

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL APPLICATION



[Down High School]

Benefits of becoming an Ambassador School:

- Recognition that you are an inspirational flagship Eco-School.
- Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will post 'Ambassador School' highlights on their social media platform to showcase good practice.
- Ambassador schools will advise on support resource gaps that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful can create.
- Ambassador schools will be considered first for publicity videos and photographs.
- Ambassador Eco-School will receive a certificate/plaque to display in the school promoting its position as an example of excellence.
- Ambassador Schools will be supplied with the Ambassador Eco-School logo which they may use on their website, correspondence etc.

Ambassador Schools will:

- Approach other non Green Flag Eco-School in their area (with help and advice from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful) to mentor them through their first Green Flag award.
- Complete a case study every 3 years to showcase examples of good practice.
- Be expected to renew their Green Flag every two years as normal

- Train new Eco-Coordicators to ensure a seamless transition and maintain Ambassador School status, even during staff changes.
- Be asked to attend events such as Cluster Group meetings, project celebrations and larger Eco-Schools events when suitable. At these events Ambassador Eco-Schools may be asked to present or share ideas with other Eco-Schools.

The Deadline for Ambassador School – Friday 11th April 2024

Essential criteria for Ambassador Eco-Schools	
The school has been awarded Green Flag status at least twice.	Yes/ No
Recent Green Flag award (year):	
The school is currently working with or involving the wider community.	Yes/ No
<p>Comments: Community Beach Cleans.</p> <p>Grow Bag Initiative.</p> <p>Collaboration with new School site construction team. Graham's.</p> <p>Working with outside agencies such as RSPB and Hope 365 charity as well as local primary schools in Downpatrick.</p>	

<p>Sustainability is embedded in the curriculum and evidenced in lesson plans.</p>	<p>Yes/ No</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>We have weekly recycling. Pupils are awarded House points.</p> <p>We are enrolled on Litter less project to weigh the amount of waste going to recycling.</p>	
<p>Sustainability is core to the schools culture.</p>	<p>Yes/ No</p>
<p>Comments It features in the School development plan.</p> <p>It is part of school life for pupils and staff.</p>	
<p>The school communicates at least once per term to parents and the wider community advocating sustainable good practice.</p>	<p>Yes/ No</p>
<p>Comments School magazine.</p> <p>Emails to parents</p> <p>Social media of events and initiatives.</p>	

Do you feel you have the expertise to support other schools in their Green Flag application?	Yes/ No
What topic does your school excel in?	
Biodiversity and waste.	

Desirable criteria for Ambassador Eco-Schools	
The school is involved with other Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful programmes and campaigns.	Yes/ No
Comments: Litter Less Beach cleans	
The school has established robust or unique ways to monitor impact.	Yes/ No

Comments: Depends on the project, but mostly yes.	
The school engages with their feeder/local Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools	Yes/ No
Comments: We involve and include all other schools in Downpatrick, whenever possible.	

Ambassador Eco-School Agreement

[Down High School]

As an Ambassador Eco-School I will:

Continue as an excellent example of Green Flag Eco-School and renew our Green Flag every two years.

Be willing to be used as an example of good practice for the Eco-Schools programme and promoted as such on the website, social media, at events and training for Eco-Schools.

Use the Eco-Schools School Zone login area of the website to record data and apply for future Green Flag awards.

If possible (subject to the school's availability) attend events such as Cluster Group meetings, project celebrations and larger Eco-Schools events. Be happy to present or share ideas with other Eco-Schools at these events.

Be willing to communicate with other Eco-Committees which Eco-Schools may put in touch with us for mentoring and help.

At the end of the three years create a report on our time as an Ambassador Eco-School in the form of a case study, photographic or video diary which Eco-Schools can share on their website.

Continue to support other Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful initiatives and campaigns where possible and appropriate.

*Signed Rachel Wilson*_____

Position at School :Biology Teacher and Eco Coordinator

Years as an Eco-Coordinator 14_____

Date:

_14/03/25_____

