

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



McClintock Primary School, Seskinore

77 Letfern Road, Seskinore, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT78 1UQ

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
127	4-11	2009	6	2025

McClintock School is located in the picturesque village of Seskinore, in rural County Tyrone. We have a reputation both locally and nationally of providing an excellent education for all our children.

McClintock P.S. recognises that each child owns talents that need to be awakened. Through the broad and balanced curriculum that McClintock offers, we believe that the potential that your child possesses can be unlocked and nurtured.

Our Primary School is also renowned for its caring ethos where the intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional and physical aspects of each child is developed and celebrated. We believe that Eco Schools is a fundamental part of our school life.

We are passionate that we empower our children in areas of sustainability, and how every action, no matter how small, is making a wider impact. Pupils are very excited to be voted on to the school Eco Council, as they know they are making a real difference.

We are very fortunate to have access to a wonderful Outdoor Classroom in the School Grounds, which was updated in 2023 with thanks to a Grant from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. The children have a reading corner, raised beds for growing vegetables, willow dome, Mud Kitchen and a Sensory Garden which is filled with pollinators. We aim to get all children outdoors, in all weathers, throughout the year. It is so important that the children are given the opportunity to learn outside. We place a strong importance on everyone having the opportunity to care for our school grounds and the local community. Whether that is growing vegetables or litter picking

in the local village. Everyone has a part to play and feel valued. We observe the local biodiversity, such as taking part in the annual Big School Birdwatch. Classes also make bird food to help encourage local biodiversity. We have also planted a wide range of pollinators to encourage bees in the locality. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council provided crocus bulbs as early pollinators in the Spring.

We petitioned to the local council to provide a footpath so that we could access the local Forest safely, as we were having to walk on the main road. Works completed on this project April 2025, so we look forward to even more lessons in Seskinore Forest in the future. Three of our teaching staff are currently working on their Forest Schools Leader training. Pupils can explore and engage with natural habitats in the Forest and see the variety of trees and animals in their local area.

Pupils lead learning within other classrooms and disseminate information at an appropriate level. They lead assemblies where they educate their peers on areas such as energy reduction, waste reduction, recycling and reducing pollution and water consumption. Where possible, we get outside agencies to develop appropriate talks to the children. NI Water came to speak about saving water and also the Water Cycle.

We encourage our school to be sustainable through initiatives such as Cash4Clobber, recycling stamps, glasses batteries and also stretchy plastic wrappers. We also held uniform swaps and Christmas jumper exchanges to reduce over consumption and also to save families money.

We encourage pupils to walk to school, from a central location. As most pupils live in a rural location, most rely on cars to get to school. We organised a weekly walk from Seskinore Forest among pupils and parents for 6 weeks. This ended with a celebration event organised by Sustrans where we had a 'Ditch the Dark' Day. This was a great success in promoting positive community involvement.

We are very proud of the achievements of our Eco Committee. Pupils are given the opportunity to apply to be on the team annually and an election happens. We meet at least once a month. Our Eco Council won Eco School of the Year in 2023. We were one of the initial Schools to be given Ambassador status in 2019.

Topic Actions:

Waste Reduction at McClintock

We are passionate about protecting the environment and introducing positive role models for the pupils regarding waste reduction. We are the local hub for textile recycling through



Bronagh Kearney from Eco-Schools NI came into class to explain where our waste goes and how once we bin it, the rubbish does not magically disappear, but go to landfill sites. She explained how long different materials take to decompose.

We then sorted out the waste in our class bin to check that we were correctly dealing with it. We weighed how much waste we were composting, recycling and also sending to landfill.

We took part in the Wheelie Big Challenge. We had to sort and weigh items going into the classroom bins and repeat the exercise after a month, following a school assembly. We looked at the waste, recycling and food bins in each classroom.

We were able to work out that after our assembly reminding the children what goes into each bin, we were able to reduce the number of items going into the wrong bin. P7 also calculated that we had an 11% increase in the amount of materials being recycled. We also reduced our food waste by 9%.

We continued to complete our monthly litter picks in the local village and playpark as part of the Adopt a Spot scheme. We are delighted to have seen a reduction in the waste that is being collected each month. We also continue to take part in the Annual Big Spring Clean Up.

Energy Saving at McClintock Ps

Our Eco Committee act as Power Rangers and check each classroom at break and lunch to monitor and ensure that all lights, whiteboards and computers are powered down over the break times. They award a 'Best Power Ranger Class' prize at the end of each half term. We also have Digital Leaders that power down all devices at the end of each school day.



Sharing Good Practice Actions:

We achieved Eco School of the Year in 2023. We believe it is vitally important for pupils to be fully aware of how precious our world is and that we need to do all we can to protect it.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

We have been counting the number of bin bags collected at the end of each litter pick in the local community.

For the Wheelie Bin Challenge we checked that each class were placing the items in the correct bin and then also weighing how much waste was being collected. We completed this in each classroom. The Eco Committee led a whole school assembly to upskill all school members. We then checked and weighed the waste one month after our intervention. We were delighted



to see a reduction of 11% less going to landfill.

We also check to see if our energy consumption has reduced when we get our quarterly electricity bills.



P6/7 Shared Ed trip to the local amenity Centre

Mentoring School:

We were proud to work with our Shared Education partners on shared Eco topics and also guide Roscavey PS in obtaining their first Green Flag. Our Eco Co-ordinators worked together to share ideas and we also held online collaborations for both schools to take part in.

P6/7 Shared Education trip to the Recycling Plant

As part of our Shared Education programme, we went with Roscavey PS and St Colmcilles, Carrickmore to understand how the recycling centre works. We got to ask lots of questions and see a crusher machine working.

We found out that it is very important to reduce the amount of things that we buy as there are too many things being sent to the landfill sites.



Village litter pick – Adopt a Spot

Interesting things that we found in the village.

- One broken bucket
- McDonald's food bag
- Chinese container – with all the onions left in it!
- 8 Glass bottles
- 7 Tin cans
- A broken mug
- A used Tea bag
- Part of a drain pipe
- A baby's lost sock ☹️

We are so happy that we did not find any rubbish in the school playground. We are keeping it tidy!



Shared Education trip – Making Recycled Paper

Anthea Owens from the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council led an information morning session on making paper. It was a little messy in places, but we found out that even when you think something is done, you can recycle it into something new!



Looking for different trees growing in
Exploring the Forest for Signs of Spring
the Forest



Guardians of Nature – we enjoyed P1 in our Outdoor Classroom
building cosy homes for our little
spikey friend, Henrietta the hedgehog,
as she hibernates. We read the book,
'Don't Hog the Hedge' and found out
about different types of animals that
hibernate too!

Contact

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

McClintock Primary School

Eco-Coordinator: Mrs Sarah Thompson

Years involved in the Eco-Schools Programme: 12 years

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