

## Gateside Primary School - Eco-Committee Elections



An Eco-Committee can take many forms and there are many ways to encourage pupils to join, depending on your school's context. In this example, pupils at Gateside Primary School in North Ayrshire form their Eco-Committee with elections where interested pupils write a manifesto detailing why they should be chosen.

At the beginning of the school year pupils from P3-P7 at Gateside Primary School are invited to put themselves forward for election to the Eco-Committee. Each pupil completes a manifesto detailing the reasons why they want to be on the Eco-Committee and what qualities they could bring to the committee.

They then read out their manifesto to their class and their peers vote by secret ballot for who they want to represent their primary stage. The P2 and P1 pupils are rotated throughout the year to give them an opportunity to experience the Eco-Committee and are aware of the work the committee does.

Representatives of the Eco-Committee visit the Early Years Class throughout the year to inform them of what is happening. Having the noticeboard in the hall where our Early Years Class attend allows them to see the progress.

Being a small school means that our Eco-Committee works closely with the other committees in order to get jobs done. A particular successful story was when the Eco-Committee organised a whole school focus on Earth Hour to raise pupil awareness and encourage everyone to take part at home. Relating it back to our eco target areas, the committee produced and presented a PowerPoint at the whole school assembly and designed a poster competition for each of the classes to promote the Earth Hour event.

The winning designs were displayed around the school as well as being made into flyers and sent home to encourage families to take part. The committee also shared their power point with the Early Years Class and they knew they were successful as all classes participated in the competition and the committee checked in with each class to check who had taken part. More than 60% of the school took part and this was deemed as a success.