



What is Eco Schools?

Eco Schools is much more than an environmental management system for schools. It is a programme for promoting environmental awareness in a way that links to many curriculum subjects, including citizenship, personal, social and health education (PSHE) and education for sustainable development. It is also an award scheme that will raise the profile of your school in the wider community.

The Eco Schools process is holistic. It works by involving the whole school (pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff and governors) together with members of the local community (parents, the local authority, the media and local businesses). It will encourage teamwork and help to create a shared understanding of what it takes to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.

Eco Schools offers your school:

- an opportunity to make environmental issues a part of the life of the school
- an opportunity to help develop young people's decision-making skills
- curriculum materials and ideas for projects and events
- access to a network of support agencies
- links with other schools in the UK and Europe
- a prestigious award
- opportunities for local and national publicity
- potential for financial savings.

It requires:

- the support of the headteacher and governors
- a willingness to involve pupils in decision-making and action at every stage
- active involvement of staff and the wider school community
- a willingness to take action to instigate long-term change.

The Eco Schools process

The structure of the Eco Schools process is made up of seven elements. You must have gone some way towards implementing all of them before applying for an award.

The seven elements are as follows:

1. setting up an Eco-Committee to take the programme forward
2. carrying out an environmental review to identify problem areas
3. creating and carrying out an action plan to set environmental targets and working towards achieving them
4. monitoring and evaluating your progress in working towards your targets
5. integrating your environmental activities with the school's curriculum
6. involving the whole school and the wider community in your environmental activities, making sure you are generating regular publicity
7. creating an Eco-Code that sets out the school's aims and mission.

The Eco Schools topics

Litter
Waste
Energy
Water
Transport
Healthy Living
School Grounds

For more information see:

www.eco-schools.org.uk