



### A message from Mrs Powell , our Eco-Schools Co-ordinator:

Eco-schools was something I set up at Darlinghurst over 4 years ago. I feel incredibly passionate about because it effects all of us and I feel it's important to inspire the younger generation to look after the planet. As a UN Accredited Climate Change Teacher and a Litter Hero Ambassador for Keep Britain Tidy, I am keen to raise awareness of this important issue and make our school more eco-friendly.

As part of developing Eco-schools I am always keen to hear from parents / carers who are involved in the industry in any way and would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the children or who would simply like to be more involved with our team and attend meetings.

### Vision

Caring for our environment is a huge part of daily life in our school, especially as it promotes our core value of belonging. Our Eco Committee, which consists of pupils from Years 1-6 work hard to promote eco-awareness across the school working towards retaining our Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction judgement from Summer 2022. We follow the Eco-schools programme, which covers 10 key areas in which we can protect our environment:

- Energy
- Litter
- Waste
- Water
- Transport
- Global citizenship
- Healthy Living
- School grounds
- Biodiversity
- Marine

We feel that in the current world we live in, teaching our children about environmental issues and how best to care for the environment is crucial if we are to tackle the problems we face locally, nationally and globally. We want our children to be Active Citizens, educating and working with the local community and sharing their ideas for a future, healthier and caring planet.

### Plan 2022-23

This year we have chosen to work on three areas: waste, healthy living and transport as part of our Green Flag renewal application but as a school do work towards the other areas across our curriculum.

At the start of each year, the Eco-team conduct an Environmental Review of the school against the 10 areas to see what we're doing well and what areas we need to improve on. From this, we draw up an Action Plan focusing on the team's ideas for what we need to do to be more eco-friendly, with a focus on the three key areas we have chosen. The Eco-team meet weekly and discuss and implement their ideas.

# Action Plan

<u>Eco-Schools Topic</u> Waste	<u>Action</u> Survey to find out about the waste Meet with Wendy (kitchen) Posters in the lunch hall Lessons/ assembly	<u>Duration</u> 2 months	<u>Monitoring Method</u> weighing the sacks Check lunchboxes and trays
<u>Aim</u> Reduce food and plastic waste	Composting and used in the allotment and planting Visit allotments and other schools Terracycle - continue	<u>Informing &amp; Involving Plans</u> Assembly Speech in class with teachers	<u>Final Evaluation</u>
<u>Eco-Schools Topic</u> Transport	<u>Action</u> Cycle to school week. Establish a car share system. Educate parents about car idling and air pollution (parent talk)	<u>Duration</u> One year.	<u>Monitoring Method</u> Purchase air pollution monitor.
<u>Aim</u> Reduce pollution outside of school.	Take part in walk to school week. Letter to MP Make posters for the wider community.	<u>Informing &amp; Involving Plans</u> News and views Pings to parents	<u>Final Evaluation</u>
<u>Eco-Schools Topic</u> Healthy living	<u>Action</u> Survey at lunchtime Survey lunchboxes (plastics) Talk to Wendy (Aspens) Review menu and suggest alternatives.	<u>Duration</u> 3 months	<u>Monitoring Method</u> Survey to compare differences
<u>Aim</u> To increase plant based options in school	Plant more fruit and veg- use more in school food. Lessons about where food comes from. Invite guests to discuss plant based diets. Meet to discuss how to make sport/PE more sustainable	<u>Informing &amp; Involving Plans</u> Parent talk Eco assembly	<u>Final Evaluation</u>

## Achievements 2022-23

### Autumn 2022



We have continued to develop our outdoor area by planting trees and wildflower seeds to encourage further biodiversity. Our allotment area is still being developed with the help of the local community and generous donations. The children have been carrying out regular litter picks in the school grounds and in our local community. In October, one of our students was able to take part in a Children's Parliament Meeting at the Houses of Parliament with our local MP Anna Firth, discussing environmental issues surrounding water management and waste.

The Eco Committee have been busy sorting and counting plastic wrappers for the Terracycle Scheme, carrying out energy checks and planning our next steps. We have successfully managed to raise £80 through their hard work. They have also been monitoring food waste in the dining hall and have created an assembly to

share with the other children on why this is so harmful to the environment. They have also met with Kirsty from Southend West Schools Sports Partnership, and shared ideas for their new Eco Youth Board.



Our Eco Club has carried on this year and they have had the opportunity to create seed bombs, candle jars and make eco bricks, as well as working hard to keep our local area clear of litter.

This term we launched the Essex Schools Young Eco Protectors, a schools' sustainability network group working alongside Westcliff High School for Girls and St Peters Church of England School to share ideas and work on projects together. This is part of the UK Schools Sustainability Network (<https://www.transform-our-world.org/ukssn>)

### Spring 2022

In the Spring term, we celebrated Eco Week. We had different visitors talk to our children via teams including Organically Epic and Essex County Council. In EYFS and KS1, children sorted rubbish and learnt about recycling.



Our Eco team have been really busy this term, putting items of our Eco-schools action plan into place. We started work on our allotments, holding a gardening day to get the area ready for planting. We also planned a beach clean for the Great Big School Clean and had a cleanest classroom competition. We also planted more tree saplings and wildflower seeds in our school grounds. We are looking forward to submitting our green flag application in the Summer term.

Years 1 to 6 also learnt about Climate Change through this term's focus topic. Children in Year 5 created a rap about what we could do to solve the problem and Year 6 wrote a newspaper report on the effects of climate change on animals.

### Summer 2022



In the summer term, the wildflower seeds we had planted flourished and were teeming with a variety of beautiful wildflowers and buzzing bees. The Eco Club enjoyed identifying the different types and also going on a minibeast hunt as part of the Wildlife Trust's '30 Days Wild'. In addition, they made posters about car idling and air pollution to inform parents and carers as part of Clean Air Day in June. The Gardening Club worked hard on the school allotment, planting potatoes, beans and onions. It is really taking shape now!

The Eco Committee and Sports Committee held a Secondhand Sale of Sports Equipment, raising nearly £40 to fund future projects.

We applied for and received the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction! We received the following feedback from Eco-Schools England:

"We love how active your Eco-Committee was in communicating their Eco-Schools activity school-wide. Assemblies, news bulletins, your notice board and social media. This is really strong informing and involving and shows how valued and embedded the Eco-Schools programme is in your school."

"Everyone involved in Eco-Schools at your school should take immense pride from the parental quote provided. It's a great demonstration that you are going the extra mile to enable young people's passion for environmentalism and by doing so you are also enriching their school life! Congratulations to everyone"

for the great work you have managed to do, especially throughout the pandemic and lockdown. You should all be very proud of your amazing work and the great application you have submitted. You are most definitely a worthy Eco-Schools with Distinction Green Flag Award winner!"

### Eco-Schools Gallery

