

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



St Brigid's PS, Drumilly

17 Carrowbane Road,

Belleeks, Newry BT35 7QL

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
130	4-11 Years	2009	8	2023

Information about your school -

St. Brigid's, Drumilly is a rural primary school situated in Co. Armagh. The school grounds boast abundant green spaces that the children get to enjoy daily in their learning, play, sports and overall wellbeing. The school has many outdoor facilities that help promote the wellbeing of both the children and the environment. We have a very well-established eco-committee that are passionate about maintaining high standards that are embedded into our daily practice as a school. The school has long established policies that promote eco-schools, environmental topics are embedded into the curriculum, and we are always keen to take on new opportunities to grow as an eco-school and care for the environment. As a school we share our good practice on school social media sites, parental and community involvement in our projects throughout the year and our success stories as a school.

- **facilities in the school**

Eco- facilities within the school include our outdoor learning areas- ‘Eve’s Garden’, outdoor seating chairs, benches and logs, woodland shelter, large play frames, large grass area/pitch, outdoor play area EYFS. Throughout the school various classes have been responsible for creating and maintaining hedgehog houses, bird feeders, bee/bug hotel, planting pots, vegetable patch, compost bin, water butt, wild garden area (no mow), wild flowers.

- **eco clubs/ activities**

Daily mile whole school, school eco-committee, fair trade fortnight, trocaille, cycling proficiency.

- **projects past and present**

- Signed up to participate in weatherbies
- Hedgegrow heroes (entered- unsuccessful)
- Cash for clobber
- Halloween dress up- recycle
- Christmas Jumper swap
- Eco Art
- P1 Toy donations/Book swap
- Cycling proficiency
- Walk to school week
- Fairtrade Fortnight- selling fairtrade items at school. Curriculum topic.
- Wear green be green
- Energy saving week –
- Housing Executive Schools/Home challenge
- Eco-code competition
- P1 spring walk- survey
- P2 Minibeasts- Update bug hotel, plant wildflowers- survey (spring)
- P3 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch- make eco-friendly birdfeeders- survey (JAN)
- P4- Hedgehog House- class topic on Hedgehogs in Autumn, Knowledge survey (OCT)
- P5/6- winter Windowsills
- Fairtrade – Patrick McShane workshop, survey Global perspective
- P7- vegetable planting and growing
- Litter Less campaign
- Adopt a spot – litter picks- Carrowbane Road
- Mrs Davidson- Litter Less training
- Arc 21 Workshop- whole school awareness campaign
- Paper 2-sided photocopying

- **community involvement**

Newry City Council school visits, Newspaper/press for Santa daily mile with local city council representatives, Environmental Youth Speak competition, Environmental poster competition, community litter picks (whitecross), Sowing wildflowers at local GAA grounds, Advertising locally for Cash for Clobber donations.

- **awards**

7 eco- school green flags

Topic Actions:

Climate Change/Waste

WAU Climate change- curriculum topic. Climate Calm ks2 lesson plans.

Patrick Mc Shane workshop on Climate action.

Before and after climate knowledge survey on climate action. E.g's of recent climate actions:

- Cash for clobber
- Halloween dress up- recycle
- Christmas Jumper swap
- Eco Art
- P1 Toy donations

Newry, Mourne & Down

Environmental Poster competition-
Based on climate change and waste.
Share ideas across the whole
school/display posters.

Pupil participation in community

Diocesan blessing -Year of creation-



blessing of the forest- Earth as our shared home- RE Curriculum link/ Community link.



Sharing Good Practice Actions:

St. Micheal's PS, Claudy PS, working towards 1st green flag. Shared good practice in our school, projects we have been involved in, partnerships/contacts in local council and paperwork to assist their application.

Press- daily mile Santa Run. In Newry Democrat local newspaper. Promoting the benefits of Daily mile for young people. NC&DC were also in attendance to share our success.

Cluster meetings- training. Shared with whole school and eco-committee.

Showcase eco-schools through our social media Facebook platform. Projects and work that the children are involved in and projects with home/school participation- e.g. cash for clobber, jumper/book swaps, pre-used clothes sales, energy saving.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Data School Zone- knowledge surveys before and after- Climate/biodiversity
Monitor – Litter Less Bin usage throughout school.

Monitor- single use plastics- before and after. Gave whole class (P2) reusable water bottles to use in school.

Monitor- home and school energy saving fortnight. Certificate received.



RSPB- sent findings. Before and after
birds around school (Winter Bird
Feeders) Monitoring- Cash for clobber
bags collected



Mentoring School:

St. Micheal's PS, Claudy- Assisted with their Environmental Review- worked with eco co-ordinator and helped form a committee to decide appropriate topics to focus on. Went through the 7 steps and what we have for each one.

After school visit, shared our eco-plan and projects and visitors that have worked well in our school as a starting point. Meet regularly to review progress and share good practice and ideas.



Adopt a Spot



ARC21 Workshop



Winter Windowsills



Hedgehog House



Pre-owned Toy Donations



Recycled WW1 Art- The Trenches

Contact

For more information on this Eco-Schools Ambassador School, see details below.

St. Brigid's PS, Drumilly

Eco-Coordinator: Catherine Davidson

Years involved in the Eco-Schools Programme: 2

Address: 17 Carrowbane Road, Belleeks, Newry BT35 7QL

Phone: 02830830759

Website: N/A (St. Brigid's Drumilly- Facebook page)

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