

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



Bligh's Lane Nursery School

Bligh's Lane

Creggan

Derry

BT48 9PJ

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
56	3-4 YRS	2021	2	2025

Our Nursery opened in 1979 and is situated in its own grounds in Lower Creggan. We offer 52 full-time places to children in their pre-school year. The school premises have evolved hugely over the years including a major overhaul, both in the indoor and outdoor areas, in 2001. The school has also had a modern extension in 2018 and the children now enjoy a bright, stimulating, colourful and safe environment in which to play and learn. Our outdoor classroom has been developed to ensure that children continue to benefit from the wonderful learning experiences we offer, inside and out. We have also received funding from LIVE HERE LOVE HERE IN 2023 and as a result we have been able to extend our outdoor classroom facilities for children. We used this funding to install a pergola which enables our youngest children to experience the benefits of outdoor learning

in all weathers. We participate in outdoor Woodland Wednesday learning each week as a result of this funding and participation in Forest School training. We have been awarded Eco School of the year in 2023. We also participated in the NI Woodland Trust Green Trees for Schools Award in 2024-2025 and to date have received the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award. The children all form part of our eco club with two children each week chosen to represent their class as Eco Warriors and have responsibility for collecting and sorting rubbish in each class in correct bins!! The school has it's very own school mascot called Clean Chase and our bins are also named after our Paw Patrol characters, including Rubbish Rubble! The Nursery has been involved with our local TRIAX Neighbourhood association who have been instrumental in re-generating our grounds to enhance Biodiversity alongside Outdoor Learning. We have also visited our local Allotments which are run by our local Men's Shed and the children have been lucky to taste many of the various vegetables grown here! We have also linked with various delivery partners including the Weatherbies. As Eco co-ordinator I was interviewed by Yvonne and recorded sharing my own experience of delivering her resources to children at this young age!! This was later shared with external agencies and worldwide including America to support them in introducing The Weatherbies message alongside our impact on climate action!! Likewise, Bligh's Lane Nursery School was also chosen to launch Recycling Week for 'Derry City and Strabane District Council' in October 2025. Finally, we were also chosen by The Western Health and Social Care Trust to create a promotional video to showcase our work on promoting Healthy Living through our participation in 'The Daily Mile' and have been successful in achieving The Daily Mile Fit for Life Award.

Topic Actions:

We have been focusing on Biodiversity and planting lots of new plants and vegetables including herbs. We have linked up with company in the UK called The Pot Gang who provided us with lots of resources which enabled us to plant and then transfer these to our new Greenhouse which was installed in our new Eco Garden.



Sharing Good Practice Actions:

Our Eco work is frequently shared via our school website, Facebook, Instagram and monthly newsletters.

Julie Hannaway the waste officer from Derry City and Strabane District council area visited our school to launch recycling week. We have been to the fore as a school which has shared our good practise

with other nursery schools and they have taken photos and been invited to meeting in which our Good Practise was highlighted through ETI November 2024.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Our children complete monthly litter picks which is then recorded on child-friendly tally charts and shared with whole school through Circle Time sessions etc.



Mentoring School:

We have been lucky to be a partner school as part of The Aspire programme with Hilltop Academy in Buncrana and shared our work on Outdoor Learning with them.



Our Trip to Ballymagowan Allotments Our Trip to Ballymagowan Allotments



The Big Garden Birdwatch



The Big Garden Birdwatch



Our Trip to Brooke Park



Woodland Trust
Green Tree School's Award

Bligh's Lane Nursery School

Eco-Coordinator: Deirdre Doherty

Years involved in the Eco-Schools Programme: 4

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