

Congratulations!!!

Fantastic work!

We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at Hebden Royd CE Primary School have been successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

We reviewed your application and noted the following:

Selecting your Eco-Committee was a thorough process which involved introducing the concept, requesting a paragraph-long application, before going to a democratic vote. This process will have helped to demonstrate to young people in your school how important the role of Eco-Counsellor is. Your 10 strong Eco-Committee was supported by 7 adult Eco-Coordinators, attended by your Environment Governor, and they also had the chance to speak with your head teacher during meetings. This shows a whole school commitment to environmental education and youth-led action and this commitment will have permeated into the consciousness of pupils in Hebden Royd.

On your application it states that you plan on asking eco-counsellors to take minutes next year, and this is brilliant it shows that you plan on continuing to evolve how you deliver the Eco-Schools programme and this is great practice. Splitting the Environmental Review between three different teams of Eco-Committee members is a good idea, it gives each child the chance to have a bigger involvement in its completion and when they come back together their findings provide the opportunity for rich discussion. Again, you have highlighted your whole school commitment to eco-action by approaching other pupils and staff members to help complete the Review.

From reading some of the comments on your Environmental Review, it's clear that even at this stage your amazing Eco-Committee were beginning to develop ideas for actions they want to take... and their ideas are fantastic, we especially like the idea, 'Encourage pack lunch to be more Eco-Friendly,' as this demonstrates an ambition to extend your Eco-Schools work to parents too! The way you developed your Action Plan, dividing into groups then brainstorming (including how to Inform and Involve and how to Monitor and Evaluate), is another example of fantastic practice – an example our team will definitely be sharing with other Eco-Coordinators who ask for ideas and advice.

The uploaded document brought a massive smile to our faces – it was so full of wonderful ideas that you've probably already got enough inspiration to keep you going for several years! Your project work for Biodiversity is brilliant – and we were delighted to read that (almost) the whole school had been involved in one way or another.

Your pond must now be nearing completion and your meadow looking lovely – both will provide rich learning opportunities for many years to come.

For Global Citizenship, it was wonderful to learn how much your pupils care for others and our planet, and we love that the whole school can vote for the animal they would like to sponsor – perhaps this could become an annual part of school life?

And finally, your Litter-related actions are very comprehensive raising awareness, then targeting your school and local community with litter-picking action! Your Curriculum Link examples are practical and engaging, which is exactly what is needed to encourage young people to engage with environmentalism. These links come from a variety of subjects and age groups – you are lucky to have such innovative and dedicated teaching staff in your school who go above and beyond to plan such fantastic learning opportunities. Our team are delighted to read that the Eco-Schools programme has positively impacted learning in your school, our team's hope is that young people learn about environmental issues and are then given the opportunity to take positive action, and this is exactly what has happened at Hebden Royd!

Your efforts to keep your wider school community updated on your Eco-Schools work are tremendous, and we applaud your efforts as they will expand your Eco-Schools work beyond school boundaries and into pupil's homes. The ice sculpture is amazing (what a fantastic design from the children) and especially well done to the Eco-Counsellors for delivering an assembly to their whole school and parents – it can be nerve-wracking speaking in front of others about important issues, so they should be very proud of themselves!

You have also worked with an impressive array of individuals and organisations, as part of Keep Britain Tidy we thank you for collecting an impressive 41 bags of litter for the Great Big School Clean 2023 – we're sure the entire Hebden Bridge community are very appreciative of your efforts! And how wonderful to read that your work is changing everyday behaviours in your pupils and families – the comment from a parent really demonstrates how you have empowered your pupils to take positive action in their local community – this is something to take great pride from!

We're not surprised getting the programme off the ground is listed as your greatest overall success, from the amount, and quality, of evidence uploaded throughout your application our team finds it hard to believe you haven't been delivering the programme for several years. A lot of your biggest challenges also relate to being new to the programme too, and these are common issues for many Eco-Schools.

As mentioned earlier in this feedback, a willingness to evolve and adapt is what makes the best Eco-Schools and you certainly seem to have this attitude in abundance – it can be difficult to achieve everything you might want to right away, but your considered approach will certainly lead to long-term eco-success. Finally, your rap Eco-Code is very imaginative, positive, and inspirational a fitting representation of the wonderful ethos you have curated at Hebden Royd.

We hope our positivity shines throughout this feedback, because we have been so impressed by all you have achieved in such a short amount of time including the number of individuals you have engaged, and the positive attitude of everyone involved in your work. So, congratulations on your Eco-Schools Green Flag it is well-deserved and we loved learning about your journey!