



Eco Team Action Plan

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

2022 - 2023





Our Chosen Topics

We looked at the Environmental Review and picked three of the ten Eco-Schools topics to focus on this year.

We chose:

- Biodiversity
- Litter
- Transport

Creating an Action Plan

We worked in groups and rotated around each of the topics:

- Biodiversity
- Litter
- Transport

Everybody contributed to each of the topics, they helped reflect on what we had already done and what we still needed to do. These reflections would help inform the action plan.



BIODIVERSITY





LITTER

We Are In This Together

<p><u>Rights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of speech. Right to vote. Equality and equal opportunity. <p><u>well-being</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after everyone. Looking after your self. Healthy and happy. being positive. 		<p><u>Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after the planet. Protecting wildlife. Stop pollution. <p><u>Beliefs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting other people's opinions. Perceptions. Faith and trust.
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By Cora age 7

beliefs

brew

beliefs

rights

Environment

wellbeing



TRANSPORT

Be active, social and sustainable!
Walk, cycle or catch the bus to school



Action Plan

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Eco Team Action Plan 2022-23



<p><u>Eco-Schools Topic</u></p> <p>Biodiversity</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Develop school garden and Forest School. Pupils to plant and care for the environment. Promote biodiversity but also teach pupils about the importance of stewardship and the interconnectedness of all living things. • Visit to Backhouse and Barnes Park. Observe and appreciate the biodiversity in their surroundings. • Flora and Fauna – with an emphasis on the importance of protecting and preserving local biodiversity. • Wildlife habitats – hedgehogs, birds, bugs. 	<p><u>Duration</u></p> <p>On-going throughout the year, involving all year groups.</p>	<p><u>Monitoring Method</u></p> <p>Impact surveys, guest speaker reflections, biodiversity art projects.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u></p> <p>To learn about and encourage biodiversity in our Catholic primary school to align our school's values with the principles of "Laudato Si" and teach pupils about caring for God's creation.</p>		<p><u>Informing & Involving Plans</u></p> <p>Sunderland Council – Wear Sustainable Chris Smith and Julie – Ecologist Park Rangers – Backhouse and Barnes Park Winter Gardens Pawz for Thought – animal rescue centre</p>	<p><u>Final Evaluation</u></p> <p>By engaging our pupils in monitoring the impact of their learning on biodiversity, they developed a deeper connection with the natural world and understood the significance of their actions in preserving and protecting it. These monitoring activities also fostered a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship, aligning with the principles of "Laudato Si" and promoting a sense of care for God's creation.</p>
<p><u>Eco-Schools Topic</u></p> <p>Litter</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter pick • Litter free lunch • Recycling • Art from litter • Litter Campaign • Eco-friendly craft • Reusable water bottles • Planting and gardening • Parental involvement • Lead by example 	<p><u>Duration</u></p> <p>Continuous throughout the year.</p>	<p><u>Monitoring Method</u></p> <p>Litter surveys, photographs, litter sorting and recycling, assemblies.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u></p> <p>To understand we have a moral obligation to care for our planet, God's creation. Environmental Impact, Health and Safety Concerns, Water Pollution, Community Pride, Resource Consumption, Economic Impact, Teaching Responsibilities and Values, Global Impact</p>		<p><u>Informing & Involving Plans</u></p> <p>Sunderland Council – Wear Sustainable Chris Smith and Julie – Ecologist</p>	<p><u>Final Evaluation</u></p> <p>By empowering our children to take action against litter, we were able to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the environment. These actions helped to reduce litter in the immediate surroundings but also cultivated environmentally conscious habits that can stay with our children as they grow into responsible citizens and stewards of the planet.</p>
<p><u>Eco-Schools Topic</u></p> <p>Transport</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-friendly transport options • School campaign e.g. Walk to school, walking bus, Red Sky Foundation • Transport competition with local community police officer, Graeme Taylor • Guest speaker e.g. Cllr. Michael Dixon • Transport survey • Transport pledges • Parental involvement 	<p><u>Duration</u></p> <p>On-going throughout the year.</p>	<p><u>Monitoring Method</u></p> <p>Graphs and charts, celebrate achievements, parental involvement.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u></p> <p>To encourage pupils to be more environmentally aware about transport, in order to foster sustainable habits from a young age.</p>		<p><u>Informing & Involving Plans</u></p> <p>Parents/carers Local community Community support officers Local councillors, Michael Dixon, Lyall Wood Red Sky Foundation</p>	<p><u>Final Evaluation</u></p> <p>Pupils developed a deeper understanding of the impact of their transportation choices on the environment. It empowered them to take responsibility for their carbon footprint and make informed decisions.</p>

Promoting Environmental Issues through Reading and the Learning Environment



Greta and the Giants

This inspiring picture book retells the story of Nobel Peace Prize nominee Greta Thunberg – the Swedish teenager who has led a global movement to raise awareness about the world's climate crisis – using allegory to make this important topic accessible to young children.

Greta is a little girl who lives in a beautiful forest threatened by Giants.

When the Giants first came to the forest, they chopped down trees to make houses. Then they chopped down more trees and made even bigger homes. The houses grew into towns and the towns grew into cities, until now there is hardly any forest left. Greta knows she has to help the animals who live in the forest, but how? **Luckily, Greta has an idea...**

A section at the back explains that, in reality, the fight against the 'giants' isn't over and explains **how you can help Greta in her fight.**

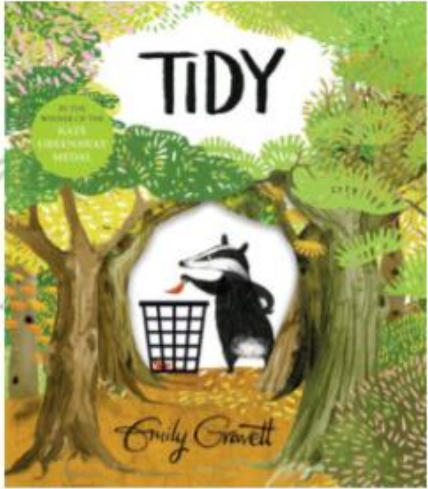


There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom

James Sellick & Frann Preston-Gannon

Picturebook

A stunning picture book about one little girl and her orangutan friend, based on the Greenpeace film that became a viral sensation. When a little girl discovers a mischievous orangutan on the loose in her bedroom, she can't understand why it keeps shouting OOO! at her shampoo and her chocolate. But when Rang-tan explains that there are humans running wild in her rainforest, burning down trees so they can grow palm oil to put in products, the little girl knows what she has to do: help save the orangutans! Extra pages at the back include information about orangutans and palm oil plus exciting ideas about how young readers can make a difference.



Tidy

Emily Gravett

Picturebook

Tidy is another amazing book by Emily Gravett. It is a simple story about how we can impact on our surroundings and why caring for our environment is vital. Gorgeous, engaging and delivering a powerful message...what more does a book need to be?

The story is well written, the rhyme works perfectly and the structure changes throughout. The message is also a very important one, introducing children to important ideas about habitat loss and preservation of the environment. It is done without being preachy and also shows children that there is always the possibility of making a positive change and fixing mistakes!



The Last Bear

Hannah Gold & Levi Pinfold

Chapter book

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life...This moving story will win the hearts of children the world over and show them that no one is too young or insignificant to make a difference. *The Last Bear* is a celebration of the love between a child and an animal, a battle cry for our world and an irresistible adventure with a heart as big as a bear's.

The primary school curriculum can integrate themes of biodiversity, litter, and transport, while drawing inspiration from "[Laudato Si](#)," an encyclical letter written by Pope Francis in 2015. "[Laudato Si](#)" addresses environmental issues and calls for an urgent response to protect our planet and promote an integral ecology. Below are some ways to link the curriculum with these topics:

Biodiversity:

Teach students about the importance of biodiversity in ecosystems and how various plant and animal species are interconnected.

Explore the concepts of food chains and webs, emphasizing how each species has a role to play in maintaining balance. Discuss "[Laudato Si](#)" to instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the Earth's biodiversity. The encyclical emphasizes the interconnectedness of all creatures and the need for us to care for our common home.

Litter and Waste Management:

Educate students about the impact of litter on the environment, wildlife, and human health. Encourage discussions on responsible waste disposal and recycling.

Organize litter clean-up initiatives within the school and local community to raise awareness of the importance of keeping the environment clean and free from pollution.

Refer to "[Laudato Si](#)" to emphasize the need for responsible consumption and waste reduction. The encyclical highlights the throwaway culture and the importance of respecting the Earth's resources.

Transport and Environmental Impact:

Discuss different modes of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, public transport, carpooling) and their environmental impacts in terms of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Encourage students to brainstorm and propose eco-friendly transportation alternatives that reduce the negative effects on the environment.

Introduce "Laudato Si'" to encourage reflection on our transportation choices and their effects on the environment. The encyclical discusses the importance of sustainable development and responsible use of resources.

Practical Projects:

Organize nature walks or field trips to local parks or natural reserves to observe and appreciate biodiversity firsthand.

Initiate waste separation and recycling programs within the school to promote responsible waste management.

Encourage students to choose eco-friendly transportation options for their school commute and track the positive impact of their choices.

By incorporating "Laudato Si'" into the curriculum, students can learn about environmental issues from a moral and ethical perspective, instilling in them a sense of responsibility and care for the planet. It also encourages students to take practical actions to protect biodiversity, reduce litter, and make sustainable choices in transportation, fostering a culture of environmental consciousness from a young age.