

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



Holy Evangelists' Primary School and Nursery Unit

Glasvey Drive, Twinbrook, Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 0DB

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
650	3-11	2015	2	2025

Holy Evangelists' Primary School is located at the heart of Twinbrook, we are an integral part of our community, and we want to ensure we are doing our part to help the place we live. We have taken part in a number of exciting and important environmental projects. From adopting three spots through the 'Adopt a Spot' scheme to partnering with several local community groups we are committed to making a difference.

Our participation in the Litter Less Campaign and Wheelie Big Challenge saw us reduce our waste and promote recycling. Through a sustained and determined effort by the pupils and staff our curriculum has been enhanced to deliver high quality teaching and learning about sustainability and environmentalism. Our outdoor area is a haven for biodiversity, and we have been awarded the Level 5 School Gardening Award by the Royal Horticultural Society and the Woodland Trust Green Tree School Platinum Award.

This year has seen us focus on reviewing our Eco-Code and incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into our Eco-Code and into our lesson plans. Our Eco-Council, supported by an after school Eco-Club have developed a variety of lessons to help teach our pupils about sustainability. This included the creation of a book about the native trees, shrubs and animals in Ireland. Our Eco-Council use regular assembly announcements, class visits, surveys and focus groups to ensure the whole school are informed of what is happening and to gather information. We work together as one team to help our school and wider community. Furthermore, we have partnered with other local schools to share seeds, ideas and litter pick together. We have also launched our pollinator initiative this year and to attract more pollinators to our school environment!

Topic Actions:

Recently, our school community have worked together to develop an allotment area, wildflower gardens and have planted over 300 trees in the school environment and in neighbouring fields. We have worked with the Men's Shed to build hedgehog houses, bird houses, minibeast hotels and lots of bird feeding stations. This has improved biodiversity and encouraged the pupils to learn about biodiversity and history of their area.





Sharing Good Practice Actions:

The school has appeared in newspaper reports highlighting our work litter picking and tree planting. We were even nominated for an Aisling Award! We have been visited by the Lord Mayor and presented with a Certificate of Recognition for our work in Belfast and also were visited by our MP to discuss the environment and helping Lough Neagh. We are now an official Forest School as Eco Coordinator Mr Lavery and Mrs Kennedy achieved their Forest School Leader qualifications.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

In line with the Litter Less and Wheelie Big campaigns we are monitoring waste and promoting recycling. Our Eco-Council monitor our sustainable energy generation and recycle food waste for compost. We recently worked with the RSPB and used the Insect Fit Count to evaluate our biodiversity and acted upon our findings. Our school uses focus groups and surveys to track our impact and gather ideas for improvement.





worked with pupils the Eco-Council
St Colm's High School to litter pick
along the Twinbrook river path.

are looking after our local
environment and making a difference in
the community. We also discussed our
activities and what each Council has
been working on.



Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full
and must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other
cultures, and the environment.

ECO COUNCIL

Mentoring School:

Our school has worked with Nurseries and Secondary Schools in our local area. This has included joint litter picks, seed swaps and sharing ideas and tips on actions.

Our Eco-Council met with staff from a local school to share information

on their actions. Our Eco Co-

ordinator has also assisted a local

Nursery develop their own Eco-

Schools Action plan and worked

with a secondary school to establish

their Eco-Council. We also did a

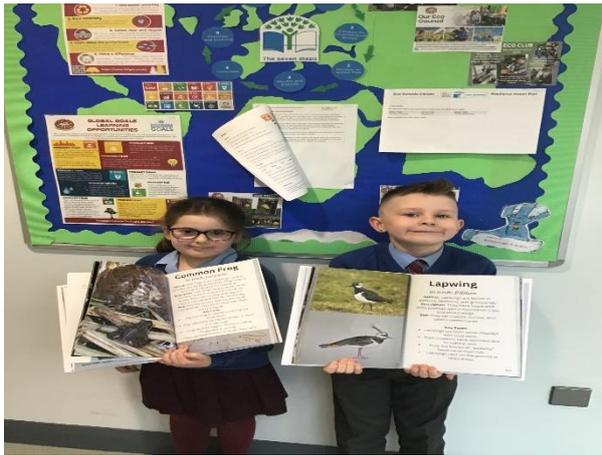
joint litter pick with the secondary

school pupils.

We are partnered with a school in

South Africa and share our Eco-

Schools work with them.



We published our own book on Native trees, shrubs and animals in Ireland.



We have worked with numerous outside agencies and groups



We have created a school environment which promotes biodiversity.



We act to help promote biodiversity around the school.



We learn outside as much as possible!



We ensure we have ample plants to support pollinators.

Contact

For more information on this Eco-Schools Ambassador School, see details below.

Holy Evangelists' Primary School and Nursery Unit

Eco-Coordinator: Mark Lavery

Years involved in the Eco-Schools Programme: 3

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