

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



Ballyclare Primary School

Doagh Road, Ballyclare, County Antrim, BT39 9BG

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
492	4-11	2008	7	1 June 2025

Ballyclare Primary School is a warm and welcoming place of learning, nestled on the edge of our busy town.

Our school is made up of...

550 pupils

29 teaching staff

33 support staff

2 goldfish

... and a lot of learning, fun and happy pupils



But a school is not just about the numbers, location or facts and figures. It's about the values, the ethos and the commitment to guiding each and every pupil to reach their own fullest potential.

Every child deserves to learn in a warm and happy environment. This is the environment we strive to create each day.

Our environment and ethos are built on strong Christian principles which underpin our values and aims.

As a school our motto is:

'Working together, towards excellence, for all.'



Our Eco Council has driven significant progress across several key Eco-Schools topics this year:

- **Waste:** We launched a whole-school "Wrapperless Wednesday" initiative to reduce single-use plastics, kicking off with an educational assembly. Additionally, we introduced a Brown Bin composting trial, starting with our Primary 6 students, with plans to expand across the school. We also run a "Big Battery Hunt" and organize whole-school litter picks.
- **Biodiversity:** We regularly monitor and utilize our Forest



School Area. Pupils are actively involved in planting flowers, vegetables, and herbs. A highlight of our year is the "Scarecrow Project," where students design and build scarecrows using recycled materials, culminating in a school-wide display and competition.

- **Transport:** To promote sustainable travel, we participate in the "Big Walk & Wheel" event. Our Eco Council creates posters and announcements to encourage walking and cycling to school.



Ballyclare Primary School

18 Apr · 🌐

Well done to our Eco Council, supporting our local community.



Grange Community ... is with **Ballyclare Prim...**

18 Apr · 🌐



Thanks so much to the **Ballyclare Primary School** Eco Council who were out yesterday morning litter picking around the estate. 3 bags of litter lifted by this great wee team and more litter picking planned during our Big Spring Clean on the estate next Friday 24 April. More info to follow in the next few days.
#growingstrongertogether



Sharing Good Practice Actions

Our Eco Council actively shares their environmental messages with the rest of the school and the wider community:

- **Assemblies & Presentations:** Councillors take the lead in preparing and delivering whole-school assemblies, such as the launch of "Wrapperless Wednesday."
- **Eco Hall of Fame:** We maintain a dedicated display board to share our Eco Code, environmental findings, and updates with the school community.
- **Creative Showcases:** Our Scarecrow Project serves as a visual, interactive way to showcase the use of recycled





materials and celebrate biodiversity with the whole school.

- School visits: We have had visits from local counsellors and the Education minister, Paul Givan, who viewed our school.
- We are a Northern Ireland representative for the Global Schools initiative. We have participated and attended in the launch of the global schools initiative, meeting with Eco schools all over the world.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

To ensure our initiatives are effective, our Eco Council employs several monitoring techniques:

- **Travel Surveys:** During the "Big Walk & Wheel," councillors carry out travel surveys to record, compare, and evaluate the data on sustainable journeys to school.
- **Initiative Tracking:** The council actively monitors participation during the first weeks of initiatives like "Wrapperless Wednesday."
- **Trial Reviews:** We conduct structured reviews of new processes, such as evaluating the successes and issues of the Primary 6 Brown Bin trial before deciding on the next stage of rollout.





Mentoring School:

Mentoring School

Ballyclare Primary Eco Council works closely with other community groups to promote environmental responsibility and pupil voice. We have partnered with the local Grange Estate Community Association to organise a litter pick within nearby estates, helping pupils and residents work together to improve their shared environment. This collaboration has strengthened community links while encouraging pupils to take pride in their local area. In addition, older pupils from the Eco Council have begun meeting with P3 children to talk about the role of the Eco Council and explain how younger pupils can get involved, supporting leadership skills and fostering a whole-school approach to caring for the environment from an early age.

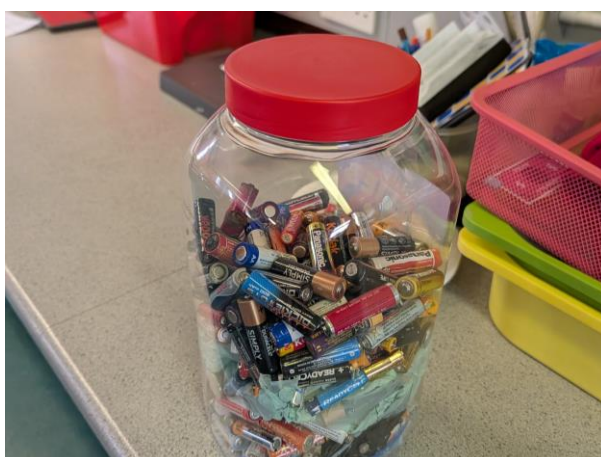
Within our own school community, we encourage peer mentoring. For example, during our composting initiative, specific groups like our Primary 6 students are trained on how to use the brown bins properly, allowing them to model good practices and support the eventual rollout to other classes.



Our Eco Council presentations happen every September.



Voting for our Eco Council is anonymous.



Our main focus for this year has been the Big Battery Hunt.



Our battery collection station outside our school, easily accessible for parents and children.



Outdoor learning in the local park

We love planting flowers and tending to our flower beds.

Contact

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

Ballyclare Primary School

Eco-Coordinator: Daniel Stewart

Years involved in the Eco-Schools Programme: 3

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