



Milngavie Primary School

Year Group(s) classes involved: Sustainability Lunch Group as well as both P4 classes.

Project: How can we stop litter from our school entering local tributaries of the River Clyde?



Aims and objectives

To tackle the litter problem in our playground and create more understanding of how plastic pollution impacts on the river catchment and beyond.



Research

Pupils within sustainability group led a discussion with PTA and teachers about the waste generated within the school. It became apparent that pupils were unhappy with the waste management options within the school and wanted this to be addressed. One key issue that the children mentioned particularly was the quantity of crisp packets being generated, the fact that these packets were easily blown out of the available bins and the fact that they were not recycled.

Pupils also conducted a school lunch survey to assess the amount of potential plastic waste taken into the school in packed lunches. Linking in with their initial thoughts on the crisp packet problem within school grounds they found that on average per day one in three pupils brought in a packet of crisps which they said they would eat at break and dispose of in the school litter bins.

Children also researched the amount of waste paper generated within each class that was being thrown into general waste.



Outcomes

Through discussions with parents a connection with local café Gavin's Mill has been made. The café have agreed to act as a collection point for a crisp recycling scheme and to transport the packets to the nearest registered recycling location. Again, through developing links with the local community, as a direct result of this project, a group of interested parents have agreed, with the help of the two P4 classes and their teachers, to running a mini project focused upon climate activism. This project will be run from April to July and will focus upon developing a campaign to get the local council to allocate separate recycling bins to the school and to begin collect these appropriately. Children also took leadership of the school's paper recycling scheme.



Sharing and next steps

In order to raise awareness of the important themes of this project pupils suggested that they begin to hold regular class assemblies/talks about sustainability. The pupils suggested that the crisp packet recycling programme should not be limited to just MPS and so plan on offering the use of Gavin's Mill as a collection point to other local schools.



I already knew about why plastic litter was really bad for the planet but working with the lunchtime sustainability group and looking at the litter we made in the school was shocking and surprised me. I think the crisp packet scheme will really help and hopefully by sharing the information with the other classes we can all make a difference.

By Lucy P7