

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



Killen Primary School

76 Learmore Road, Killen, Castlederg, BT81 7SD.

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
145	4-11 years	2016	5	May 2024

Killen Primary School is located in the picturesque village of Killen, two miles south of Castlederg on a spacious and well-maintained site. The school has fantastic grounds which provide an excellent environment for outdoor learning, Eco Schools and Forest Schools work.

We are very fortunate to have a large outdoor pitch, playground, a nature garden and an outdoor classroom. We have recently developed our outdoor learning by creating a foundation/KS1 area with focus on promotion of stimulating curiosity and exploration and problem solving as well as promoting the emotional wellbeing of our children.

We have been involved with Eco-Schools for 10 years and during this time we have completed work on all 11 Eco Schools topics. We have a very active Eco Committee that leads and promotes sustainability and wellbeing across the

whole school community. The committee includes representatives from every year group making sure that every child's voice is listened to and heard.

Pupils are actively involved in planning and delivering a wide range of Eco focused activities, including school gardening, where children grow and care for plants while learning about biodiversity and food sustainability. Physical wellbeing is strongly promoted through initiatives such as whole school workouts and Kick-off Kilometre, encouraging daily physical activity and active lifestyles. We also run healthy eating competitions that raise awareness of nutritious choices and reduce food waste, alongside Active Travel Weeks that promote walking, cycling and other low carbon ways of travelling to school. These activities empower pupils to take responsibility for their health, the school environment and the wider planet, while embedding eco values into everyday school life. We were very proud to have been awarded both the Sustrans Bronze and Silver Mark Award.

Shared Education is an important part in our Eco-Schools work in Killen Primary School, promoting collaboration, inclusion and mutual understanding between schools from different backgrounds. Through this programme, pupils in Years 1, 3 and 7 regularly come together with a neighbouring school to take part in shared eco focused activities such as growing vegetables, litter picks, country walks, beach combing and exploration of nature. These joint activities encourage teamwork, respect and positive relationships while allowing pupils to learn from one another in a meaningful and enjoyable way. By working together on shared challenges, we have found that the children have developed a stronger sense of community, environmental responsibility and social connection, reinforcing values of sustainability, equality and cooperation at the heart of the Eco- Schools programme.

Community involvement is a key element of our Eco- Schools journey and we actively work to extend our sustainability ethos beyond the school gates. We regularly hold events that invite the wider community to attend, helping to raise awareness of environmental responsibility and encourage shared action.

Our school promotes sustainability through ongoing initiatives such as recycling plastic bottle tops and batteries, operating a second-hand uniform shop, inviting outside agencies and community partners into school to support learning. Through these approaches we strengthen links with our local community while embedding sustainable practices into everyday school life.

Here at Killen Primary School we are extremely proud of the awards and recognition our school has achieved through our commitment to sustainability, active travel and pupil leadership. We have been awarded both the Bronze and Silver Sustrans Mark Awards, recognising our ongoing efforts to promote walking, cycling and safer, healthier travel to school. Our pupils achieved 3rd place in the Wheelie Big Challenge across all of Northern Ireland, highlighting their enthusiasm and dedication to recycling. Individual achievements are also celebrated a pupil being recognised as Eco Pupil of the Year, reflecting the strong leadership and commitment shown by our Eco Committee members. In addition, we were named top school in the North West in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, an achievement that demonstrates the collective effort of pupils, staff and families working together to support sustainable travel and healthier lifestyles.

Topic Actions:

Our most recent action plans for Eco-Schools focused on waste and recycling. We are very proud of the high level of recycling that we have achieved – recycling both plastic bottle tops and batteries. We have partnered up with School Cycled who award us Earth Tokens depending on



the weight of the plastic lids that we have saved from going to landfill.



Sharing Good Practice Actions:

We have been approached by a number of schools to help them through the process of becoming a collection point for recycling plastic lids. We were asked to help create a partnership between SchoolCycled and Eco-Schools NI as we had been so successful in our collections and wanted to promote it to other schools within Northern Ireland. We have kept our parents and local community informed of our progress and the staggering volume of bottle tops that we have saved from going to landfill.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

We are passionate in our aim to keep our school grounds and local village tidy and free from litter. We have become involved with 'Adopt a Spot' and received a litter picking kit. We monitor how many bags of litter that we have collected, and using what we learned from the Wheelie Big Challenge, disposed of it all properly!





Mentoring School:

We have given advice to local schools/playgroups about getting involved in Forest Schools and the process of becoming a Forest School.

We have also invited other children to our school to see the outdoor learning opportunities that we have and to support and give advice on good outdoor learning practices.



Shared Education



Our Eco-Board



Making hedgehog homes



Measuring rainfall



Village Litter Pick



Our 90th celebration – bringing the community together

Contact

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

Killen Primary School

Eco-Coordinator: Mrs Lynnette Palmer

Years involved in the Eco-Schools Programme: 11 years

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