



# Hayes Meadow Primary School

## Eco Schools Policy

### **Be the Best We Can Be**

#### Introduction

At Hayes Meadow Primary school we are committed to educating our children about caring for and respecting the environment; developing sensible citizens that are able to make valuable decisions. The Eco Committee at Hayes Meadow has a key role in achieving this and is a vital part of our Eco-Schools programme. The Eco Committee represents the whole school community.

Hayes Meadow Primary School Eco Committee purposes:

- To ensure a whole school approach to learning about and caring for the environment.
- To give pupils responsibilities and promote teamwork.
- To develop pupils skills in the decision making process.
- To develop an awareness of environmental issues.
- To develop a structure to implement the national Eco-Schools Programme in the school.

#### Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Eco Schools Programme at Hayes Meadow Primary School are:

- To become more sustainable and reduce the environmental impact of the whole school.
- Promote environmental awareness.
- To develop an awareness of global issues.
- To develop a whole school approach in promoting environmental awareness including pupils, all staff, governors, parents, and members of the local community.
- To help create a shared understanding of what is needed in order to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.
- To help develop pupils decision - making skills.
- To link environmental issues with the curriculum as well as the daily running life of the school.

#### Eco Schools

Hayes Meadow Primary School is a member of the Eco - Schools Programme. This is an international initiative that encourages pupils to engage with the environment and sustainable

development issues. It provides a highly structured system for the environmental management of schools.

The structure of the Eco Schools process is made up of seven elements and this forms the basis of the programme.

The seven elements include:

- The Eco Committee
- The Environmental Review
- The Action Plan
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Involve and inform the wider community
- Eco Code

The Eco Committee is the key part in implementing the other elements.

These elements are:

- Litter
- Waste minimisation
- Energy
- Transport
- Healthy Living
- Water
- School grounds
- Global Citizenship

Two children from each year group (four from year 6) are voted to become members of the Eco Committee and meet regularly. The children are the main driving force behind the Eco Committee once they become familiar with what being a member entails and are supported by the adult members. The first task for the Eco Committee, at the beginning of the school year, is to carry out an Environmental review. From this an action plan for the coming year can be devised. Eco Schools topics are used to enhance the wider curriculum across the whole school. Progress is then evaluated and improvements are monitored. The Eco Committee informs the wider community of their actions. The Eco Committee produce an Eco Code which is agreed with the rest of the school which reflects their aims and ethos. The pupils play an important part of the scheme and become involved in participation and decision making to help improve the school environment. Eco Schools extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible citizens beyond school.

The Eco Schools Programme has three levels of awards: Bronze, Silver and then the Green Flag Award. There is a set criteria for each of the awards that schools need to meet in order to achieve the award. The Bronze and Silver awards are achieved through self-assessment and the Green Flag Award is completed by an Eco Schools assessor who visits the school. Hayes Meadow Primary School has achieved the Bronze and Silver Awards (academic year 2020-2021) and is working towards gaining Green Flag Status in the next academic year (2021-2022).

From September 2021 the Eco Schools programme will run annually (rather than biannually), no longer including the Bronze and Silver awards. As a school that has already achieved a Silver award, this will continue to be recognised until we achieve our green flag.

Assessment for the academic year 2021-2022 will be completed online with a more comprehensive application and the ability to submit work throughout the year as it is completed. The Green flag application period will run from May 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

### Hayes Meadow Primary School Eco Committee

The Eco Committee consists of pupils from Reception to Year 6. Two pupils from each year group represent their class, except for year 6 who have four committee members. The year 6 children are the leaders of the committee, guided by adult members. The year 6 pupils volunteer for selection which is then decided by vote with the rest of the class.

At the start of the academic year, in the initial meeting, only the year 6 children will be involved. The pupils will be made aware of their roles and the responsibilities which are:

- Chairperson
- Vice chairperson
- 2 secretaries

It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to chair and manage the meetings.

The Vice Chairperson takes over the Chairpersons roles in their absence.

The secretaries take the minutes and record all decisions made in meetings, collate their information, then present the minutes to the Committee (aided by adult members initially, with a view to facilitating more independence as the year progresses).

The minutes from the meetings must be written in a book and displayed on the Eco Schools notice board. At Hayes Meadow Primary School we aim to maintain Eco Schools meetings regularly. When the Year 6 pupils are more familiar with their roles, younger members of the committee, from Reception to Year 5, will be invited to meetings (in the second Autumn term). They will put forward any suggestions from their class that have been requested and they will be dealt with in the following meeting. It is the responsibility of the Eco Schools Committee and the Eco Schools Coordinator to ensure an environmental review and action plan are planned and carried out at the beginning of each academic year. The topics from the Eco Schools programme will be used in focusing on actions. The Eco Code will also need to be reviewed and amended if appropriate after the environmental review and action plan have been completed. The Eco School Committee members are responsible for reporting back to their class about activities related to caring for the environment.

### The Curriculum

Hayes Meadow Primary School aim to embed Eco Schools activities into the curriculum in different ways. Activities will be incorporated into lessons that link in with the action plan covering different curriculum areas to embrace a cross curricular approach.

## Implementation and monitoring

- The head Teacher and Eco Schools Coordinator will monitor the ethos and culture of the school to ensure it reflects a school that values caring for the environment and is led through a whole school approach.
- To participate in and follow the Eco Schools Scheme.
- To complete Action Plans each academic year.
- To monitor and implement national and local initiatives when they arise.

## The Role of the Eco Schools Coordinator

- To update the policy.
- To complete action plans for each academic year to contribute to the school improvement plan.
- To participate in the Eco - Schools Scheme.
- To apply for the Green Flag Award.
- To keep staff informed of actions and new developments.
- To coordinate focus environment weeks.
- To keep a portfolio of evidence of action areas.
- To involve outside agencies.

## Inclusion

All pupils regardless of race, gender, culture, or disability shall have opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of caring for their environment, both in school and in the wider community.

## Provision for Special Educational Needs

Educating children about caring for the environment forms part of our school policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of all children. All children will be included in activities related to learning about and caring for the environment, where teachers will differentiate activities to meet the needs of the children.

## Health and Safety

Health and safety issues will be considered in all activities and relate to the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Policy to be reviewed every year

July 2021