



## Climate Action Project of the Year 2023 Crawforddyke Primary School South Lanarkshire

Climate Action and Sustainability is a significant part of our School Improvement Plan and has been a cause embraced by every pupil and staff member, across all cohorts. This project means we have engaged in local community litter picks, which led to a Litter Protest March by our P1 pupils, who campaigned to have our local area known as "Jock's Burn" cleared up. This was in partnership with Clydeside Ranger Service and led to continued litter picks by groups of volunteers, a clear-up by local youth groups and the area being awarded Nature Reserve Status.

A feature film was made as a result, featuring our very own pupils! We can now use this area regularly for outdoor learning, building a partnership with the Nursery next door to go with. Our project also included the chance for our Choir to participate in the Lanarkshire Glee Challenge, with the theme being Climate Action. We were awarded first Runner-Up! Our Eco Warriors help to coordinate our project, which has pupil, staff and parent members.



A significant part of our project has been the establishment of a polytunnel in our school grounds. With lots of support from parents and local businesses, and every class taking on a 'job' we are now growing a range of fruit and vegetables which we hope to use in our school kitchen or class cooking lessons. The goal is to ensure pupils learn to become sustainable food growers, both now and for when they become adults. We participate in 'Beat the Street' and our JRSOs work across our school to promote this. The largest part of our project has been the whole school delivering a topic on Sustainability and the SDGs.



Every pupil is learning about the SDGs, the impact of climate change and what they can do to reduce the impact of climate change on our planet (climate action). Our learning is being shared with parents and the community through our newsletters, google classrooms and a SWAY. Pupil surveys tell us that our learners have a very good understanding of what climate change is and what they can do to effect climate change.

This includes activities across our own school, such as food waste collection, paper recycling, litter collections, tree planting, bug hotels, wildflower gardens and Terracycle. Pupils tell us that these activities are crucial in combating climate change, as well as other school projects such as our Pop-Up Recycle Uniform Shop, which is open every week.

This year, we will celebrate the King's Coronation by creating a large crown, filled with each child's sustainability "pledge on a post-it", recognising the role King Charles has had in promoting sustainability and climate action. Our summer trips are avoiding the use of buses by bringing the experiences to us!

We have chosen a Climate Action Drama Workshop, Climate Crusaders Zoo Lab visit and a Music workshop all about saving our planet! A whole school topic on Sustainability will be included in our school calendar every year.



## Eco-Coordinator of the Year 2023 Leah Belford, Wallace Hall Academy, Dumfries & Galloway

### Eco work In 2-18 school:

Leah has been responsible for leading Eco groups in primary, junior Academy and Senior Academy. She has achieved two of our three Green Flag Awards so far with our pupils and is hoping to achieve a fourth this year. She has taken the lead on our school garden and orchard spaces. Getting whole school recycling and litter picking up and running. Holding regular Eco assemblies in primary and academy. Taking part in initiatives such as the Dandelion Growing Project, getting a grow cube, seed potatoes, and growing medium for whole school (and community) use. Then organising a Harvest Festival for the whole primary as a transition event into S1.

Taking pupils on trips such as to COP26 and making apple juice with local company. Involving the community in clean ups, clothes swaps, apple product sales, consultations with groups such as Thornhill Active Travel Group, Nith Life, KPT development trust and Keir Wood regeneration. Tree planting with Galloway Glens.



### **Regional work:**

Member of the Learning for Sustainability Partnership Group networking with various local environmental and educational organisations. Undertook training to become a D&G Climate Champion with colleagues across the region, attending online and in person events.

### **Work outside region:**

Leah has delivered presentations to SWEIC on outdoor learning and has taken part in National GTCS LfS Drop in sessions to network with colleagues beyond D&G. Our school was a hand over point for the COP27 relay. Also worked with Fuel Change to create and trial resources teaching climate change to all students. Leah also ran a three day International climate summit with schools in Malawi and Nepal through 1.5 Max.



### **In teaching and learning role:**

Teaching about biodiversity, conservation and ecosystems through Biology- running fieldwork trips. Bringing in outside experts like the GSA Biosphere to our primary and the Crichton Carbon centre to our BGE Science pupils. Teaching about Food and Sustainability through Home Economics- new resources for BGE and practical application in growing food for use in school and composting waste. Development of Learning for Sustainability lessons for Health and Wellbeing classes across the whole Academy. Development of Environmental Science course to introduce into our option form for the first time this year.



### **Professional development:**

Leah has completed many hours of CLPL in Learning for a Sustainable Future, Children in permaculture and Global Citizenship with WOSDEC, FOLA training and training with DG Outdoor and Woodland Learning to become a forest school practitioner.. She has lead sessions during INSET days for whole school staff on LfS and Outdoor Learning.

**And leading by example:** She has halved her own personal carbon footprint by taking part in active travel schemes, switching to an electric vehicle, decarbonising her home from oil to air-source heatpump, shopping at a local refill shop and greengrocer to reduce plastic waste. She has changed her shopping habits- clothes swaps and charity shops only and advertises these choices and changes to pupils, parents, colleagues even speaking to Dunscore SWI group. She has joined many local community groups such as the Climate Kitchen at the Stove in Dumfries to learn more widely about how sustainable living can be achieved and sharing what she learns both in school and out.



## Eco-Committee of the Year 2023 St Patrick's Primary School North Lanarkshire

Our Eco-Committee are a unique group of motivated pupils from across our year groups, who meet twice a month to discuss environmental issues within our school community. Our Eco-Committee is solely led by our young people. Issues and actions are selected by them and their passion for global issues. We know that awareness of these issues helps to prepare our children to live their future lives with consideration for global issues.

The primary aim of our Eco-Committee is to educate and empower our children to make positive decisions and become change makers for an environmentally sustainable world. They have been successful in developing awareness and sensitivity to environmental challenges in our own community and the wider world. They actively motivate others within the school community, have generated an attitude of concern along with a motivation to improve and maintain environmental quality. Here are some fabulous examples of our projects this year.

### **Sustainable Fashion Shop:**

Our 'pop up shop' helped us to learn about how buying second hand clothing can protect our oceans from polluting chemicals. Classes learned about how



textile dyeing is the second largest polluter of clean water globally, which has devastating effects on health and water quality. Our project was such a success that we were invited to attend the North Lanarkshire Sustainability Conference, where we shared our journey and good practice with other schools.



### **Walk & Talk on your Way to School**

This year our Eco-Committee also wanted to focus on walking to school to reduce road pollution. They held workshops and assemblies highlighting how air pollution from traffic is a threat to everyone's health. They have spread the message that children are among those most at risk as their little lungs are still growing, and toxic air can stunt this growth. We saw a real increase in the number of children walking to school with their friends and carers. Children enjoyed this extra time to talk with family members and friends.

We have many more plans and exciting targets that our Eco-Committee have set for the next academic year. We feel that the projects driven forward this year have led to real change in our school Community.

### **Feedback from parents and carers:**

' My child and I loved walking to school together and chatting, my husband and I didn't realise how much damage was done to children's lungs, with car exhaust emissions. Our child was able to educate us for us a change and we were determined to start to change our actions.'

'I was able to purchase lots of lovely clothes from the Sustainability Fashion Shop - Christmas Jumpers and festive t-shirts which saved me lots of money at that time of year. I hope the school does this again. It really makes sense'.

