

AMBASSADOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY



St Francis' Primary School, Lurgan

28B Francis Street, Lurgan, BT66 6DL

Number of pupils	Age range	Joined Eco-Schools	Number of Green Flags	Date of last Green Flag
800	3-11	2007	5	01/06/23

Our Eco-schools journey has taken us quite far from our beginnings. In 2013 we opened our school woodland and strived to make our school an excellence in teaching about nature and fostering a love for the outdoors. Since then we have developed a Forest School, a red squirrel and barn owl sanctuary, a working allotment and an ongoing biodiversity count.

Topic Actions:

This year we made a huge push on sustainability. We have successfully held 4 swop shops- Halloween costumes, Christmas jumpers, GAA kits and Teddy bear tombola.



Sharing Good Practice Actions:

We have worked informally with many schools over the years. Most recently we have been helping CAERA special school to establish their Forest School, taking shared lessons on both sites and swapping ideas. We have in the past had 2 letters from Sir David Attenborough recognising our work on endangered species.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

We have monitored our progress through Google forms posted out to parents. These surveys have helped us tweak our swap shops to deliver them at times and places that better suit our community. It has also helped us unpick the reasons why our projects have been successful and gives our families a voice in informing future work.

Halloween Swap shop.

Our school took in approx. 250 Halloween costumes that were preloved. The Eco committee divided these into piles old 0-4 years old, 5-7 year old and 8+ year old.

Over the course of 4 days in the lead up to Halloween (17th, 18th, 21st 22nd October) parents were invited into the school gym hall from 8:30-9:15 to browse our costumes and take an outfit for their child instead of going out and buying a new one. On the 23rd pupils who did not have an costume at home were invited to come and see if there was anything they'd like to take.

We were left with 87 costumes, which means we were able to supply 163 new costumes to families within our school community. The remaining costumes were sorted by the Eco committee and any that were suitable for "World Book Day" were removed and bagged up separately. These will be reused in March for a book day swap shop.

We sent an online survey to collect data from our families to see how we can improve our swap shops. We got 59 responses, 51 of them from families who did not use the swap shop. They have suggested the follow improvements for our Christmas Jumper swap shop:

- Open the swap shop in afternoons, not just mornings (21 votes).
- Allow pupils to visit the swap shop during they day where they can exchange their Christmas Jumper for a new one (30 votes).
- Doing the Christmas jumper swap shop in November not December to give everyone time before they go shopping for one (27 votes).

We will meet on the 8th November to discuss the Christmas Jumper swap shop and decide ow best to run it.



Mentoring School:

Again our work on Forest School has helped CAERA special school to develop their site. We have helped them identify their trees and given them ideas on what they can site to get the most for their pupils. We have hosted them in our site for Forest Schools, then supported lessons on their site.



Identifying textures in nature



Bug hunts



Den building

Tree climbing



Bug identification

Rope swings

Contact

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

St Francis' Primary School, Lurgan

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