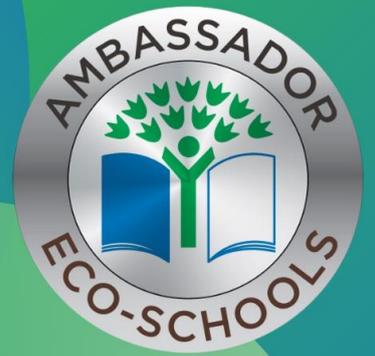


# AMBASSADOR SCHOOL APPLICATION



## Forge Integrated Primary 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-Coordiators 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 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

<b>Essential criteria for Ambassador Eco-Schools</b>	
The school has been awarded Green Flag status at least twice.	<b>Yes/ No</b>
<p>Recent Green Flag award (year):</p> <p>Forge Integrated Primary School has been awarded Green Flag status on 5 occasions and we became an Eco School in 2014. Our most recent flag was awarded in June 2023. We have submitted our Green Flag for 2025 and we are awaiting feedback from our submission.</p>	
The school is currently working with or involving the wider community.	<b>Yes/ No</b>
<p>Comments: We undertake many Eco initiatives that involve parents and wider community from inviting visitors in to work on projects with us to working in the community. Pre-covid P7 worked with the local fold to undertake a gardening project in their grounds. All our Sustrans active travel events involve the community.</p>	

Sustainability is embedded in the curriculum and evidenced in lesson plans.	Yes/ No
<p>Comments: All key stages learn about sustainability. Fairtrade is a topic in P5, Litter Less is a topic in P3. We have lots of outside agencies that visit school to teach about sustainability. Even in the daily running of the school – P7 pupils oversee bins and ensuring the correct rubbish goes into the correct bin.</p>	
Sustainability is core to the school's culture.	Yes/ No
<p>Comments Yes, sustainability is at the core of our school's culture. Children study the SDGs across the Key Stages from the introduction to the concept of 'fair' linked to Fairtrade in P2 (we are a Fair Achiever school) to exploring the others at a deeper level in KS2. Sustainability is reinforced through our active travel/active school culture. We organise a variety of Active Travel Weeks throughout the school year. We have a major emphasis on reusing/recycling. We encourage children to use reusable water bottles, food waste is used to feed our worms in the wormery. Sustainability is also reinforced through our work on healthy-eating, energy reduction, climate change and studying sustainable cities.</p>	
The school communicates at least once per term to parents and the wider community advocating sustainable good practice.	Yes/ No

Comments: We use our Facebook and Twitter pages to showcase/communicate good practice at least once per term to parents and the wider community.

Do you feel you have the expertise to support other schools in their Green Flag application?

Yes/ No

Yes. We are very fortunate at Forge Integrated Primary School to have 2 eco coordinators working together and leading our eco work at Forge. We have achieved 5 Eco Flags and have completed a variety of Green Flag applications ourselves. We are more than happy to support other schools in their Green Flag application.

What topic does your school excel in?

Comments: We are very fortunate at Forge Integrated Primary School to excel in a variety of different topics. Transport is a topic we feel we have excelled at over the years. Our involvement with Sustran has really helped to support this. The addition of the new bicycle sheds has also helped to encourage more children to choose active methods of transport. Reducing, Reusing and Recycling is another topic I believe we excel in. Our Eco Councillors are fantastic at checking the bins in each class to ensure all children in their class are using them correctly. The Eco Councillors educate children who are misusing the bins (e.g. putting dirty yoghurt pots in the blue bin). The Eco Councillors report back to me about the misuse of bins. We work alongside the council and the whole school have attended an

assembly and/or workshop related to recycling. P7 pupils have taken part in the Fast Fashion programme. Also, we have also been part of Cash for Clobber. Milk tops, cardboard boxes etc are used by Foundation Stage/KS1 for Play/Activity Based Learning. P5 have been taking part in a special project this year whereby they have been reusing materials to create various products such as a reusable bag. Every year we take part in the Big Spring Clean. Thankfully we find very little rubbish in the school grounds and much of the rubbish we find has blown in from the surrounding residential areas.

### Desirable criteria for Ambassador Eco-Schools

The school is involved with other Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful programmes and campaigns.

Yes/ No

Comments: Yes. Forge Integrated Primary School is involved in a variety of different programmes and campaigns. Every year we take part in the 'Big Spring Clean.' P7 classes have participated in the Fashion Forever Tackling Textile Waste project. We are involved in the Eco Schools Programme. Our Eco Coordinator has taken part in Carbon Literacy training. We do a lot of work with Belfast City Council and undertake many litter/waste workshops each year with them. We work with RSPB. The whole school complete the Big Bird Watch and we make bird feeders to encourage birds to visit our garden. We partner with Sustrans and come lots of travel work with them. etc. We are in Year 2 of Sustrans programme.

The school has established robust or unique ways to monitor impact.

Yes/ No

Comments: Each class's Eco-committee members audit bin usage weekly for and feed back to me. If they see bins being misused, they then reinforce their correct usage through presenting to all the classes. Every child in Forge is environmentally aware- it is fully embedded. The grounds are litter free; children reuse before recycling. **We also carry out before and after surveys in relation to active travel to showcase the impact that these weeks are having**

in relation to encouraging pupils to travel actively to school. Eco Committee had made graphs in past to showcase this information.

The school engages with their feeder/local Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools

Yes/ No

Comments: We set up a link with Holy Rosary Primary School before lockdown to support them in the setting up of their programme. We also have strong links with Rosetta Primary school and carried out a shared education Forest Schools project with them over a period of 3 years. We are working to get our links re-established. We are very happy to be contacted to help other local primary/secondary schools in their Eco journey.

## **Ambassador Eco-School Agreement**

### **Forge Integrated Primary 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: P.Salmon and L.Murphy

Position at School: Eco Coordinators

Years as an Eco-Coordinator: 5+ years

Date: 18/3/25

