

The South Lanarkshire Littermittee

Carnwath Primary School chose Litter and Waste as one of their Eco-Schools topics and two pupils who were particularly annoyed about the litter blowing into the school grounds decided to set up a sub-committee of the Eco-Committee called the Littermittee. The Littermittee focused on a litter problem in their school grounds and spoke in whole school assemblies to raise awareness of the issue.

Pupils decided to adopt a whole school approach to tackling litter and began by conducting a school-wide Litter Survey. Each class was allocated a time and space to assess the litter in the playground and were given a map to record the areas where they found litter. This information was then collated on one big map.

The school then decided to integrate litter picking and awareness into daily school life as they felt it was important to not just do big litter picks but to change behaviour to encourage children to consistently look for litter and thereby help to maintain the school grounds. The school support staff took the lead on this and started to put the litter picking kits out at playtimes and lunchtimes and it soon became apparent that the children chose to go and litter pick and take responsibility for themselves.

Pupils undertook baseline surveys and then regularly repeated them, programming Micro:Bits to capture their survey data and to differentiate between recyclable and non-recyclable rubbish found. Their repeated measuring showed a significant decrease in the amount of litter in the school grounds.

The success of this initiative has inspired pupils to plan to work with the council to clean up the area behind the MUGA pitch which is used by the local community and is still affected by litter.

The Litter and Waste topic covers actions on litter, dog fouling, flytipping and graffiti as well as waste minimization actions such as recycling and composting. Eco-Schools also requires evidence from at least one litter pick or survey as part of the Green Flag application.

