

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award Criteria

Eco-Schools is a whole school, pupil-led, approach to Learning for Sustainability. It is a flexible and adaptable programme which should be tailored to each specific educational context.

These criteria should be adapted as necessary for each establishment's individual context.

Eco-Committee

- Your Eco-Committee should be pupil-led as much as possible.
- All pupils have the opportunity to be involved in the process of forming your Eco-Committee.
- All age groups should be represented on your Eco-Committee.
- Your Eco-Committee meets at least once every half term.
- Records are kept by Eco-Committee members of meetings showing how decisions have been made.
- Records of meetings are displayed on an Eco-Schools notice board and communicated to the wider community.
- A whole establishment approach to Learning for Sustainability is enabled by all pupils contributing their ideas whether they are an Eco-Committee member or not.

Environmental Review

- The Environmental Review is carried out by your Eco-Committee. You can use our template if you like.
- Carry out your Environmental Review at the start of each Green Flag Journey.
- The results of your Environmental Review are shared with the rest of your establishment.

Action Plan

- Your Action Plan is a working document and should be included in the school improvement plan.
- Your Action Plan will cover one year for a First Green Flag Award and two years for a Green Flag Renewal.
- All pupils can submit suggestions for action to the Eco-Committee.
- Your Action Plan addresses our Core Eco-Schools Topic (Litter) and two other chosen topics.
- Choose one UN Sustainable Development goal to tie together your actions for our Core Topic (Litter) and your two other chosen topics where possible.
- Your Action Plan must include a community Clean Up every year. You can link this Clean Up to any one of the Ten Topics.
- Pupils on your Eco-Committee take responsibility for leading some action areas.
- Your Action Plan must include timescales and details of how progress of an action area will be measured and evaluated.
- It may be useful to adapt this to be displayed on the school's Eco-Schools noticeboard in a clear, pupil-friendly format.

Measuring

- Your Eco-Committee ensures that evaluation of action is ongoing and appropriate to the activity.
- You will need one example of Measuring for our Core Topic (Litter) and your chosen two topics.
- All pupils and staff are updated and given the opportunity to discuss and debate progress.
- Your Eco-Committee builds on successes and decides what to do when activities are not successful.
- Measuring is an opportunity to develop skills from across the curriculum. For example, STEM, Developing the Young Workforce, Numeracy.

Curriculum

- Aspects of your Eco-Schools activities are integrated into a range of subjects across the curriculum for the majority of classes or year groups.
- You will need to describe an example of how you have linked your Eco-Schools work to the Curriculum as part of your application.

Community

- Your Eco-Schools activities are displayed on your Eco-Schools noticeboard.
- Your Eco-Schools activities are shared with the wider community. For example; displays, social media, website, newsletter, local press.
- The wider community is involved in the activities going on in the school where possible. For example; partnerships with other schools, local businesses, charities or other community organisations.

Eco-Code

- Your Eco-Code represents ideas from across the whole establishment.
- Your Eco-Code is displayed on your Eco-Schools noticeboard and shared with the wider school community.
- Your Eco-Code is reviewed regularly to make sure it remains relevant.

