Leicester there are now 52 schools with the prestigious Green Flag Award putting us number one in England! This training, delivered by Leicester City Council, will provide top tips for working on Eco-Schools when you are working in bubbles, ideas for new projects, things that have gone well, things that maybe haven't and a chance to pair up with colleagues

Wednesday 23 September 2020 - 4.00-5.30pm

Online via Microsoft Teams

Free and open to all schools in Leicester City

Eco-Schools is a global programme which provides a framework for learning and action around 10 environmental topics. It is free to register for Eco-Schools and to apply for Bronze and Silver awards.

A cost applies for Green Flag accreditation.

Sign up via email to participate in this free training online



Why attend?

- Gain a greater understanding of the Eco-Schools criteria including changes linked to Covid19 and bubbles.
- Develop new campaigns and identify ways of promoting sustainability in school.
- Share ways of engaging the whole school community, including potential barriers and how to remove them.
 - Find out about local and national **projects** and how to get involved.

Who would benefit from this course?

All school staff with an interest in environmental education - heads, deputy heads, assistant heads, classroom teachers, TAs, support staff, premises officers, business managers and governors/trustees.



52 Schools each recognition for environmental work



MORE than 50 schools in Leicester have been praised for their work on environmental projects.

In total, 52 schools in the city – including primary, secondary and special schools - now have an Eco-Schools Green Flag – the highest number in any local authority area in England. The Eco-Schools Green Flag – handed out by Keep Britain Tidy – recognises excellence in schools across a wide range of environmental activities.

For example, projects which: reduce waste or energy in schools, help pupils learn more about living sustainably, or examine environmentally-friendly ways of travelling to school could all contribute towards a Green Flag.

Three levels of award are available. Good environmental practice is rewarded with a bronze or silver award, with only the very best schools receiving an Eco-Schools Green Flag. Schools are supported by Leicester City Council's environmental education team to help them work through the awards scheme.

In total, 24 Eco-Schools Green Flags have been handed out in Leicester in the last academic year – and impressively, 13 of these have been achieved since lockdown. St Patrick's, St Mary's Fields and Buswells Lodge primary schools are among the latest in the city to achieve an Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Eco-Schools England has been carrying out online assessments and all schools were able to demonstrate that they have successfully incorporated sustainability into daily school life.

Avenue Primary School was recently awarded its fourth consecutive Eco-Schools Green Flag, as the award is renewed every two years.

Sue Pears from Avenue Primary School said: "The environmental work we carry out has been embedded in many areas of our curriculum. One of our highlights was winning the national Eco-Schools Transport Award and visiting the Etihad Stadium to receive the award from Steve Backshall.

"At Avenue, our pupils' eco committee has given many children a strong 'pupil voice' to speak out on environmental topics and lead many successful assemblies and campaigns across the school. Ofsted inspectors were very impressed and commented on how knowledgeably and confidently our pupils spoke about environmental issues."

Catherine Junior School was another national Eco-Schools award winner, for outstanding work on the litter topic.



















Deputy city mayor for environment and transportation, Cllr Adam Clarke, said: "The coronavirus crisis is dominating all of our lives at the moment, but it's important to remember that when it is over, we will still be facing a climate emergency. That's why we're committed to tackling issues such as carbon emissions, air pollution and congestion to make Leicester a sustainable city. It's inspiring to see so many of our young people and schools continuing to work hard to tackle these issues throughout the lockdown. The fact that we have the most awards in the country — as well as two national award-winners — demonstrates that Leicester is leading the way in environmental education for the next generation."

The environmental education programme has now run in the city for six years and enthusiasm from school leaders and pupils is ever increasing.

Lee Wray Davies, Eco-Schools England manager at Keep Britain Tidy, said: "We are extremely excited about the work that is being carried out across Leicester and I am very honoured to have worked personally with many schools for our international Litter Less campaign over the past three years. The quality of action being carried out by schools in Leicester is amazing and in part due to the fantastic support they are given by Leicester City Council. I have no doubt that Leicester will be the first city in the country to have all their schools flying an Eco-Schools Green Flag in the near future. Well done to all, we are very proud to have you on the programme."

Most city schools - 109 out of 112 - have now registered for the national Eco-Schools programme. All the schools on the scheme are supported by the city council, which works with them on their energy reduction and recycling programmes, and helps them to increase biodiversity and improve air quality at their sites.









Supports all of the Eco-Schools topics

RSPCA Resources

The RSPCA have been busy working on some exciting new resources and video content to share with you in the new school year to bring animal welfare sessions to pupils. By including animal welfare in your lessons you're helping young people grow into kind and compassionate adults that are respectful of the world and animals around them .

Resources, activities and lesson plans can be found on the website education.rspca.org.uk/education/teachers including the resource Underwater Worlds — learning how plastic pollution is affecting aquatic animals through an animation and supporting activities.





Supports the Eco-Schools marine and water topics

Climate Action Fortnight

Monday 9th November - Friday 20th November 2020

Official Launch Assembly Wednesday 4th November

Join us for a fortnight of exciting activities, inspirational speakers and challenges

The fortnight will tackle an Eco-Schools topic with a climate emergency focus each day and feature special guest speakers, activities and challenges for students and training opportunities for staff. All content will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams Live and be uploaded to the **EcoSchoolsLCC YouTube channel** to be accessed at any time.

The event is aimed at all schools in Leicester City – primary, secondary and special schools. We expect schools to connect with the climate action fortnight in year groups due to working in year group bubbles.





Commencing on **Monday 9**th **November**, the fortnight will also feature the Sustainable Schools' Celebration Evening and culminating on **Friday 20**th **November** with an 'in-school' strike by creating a social media-based protest.

All schools are invited to participate in the event, either at the time or when convenient, and are asked to share stories with other schools via the Sustainable Schools newsletter and to submit a short clip of the Climate Action Fortnight activities for a city-wide short film.

As part of the fortnight we are encouraging schools to declare their own Climate Emergency and, with the support of governors/trustees, make changes in the school to reduce their carbon emissions and help tackle climate change.



Let us know you are participating by completing our online form



For more information:

Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

schools.leicester.gov.uk/climateactionfortnight2020

Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2020

Tuesday 22 September 2020 • 1.30 − 2.30 pm • Online

This year we have not been able to host our annual Eco-Schools and Food for Life celebration, but we don't want to miss the chance to celebrate all the city schools' hard work which has taken place in the last academic year! We are therefore hosting a virtual Eco-Schools and Food for Life celebration via Microsoft Teams Live.

We are inviting all schools in the city to attend this virtual event including parents!



Eco-Schools is a global programme engaging 19.5 million children across 67 countries, empowering them to drive change and improve their environmental awareness. Eco-Schools develops pupils' skills, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and creates financial savings for schools as well as a whole host of other benefits.

Food for Life is about making good food the easy choice for everyone – making healthy, tasty and sustainable meals the norm for all to enjoy, reconnecting people with where their food comes from, teaching them how it's grown and cooked, and championing the importance of well-sourced ingredients.









Join on the day using this **link** to access the event

Microsoft Teams Live broadcasts via a web browser (or Microsoft Teams if you have it installed). Viewers will not need a camera or microphone as the video is one-way, however you can ask questions on the day via the chat option.





For more information contact:

Amy Peace, Leicester City Council amy.peace@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 4543





Lisa Didier, Soil Association Food for Life ldidier@soilassociation.org 07718 570945

Back to School Transport



We have been working with schools and public transport providers to develop a range of measures to help children return to schools safely. This includes options on travelling to and from school. To help reduce congestion on the streets in and around schools, parents and children are encouraged to walk or cycle whenever possible.

We have created maps and information packs to help encourage walking and cycling to school. These highlight typical walking and cycling times to individual schools. We will be promoting these as being available from individual schools, so please could you distribute your map to parents/carers via email and on your website. Sustrans have also produced a general guide for Leicester schools which is available on the extranet.

Please promote the <u>return to school travel FAQs</u> to parents which covers transport questions and also the Choose How You Move website.

A dedicated page on the extranet has been created for travel to and from school which covers specific questions and resources such as individual walking and bus maps. Unfortunately, we have not produced these for all schools across the city, if you have any queries please email schools.extranet@leicester.gov.uk Please note some of these links are on the extranet and will need your school username and password to access





Supports the Eco-Schools topic transport

Walking and Cycling maps



A combination of walking and cycling maps have been produced for most schools in the city. These can be used to help encourage walking and cycling to school.

#EcoTeachMeet Leicester Wednesday 14 October 2020









Online on Microsoft Teams

Wednesday 14 October 2020 4.00-5.30pm

Presentations from colleagues on the impact of environmental education, projects and activities happening in Leicester.

If you would like to present please complete the Eventbrite presenter booking or get in touch.

> All school staff welcome! Book your place now: AutumEcoTeachmeet2020

If you would like more information, please contact the Environmental Education Team Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 2271/4543/6746







@EcoSchoolsLCC





Carbon Literacy Offer for Schools

In February 2019, Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency. We are working to develop a climate emergency programme of action to reduce carbon with the aim of the city becoming zero carbon. In order to raise awareness through the community of Leicester we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting university students to become carbon literate trainers who will deliver training to school students, making them carbon literate. This exciting project is being delivered in the 2020-21 academic year.

We are offering free training to all primary and secondary students in Leicester City. The project is primarily aimed at Y5 in junior/primary and Y8 in secondary schools, however other year groups can be considered.

The training takes place during a normal school day and a whole class can participate at once. The training will be delivered by Lee and Amy along with university students from DMU and the University of Leicester. You just need to provide a classroom and access to ICT.

Get in touch to register your interest.

Carbon Literacy Project



How to find out more

Amy Peace

© 0116 454 4345



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics including energy and transport

Walk to School Project for Primary Pupils





Schools taking part in WOW – Living Streets year-round walk to school challenge - see on average a 30% reduction in car journeys taken to the school gate and a 23% increase in walking rates.

WOW encourages families to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride to school on the days they can. Children that do so, at least once a week every week, are rewarded with a collectable badge each month.

Your local Living Streets Coordinator will help you set-up and launch WOW, as well as be on hand to offer any support needed once you are up and running with the scheme.

Free WOW resources are available to a limited number of Leicester City schools each academic year. To sign up or find out more please contact Katie on 07808 640305 or katie.france@livingstreets.org.uk.



BESS Energy 2020-21 12 Month Subscription



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 BESS schools to develop tools and reports to empower staff and students to take control of their energy and water use.

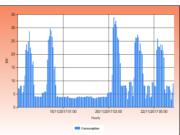
This offer is open to all schools in Leicester City at cost price as part of our Climate Emergency Declaration commitment

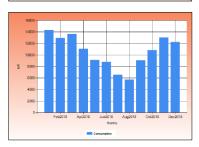
What is included in the service:

- Monitoring equipment installed and maintained (gas or district heat, water and electricity) throughout your subscription
- Access to **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 (phone and email)
- Annual energy and carbon report which identifies trends in data and potential savings over 5 years (subject to data availability)
- Data report for Academies Streamlining Energy and Carbon Reporting (SERC)
- **Provision of data** for school's preferred DEC provider

"Through monitoring our water, we identified a leak which could have cost us hundreds of pounds had it not been spotted" **Business Manager, Leicester**







For more information please contact: Lee Jowett

- © 0116 454 2271
- schools.Leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy

This service will start in September 2020

BESS Energy £495

10% reduction for BESS schools

Sign up to BESS Energy by 25 September 2020 by completing our <u>online form.</u>



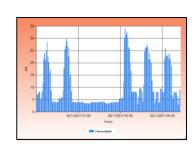
BESS Energy Enhanced 2020-21 12 Month Subscription



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 BESS schools to develop tools and reports to empower staff and students to take control of their energy and water use.

This offer is open to all schools in Leicester City at cost price as part of our Climate Emergency Declaration commitment



What is included in the service?

All the benefits of BESS Energy:

- Monitoring equipment installed and maintained (gas or district heat, water and electricity) throughout your subscription
- Access to 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 (phone and email)
- Annual energy and carbon report which identifies trends in data and potential savings over 5 years (subject to data availability).
- Data report for Academies Streamlining Energy and Carbon Reporting (SERC) requirements (at no extra cost)
- Provision of data for school's preferred DEC provider

Plus BESS Energy Enhanced:

- Identification and reporting of excessive use/wastage (including visits)
- Regular updates via email and online
- Provision of your annual DEC certificate (or subsidised 7 year DEC certificate)
- Online or face to face training termly
- The equivalent of 3 full days of bespoke support per school (including technical, analysis and education support for staff and pupils)

"Through monitoring our electricity we discovered our thermal heater timers had a fault meaning that they were being left on at the weekend, once resolved this saved hundreds of pounds over the school holidays" Business Manager, Leicester

For more information please contact: Lee Jowett

- ☑ lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk
- © 0116 454 2271
- schools.Leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy

Sign up to BESS Energy by 25 September 2020 by completing our <u>online form.</u>

This service will start in September 2020

BESS Energy Enhanced £1295 10% reduction for BESS schools







3D Printer Design Competition



Calling all primary schools!

Severn Trent and Leicester City Council have launched a design competition for all schools in Leicester for the chance to win a 3D Printer

To highlight the importance of water, we're asking you to design a water saving device or an object that helps prevent marine pollution

Design Brief

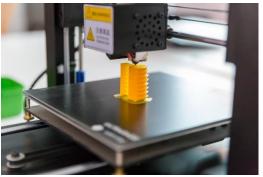
The design needs to be either:

- a water saving device
- an object that can help to prevent marine pollution (including plastic pollution)
- An object to help with sewage

Include a description of what the object is and how it works

The overall winner will receive the 3D Printer for their school and be able to develop their design into a working object

Money donated by Severn Trent's Coronavirus Fund was used to buy a 3D printer to produce PPE for local NHS and care workers at hospitals in Leicester during the COVID-19 crisis and the printer is now kindly being donated to the city





Essential: The winning school must have a designated member of staff that can oversee the operation of the printer

Download entry forms from the <u>Schools' Extranet here</u>

Deadline for entries: 5pm on Friday 16 October 2020





Scanned or photographed entries can be emailed to: Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

Schools or individual parents/guardians can submit entries for this competition



The Sea Starts Here Campaign



Leicester City Council's Flooding and Drainage team are pleased to announce that the Sea Starts Here Campaign will restart from 1st September 2020 and we are looking for 20 schools to take part in this year's project.

The project aims to increase awareness of the impact of plastic waste (particularly single use plastics) on our river and marine environments by spraying stencils around drains on and around the school grounds. As plastic dropped as litter in our urban environments, ends up in our rivers and seas causing pollution, harm to wildlife as well as contributing to increased flood risk.

The project is delivered in three parts:

- An assembly introducing the project and topic
- Spray paint stencilling session with a group of 6 10 students (usually the Eco-Committee)
- Children design a poster for leaflet to take home to parents to explain the problems of plastics and litter. This can be completed at a separate date/time to parts one and two.

The project runs for 3 hours and can be delivered as a morning or afternoon session. It is suitable for pupils between Years 3-9 and all resources for the event, including safety equipment (goggles, respirators, gloves and shoe covers) will be provided as part of the project. All stencils are sprayed using environmentally friendly, semi-permanent spray paint lasting between 3-12 weeks (dependant on weather).

By taking part in this project, you'll have a great way to introduce the Marine and Water Eco-Schools topics to students and get them thinking about the impacts of pollution in our urban areas, and the wider impacts this has on our river and marine environments. As well as incredible stencils in and around the school grounds that will act as a reminder to students, teachers and the wider community.

Having run the project last year, we have gathered some great feedback: **Councillor Adam Clarke** (Deputy City Mayor) said "the powerful message...is hard to ignore"

and **Mrs Hayley Homes** (Head Teacher of Overdale Infants Schools) said "The Sea Starts Here event has helped the children understand the impact of plastic waste and the need to recycle. They were very enthusiastic...to enhance our eco message to the wider school community"

Given the current challenges regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are flexible in our approach to the delivery of the project and have adapted it to enable digital/remote delivery of the assembly, with activity packs that can be issued to schools. The stencilling session can be delivered at a later date. We are committed to operating the project in accordance with the latest government guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19).









How to find out more

Alex Cameron

© 0116 454 6834

☑ Alex.Cameron@leicester.gov.uk

Lee Jowett

Q 0116 454 2271

Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools
Marine and litter topics

Leicester Schools Linking Project 2020-21













Supports the Eco-Schools global learning topic

How does a school join the project?

The Linking Network is a national programme, based in Bradford which has been running successfully for 18 years, creating year-long curriculum rich class links between schools within Local Authorities. The Leicester Schools Linking Project utilises the programme which has been developed by The Linking Network to bring classes together across Leicester and Leicestershire.

After a successful first year we doubled our reach in our second year and are now looking to grow and develop in our third year and offer the opportunity to more schools across the region. We would therefore like to invite you to join the project, aimed at pupils in all key stages, for the 2020 -2021 academic year

The project links pairs of classes from Leicester / Leicestershire, based on the mutual benefits for the schools. Pupils will communicate in many ways during the project, take part in shared digital experiences and interactive activities created by LCFC in The Community, Leicester Museums, ArtReach and others. Pupils will have the opportunity to participate together in some incredible activities and exchange work throughout the year to get to know each other through the exploration of these four key questions:

- Who am I? exploring identity
- Who are we? celebrating diversity
- Where do we live? promoting community
- How do we all live together? championing equality

The Covid-19 situation makes face to face meetings unlikely this year but should the situation change before the end of the Summer Term 2021, we of course suggest you visit your partner school or meet in a neutral venue.

- Complete and return the Expression of Interest Form
- Upon receipt of your form we will contact you to discuss: Your school priorities and a suitable link;
- preferred age group; number of classes you would like to be involved, a start date for you (this is flexible due to the unprecedented situation). If you have already established a partner school and would like to take part in the project together as an existing link, please ensure that both schools apply and make the partnership clear on the Expression of Interest form.
- We will provide CPD remotely, in the Autumn and Spring Term
- The project offers access to activities and resources throughout the year
- There is no cost to the school of participating in the Leicester Schools Linking Project

If you require more information please call Ruth Sinhal on 07957 212122 or email school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk













Trees for Cities Edible Playgrounds



Edible Playgrounds is a school programme from UK charity Trees for Cities. The Edible Playgrounds programme aims to transform school grounds into vibrant outdoor teaching gardens that inspire hands-on learning and get children excited about growing and eating healthy food.

We are working collaboratively with Leicester City Council's Environmental Education Team to identify three schools and seek funding for schools who best meet the programme criteria. Trees for Cities will generously match funds, £10,000 per school, towards their very own Edible Playground. In return we ask schools for a donation of at least £5,000. We will then fundraise for the remaining programme (up to £15,000):

The programme includes:

- A bespoke outdoor classroom design
- All resources: oak beds, greenhouse, shed, outdoor benches and tables, whiteboard, wormery, composter, growing trellis, all plants and trees, enough tools for the year
- · The full build of your outdoor area
- We will work with you for up to a year to offer training and support to embed growing into your school curriculum and to become part of the Leicester schools growing community hub

Schools should have evidence that meets the criteria with higher than average:

- · Pupil Premium, SEND, and EAL
- The school outside area should be large enough to accommodate the build (approximately half the size of a tennis court). We can build on hard level surfaces such as concrete

Please note schools will be responsible for clearing the site.

To learn more, download our flyer and read about our story so far: www.treesforcities.org/our-work/schools-programme/edible-playgrounds

The Leicester Edible Playground schools programme is planned for delivery April 2021 - June 2021 with the curriculum support being offered for up to one year after this.

To apply to be one of our Edible Playgrounds programmes please complete the short <u>expression of</u> interest by **30 September 2020.**

All applications will be reviewed through a panel and successful applicants will be informed late October 2020.











Love Where you Live ? Resources

Leicester City Council

It won't have gone unnoticed that sadly litter levels, especially in parks, has increased during lockdown. However, our 'Love Where You Live' film campaign, funded by the Litter Innovation Fund, can be used to help combat this.

The overall aim of the Litter Innovation Fund is to find new ways of reducing and preventing litter/littering through new methods and interventions that have not been not tried and tested before and to highlight the issue of litter in Leicester.

The videos were produced by students from:

- Castle Mead Academy
- Catherine Junior School
- King Richard III Infant School
- Rushey Mead Academy
- Rushey Mead Primary School
- Shaftesbury Junior School

The campaign comprises of a series of short, hard-hitting clips to be used in digital media across the city. Three key themes which will be addressed:

- Sea and river pollution
- Please don't carry out flytipping
- · Litter harms animals

The films are available on the EcoSchoolsLCC YouTube Channel and large versions of banners and posters can be downloaded from the schools' extranet. Email signatures are also available to download from the extranet.

Please use the resources to spread the awareness of litter in you community.

- Twitter: <u>www.twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC</u>
- Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester</u>
- Instagram: <u>www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC</u>
- YouTube:

 $\frac{\text{https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3cF18ihR5QrffMzODaPKK}}{\underline{Q}}$

Why not follow us on one or more of our social media channels? Large versions of banners and posters can be downloaded from the schools' extranet.

Email signatures are also available to download from the extranet, you might have seen them on our signatures already $\ \odot$















Sustainable Schools Celebration 2020

Monday 9 November 2020 - 7.00 - 8.30 pm







After six years of environmental education running in the city, we are pleased to announce our second Sustainable Schools Celebration evening, a biennial event to celebrate the work of the schools in Leicester.

This year like so many others, the event will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams.

The celebration will recognise those that have excelled in their environmental work across the ten Eco-Topics and the roles they work across the school and within the local community.

Nominees will be from the general public and selected by members of the environment, health and wellbeing group. The group is made up of nearly 50 professionals who work within Leicester City Council or organisations that provide environmental or health services to schools in partnership with the council. You can nominate entries for the different categories via out online form.

Some of the winners from 2018

Supports all the **Eco-Schools topics**



Healthy Schools Network

The School Development Support Agency (SDSA) are pleased to inform you that we are continuing to run the 'Healthy Schools Network' (HSN) again in the 2020/21 academic year and in light of Covid-19 this will become more virtual.

The Healthy Schools Network is designed to offer school-to-school support for this vital aspect of the wider curriculum and the arrangements, in Leicester, are now school-funded. between October and December we will be offering schools who were not members in 2019/20 the opportunity to join the Network for free. There is also the option of receiving our new Newsletter.

To assist with our planning going forwards could we please ask you to complete the following survey to register your interest www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HSN2020-21

If you have any questions regarding the programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting a member of our team,

rebecca.partington@sdsa.net_or emma.sheasby@sdsa.net.













Sustainable Schools Celebration

For the environment, our health and wellbeing

Monday 9 November • Online

We want your nominations!







Do you have a member of staff, student, parent or volunteer who... Spearheads recycling in school? Raises awareness of litter? **Participates in healthy cooking?** Always turns up to gardening club, no matter the weather? **Goes that extra mile to walk, cycle or scoot to school?**

Celebrate the dedication of your staff, students, parents and volunteers by nominating them for one of the categories below for the second **celebration evening event**

Shortlisted staff, students, parents and volunteers will be invited to the virtual evening celebration taking place at the Microsoft Teams Live on

Monday 9 November 2020, starting at 7pm

Schools can nominate as many staff, students, parents and volunteers as they wish:

- Growing Champion
- Litter Champion
- Health and Wellbeing Champion
- Mental Health Champion
- Active Travel Champion
- Active Travel School of the Year
- Global Learning Champion
- Food for Life Champion
- Oral Health Champion
- Forest School Champion
- Sports Leader of the Year
- Recycling or Reducing Champion
- Healthy Eating Champion
- Biodiversity Champion
- Energy Champion
- Cooking Champion

- Cooperative Values Champion
- Water Champion
- Premises Officer/Site Supervisor
- Pastoral Champion
- Teaching Assistant
- Teacher
- Senior Leader
- Community and Parental Engagement Champion
- Student
- Parent
- Volunteer
- Team of the Year

To nominate a member of staff, student, parent or volunteer please complete the <u>submission</u> <u>online</u>.

One nomination (or group) for each category for the online form. However multiple submissions can be accepted.

Deadline for entries 11.59pm 2 October 2020

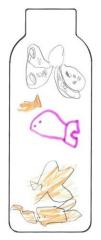


Water Fountain Competition Winners

We are very pleased to announce the winners of our Water Fountain design competition. The overall winner was Sonya at Bridge Junior School. The design will appear on all water fountains and Bridge Junior School will have a display board in the bus station showing their environmental credentials. This is due to be installed shortly.

7 runner designs will have a display board next to a water fountain with information about their environmental work. Runner up by student designs were from Shaftesbury Junior School, Knighton Mead Primary, Mowmacre Hill Primary, Buswells Lodge Primary, Dovelands Primary, Sandfield Close Primary and Parks Primary School, congratulations!

Runners Up



EYFS student — Mowmacre Hill Primary School



Jack Jay – Buswells Lodge Primary School



Jiandre – Parks Primary

Winner

Sonya from Bridge Junior School











Katie – Knighton Mead Primary School



Y5 student – Shaftesbury Junior School



Polly – Dovelands Primary School



Trupt – Sandfield Close Primary School



Glass Guardians



Glass Guardians is back, and this year we are looking for super-recyclers! We have updated the activities and as a result, we have a new competition. Help children aged 5-11 understand the importance of recycling because we all need to help our planet. With adapted activities, the resources are perfect for use in school or at home. You can register as a teacher or parent on the website.

Challenge learners to complete curriculum-linked activities for their place on the superhero team. Teachers can find activity sheets and lesson plans, for both their KS1 and KS2 pupils. But also, parents can find resources adapted for home learning and suitable for ages 7-11. Do they have what it takes to become Glass Guardians?

Glass Guardians Competition

The challenge is to create a glass recycling superhero to join the nation of Glass Guardians. What super-recycling powers will they have? What does their superhero costume look like?

If learners share their ideas they could win £500 of Amazon vouchers for the school. Plus, there are £50 of vouchers for the winning learner's chosen outlet up for grabs. So, enter today for the chance to win. You can scan or take a high quality photograph of your competition entry forms and email them to competitions@nationalschoolspartnership.com by **Friday October 9th 2020**. Full terms and conditions can be found here. As well as the chance to win these fabulous prizes, our favourite entry every month will win a £10 voucher for Waterstones! Glass Guardians is brought to you by British Glass. For information on their work please visit their site here. Find more amazing initiatives with free resources here.



Supports the Eco-Schools waste and recycling topics



Talking Rubbish

Theatre Rites and The Spark Arts for Children present: TALKING RUBBISH

Talking Rubbish' is one of Leicester libraries: Neighbourhood Services summer theatre performances (online this year of course). It has been produced in partnership with Spark Arts for Children and other regional library authorities

Finding treasure in what other people throw away

Meet Charlotte the Excavator. She loves Talking Rubbish, it's her favourite subject! Join Charlotte as she digs around at home, sorting through her rubbish. You will also meet her friends Mohsen and Aya. They share her passion for finding treasure in what other people throw away. You will be amazed at what they create in this wonderful world of Rubbish!

To access the online performance visit the Spark Arts website: thesparkarts.co.uk/talkingrubbish

Get Involved

Share your photos with us and we'll include them in a Talking Rubbish gallery. Tag us on Facebook to Twitter use #TalkingRubbish or you can email nicola@thesparkarts.co.uk. You will find lots of useful resources in our Discover Recycling Creative Learning Toolkit.



Supports the Eco-Schools waste and recycling topics







New £25 million funding programme for maintained schools

Interest free funding available for maintained schools over the next 2 years



Salix and the Department for Education have launched a pilot scheme for maintained schools looking to install energy efficiency measures over the summer of 2018. This pilot comes as a first step towards delivering £25 million of funding over a 2 year period, which aims to help schools lower energy bills, save carbon and create a more comfortable working environment.

Maintained schools are welcome to apply online for Salix interest-free funding. The payback period of this loan is calculated through the estimated energy savings resulting from installing new technologies. Where schools would like additional help in outlining projects, Salix is able to provide an energy efficiency survey via our award winning Switching to Low Energy (SLE) scheme. This scheme is designed to help schools reduce their energy spend to the lowest possible level.

The pilot is an opportunity for works to be completed for schools over the summer holidays, to avoid disruption in term time, and will also provide excellent learning going forward.

During the past year, Salix has worked with more than 500 schools and colleges to save on their energy bills and carbon footprint. This new pilot programme means that Salix will be able work with a projected 1,000 schools across the country*.

Most Common Energy Efficient Technologies in Schools

- ✓ Boiler Upgrades
- Building Energy Management Systems
- Computer and IT Equipment
- Heating improvements
- Insulation Upgrades
- Kitchen Equipment
- **LED Lighting**
- Solar PV

Support for over 100 technologies



on energy bills



Save money

Improved learning environment



Reduced CO, emissions







Five simple steps to apply

- Visit salixfinance.co.uk and go to the 'maintained schools' section
- Create an account
- Complete the application form
- Submit your application online
- Salix will undertake a technical assessment and award funding

To apply or for more info, please contact

schoolsapplication@salixfinance.co.uk or 020 3102 6903

*This figure is based on an average maintained school project size of £25,000.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR SINCE 2004



#EcoSchoolsAtHome

Supports all Eco-Schools topics



Following on from the successful #EcoSchoolsAtHome campaign Eco-Schools England are excited to be working with ethical children's clothing brand Frugi to bring you a series of new Eco-Schools topic challenges.

Participation in Frugi #EcoSchoolsAtHome challenges can be used as evidence towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and provides lots of inspirariton across the ten Eco-Topics.

Frugi and Eco-Schools are also extremely excited to announce that from September Frugi will also be funding the Green Flag fees for up to 150 schools in England; from Early Years Foundation (3-5), Primary Schools (5-11) all the way through to Secondary and Further Education (12-18). Check out the Eco-Schools website for more information in the new school year!







BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is the variety of life that can be found on our planet including plants, insects, animals and even micro-organisms. It is important to protect our planet's biodiversity because biodiversity protects us. An important species that helps maintain our planet's biodiversity are bees -it is estimated that they are responsible for 1/3 of the food in our dets through pollination!

Nursery

Show bees how much you care about them by wearing yellow and black dothes for the day (you might even already have a bee costume!) when you're dressed and ready to buzz make up your very own bumble bee dance to show the other bees where the best flowers are.

Primary

When you go outside to exercise for the day (or travel to school if you're back), count how many bees you see - now is the perfect time to spot them. Investigate fit he bees you find are on a particular plant or flower. You could always do some research to find out what plants and flowers beer prefer before you go cut on your bee expedient on help you spot them.

BUT remember to treat our bee friends with respect by admiring them from a distance

Secondary

When you complete your daily exercise (or on your journey to school, if you've returned) see how many bees you can spot and try to identify the species of bee you have spotted. There are many different guides to spotting bees available on the internet - we like this one for beginners from friends of the fartil, if you are only finding one species of bee why might that be the case-what could you do to increase the number of bee species around your garden or school grounds.

















eduCCate Global Funding



State-Funded Schools in the UK are eligible to apply for funding of up to £4,375 to access eduCCate Global and teach Climate Change Education. eduCCate Global provide trustworthy and high-quality resources to bring Climate Change into the classroom.

To be eligible to apply, your school must meet the following criteria:

- A State-Funded School in the United Kingdom
- A School Providing either Full-Time General, Vocational, Technical, Special Needs Education or Alternative Provision
- · Agree to Complete the eduCCate Global Program and to Delivering Climate Change Education within your School
- Agree to Complete a Climate Change/Sustainability Project within your School
- Partner with 4 UK Schools and 4 LEDC Schools ("the Cluster Group") this will be coordinated for you

If you meet the criteria, register your interest via the <u>online form</u>. Due to the high number of enquiries, we urge all Schools to register as a matter of priority. Registrations will be dealt with on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

You can find more information on our website www.educcateglobal.org/ or by contacting us on support@educCateGlobal.org



Eco-Schools Adapted Criteria



Eco-Schools are aware that it may be impossible to achieve the required criteria given new regulations and ways of working. With this in mind they have adapted the criteria to enable your school to obtain your Green Flag Award. Full details can be found on the website and the key changes are summarised below.

Step One: Eco-Committee

Your Eco-Committee can now be formed from one year group or bubble.

- The Eco-Schools team understand that parents or other adult representatives may not currently be able to attend Eco-Committee meeting but meetings can be held virtually.
- Inform the whole school who is on the Eco-Committee in a way that is safe to do so (newsletter, Eco-Board etc).
- Remember to invite all the young people and school staff who helped out during lockdown on to your Eco-Committee.

Step Two: Environmental Review

This can now be carried out by one year group or bubble.

• Ensure sure the rest of the school know the results of your Environmental Review.

Step Three: Action Plan

- As this is a working document, do not worry if you have to re-think plans over the course of the year due to changes in school restrictions.
- Remember that not all actions need to have been completed in order to apply for your Eco-Schools Green Flag, we would just expect to see that implementation has begun.
- No eco-action is too small! If your grand plans have been cut back due to restrictions that is not a problem
 as long as you can undertake at least one action for each of the three or five Eco-Schools topics you have
 chosen.

Step Four: Curriculum Links

No change, three examples from across different curriculum areas or year groups are still required.

Step Five: Informing and Involving

- If your Eco-Board has been removed due to school deep cleaning then you will be able to upload all the information you wished to display on your online Green Flag application.
- During this time, it might be difficult for actions to involve the whole school and wider community, the Eco-Schools team understands this and will accept evidence of actions involving only parts of a school.
- If you set eco-actions such as our #EcoSchoolsAtHome tasks to be carried during lockdown, please include these as evidence towards your Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Step Six: Monitoring and Evaluation

- This particular step has always been about reviewing and adapting, never has this been truer. Did your indoor plants wilt during lockdown? Did you miss out on your yearly sunflower competition? We want to know how you have adapted your Action Plan ideas, let's share this information to help others with their Eco-Schools work.
- Please remind your pupils not to be disheartened if their eco-actions have not gone to plan. Use this as a tool to help young people become more resilient, we are sure they will be more successful next time.

Step Seven: Eco-Code

• No change; although the whole school community may now not be involved in the creation of your Eco-Code, especially if applying for your first Eco-Schools Green Flag.



Clean Air Day 2020

Clean Air Day is coming - Save the Date - 8 October 2020 www.cleanairday.org.uk/free-resources/schools

Clean Air Day is back, rescheduled due to Covid-19 and booked in for Thursday 8 October. We understand it's a tricky time of year to get new initiatives off the ground. But imagine a day, when we look back and remember some of the good that came out of lock down.

If you want a reminder of quieter streets and more space for walking, cycling and scooting to school, download the free schools resources available; which cover lots of activities and initiatives to create traffic-free streets. Resources are available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 online.















Supports the transport and healthy living Eco-Schools topics

Outdoor Learning Insight

Especially for primary school teachers, the latest edition of our Everything Curriculum magazine is out now. It's free and full of great advice, tips and insight. The eMagazine is produced by YPO (the equivalent of ESPO in Yorkshire)

This edition is themed around the great outdoors, focusing on outdoor learning. The benefits of outdoor learning for children are so vast, but where to state and what opportunities and ideas are out there? This very quick and easy read has some interested articles on:

- Literacy outdoors
- Inclusion ideas for after school clubs
- Forest School
- Links to mental health and wellbeing.

Follow the <u>link</u> to take a look yourself.





Africa's Gift Shoes for Africa Money for you!

Solve the perennial headache of non-uniform days, raise funds for your school and help support a charity by holding a...

Happy Feet Day

a non-uniform day for your feet!

Students attend school in their choice of footwear, whilst handing over a pair of unwanted shoes that can be used again in rural Africa.

We pay **50p per kilogram** for reusable shoes, and then transport them to Africa, where they are introduced into the communities sensitively*

We collect the shoes from school on the **Happy Feet Day**, so there are no storage problems. We weigh them and make swift payment.

All we ask is that the shoes are clean, paired, tied and together...

Book a date to make your feet happy!

*our focus is on empowering community members rather than perpetuating a dependency culture and we work with key personnel to make this happen.

Find out more at www.africasgift.org

AfricasGift



info@africasgift.org



@AfricasGift



01709 717111













Next collection dates in Leicester 6 October 2020

Shoe collecting can be part of your recycling work in school and doesn't have to link to a non-uniform day. At the moment collections can be made with no contact.







Where printed, on 100% recycled paper made from post-consumer waste