

Fairview Primary School

Number of pupils: 525
Age range: 4 – 11 years
Location: Ballyclare

Joined Eco-Schools: 2009
Number of Green Flags: 3

Fairview Primary has taken part in a number of exciting and important environmental projects. The school was the first Zero Waste primary school in Northern Ireland, in 2013, which means that *none* of its waste is sent on to environmentally damaging landfill sites. They achieved this impressive target as a result of a sustained and determined effort by the pupils and staff to improve recycling levels and reduce the amount of waste they produce. The school also displays great strength and innovation in all things Eco.

The school works on most of the 10 Eco-Schools topics with a large and proactive Eco-Committee split into Action Teams, who look after specific topic areas, and supported by a wider Eco-Club. Regular assembly announcements, class visits and an 'Eco Times' newsletter ensure the whole school are informed of what is happening. The school has an impressive eco-rap for their Eco-Code which every pupil knows. They have an Eco-Teacher award which encourages competition and buy in from the staff and also Blitz Days which involve parents in whole school eco-days.

Waste topic actions:

The school has built on its zero waste success by auditing waste regularly and ensuring that recycling continues. The school continues to seek ways to reduce their overall waste – removing paper towels and replacing with hand driers, making sure scrap paper is reused before recycling, addressing food waste in lunches. They have built a bug hotel with scrap materials, a plastic bottle greenhouse and have a Roly Pig composter for food waste. Eco-tasks have helped develop pupils' skills in ICT (using i-pads, the website and spreadsheets) and helped build confidence and communication skills.

Sharing Good Practice actions:

2015 Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Event – Display stand showcasing their topic work.
The school hosted international guests from the Eco-Schools National Operators Meeting (NOM). The BBC filmed the visit. The clip can be viewed [here](#).
Eco-Schools actions are on the school [website](#) and [twitter](#).
Fairview are featured in the [Eco-Inspiration](#) publication for the Waste topic.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Pupils weigh the waste and recycling collected every week and monitor progress. From this they have been able to watch their paper recycling improve and general waste decrease. They have introduced a Waste Free Lunch action day and weighed the bins to see how much food and plastic waste was generated before and during - with a notable reduction in waste on the day. Figures collected are saved in the eco file and used for numeracy tasks in school.

Mentoring School:

Fairview have been working with Whiteabbey and Whitehead Primary Schools as they progress on their eco-journeys to Green Flag.

The school has a long term relationship with Jebrongo Primary in Kenya who have come to visit and help the pupils gain a global perspective on the eco work they do.



Fairview Primary School receiving their Ambassador Eco-School award during the Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Event.



Fairview's display stand at the Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Event.



Weighing waste during an audit.



Fairview's plastic bottle greenhouse relocating to the school vegetable patch.



Showing guests from the NOM their bug hotel made from reused materials.



The Eco-Committee preparing for a waste audit.