

Name	Inveraray Primary School
Local Authority	Argyll & Bute
Type	Rural primary
Numbers	74 pupils, 15 pre-5s and 4.5 staff
Joined Eco Schools in...	2002
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How did our involvement with Eco Schools come about?

We started our grounds project in November 2001, working with SNH and Grounds for Learning. We were involved in an Action Research Project using our school grounds to deliver the maths curriculum. Our Head Teacher was involved with ABREEF and the philosophy of Education for Sustainability (EfS) was given prominence throughout the curriculum.

We were encouraged to apply for our Eco Green Flag by our Head of Service who was aware of the work we were doing and realised it reflected the work of Eco Schools. We were delighted to be awarded our first Green Flag in 2003.

Who's involved and how we communicate

We have tried a few different ways of structuring our Eco Committee from using our House representatives, using all P7 pupils and currently have an elected Eco Council from P4-7 pupils (with a strongly structured communication system to ensure P1-3 are involved at all times) and a Pupil Council which comprises all P7 pupils.

Given the prominence of EfS in our school there is quite a bit of overlap between the work of both committees.



Actual activities and topics studied

We have a strong 'whole school' approach to Eco schools and our Creative Fridays houses system (vertically grouped P1-7) has led the pupils to increasingly take ownership. Most ideas are generated by the pupils at all stages. Our cross-curricular approach allows Eco schools to be fully integrated into the school's everyday work and not an add-on.

In the past we had a successful campaign against over-use of plastic which also tied in with Healthy Eating and the comparison of healthy food and processed food.

This year we have three major new projects:

1. We have built a wonderful Outdoor Classroom to allow us to continue to work outdoors in wet weather. This building has been dedicated as the world's first Peace Building in a school. We hope to eventually have links across the country and the world and help improve the emotional health of our pupils, allowing them to become responsible citizens.

2. We are also working with Royal Dunkeld School in Perth & Kinross as an Associated Schools Group on a project with the research questions; 1. How can AifL and ACE be delivered through experiential outdoor learning in an Eco School? 2. How can good practice be transferred, adapted and enhanced? 3. How do we gather evidence without a jotter?

3. The third project is the P6/7 class taking part in a pilot project for ACE/New Basics in which they are twinning with an Eco School in Turkey to share ideas and suggestions. This project takes will start in January and at least 60% of the curriculum will be delivered through it.



Hot tips for success...

- Giving the pupils ownership and responsibility
- Working as a whole school
- Integrating EfS fully into curriculum & using cross-curricular approach



What our Green Flag assessors thought

- Extensive developments in the school grounds to make them into a wildlife-friendly habitat but also a welcoming and interesting learning space. Very creative use of the outdoors as a learning environment for a range of curricular areas eg maths.
- Pupils very knowledgeable about all the eco-work they were participating in and **why** they were doing it eg pupils involved in initial and subsequent discussions about sustainable travel and the environmental/health benefits prior to drawing up the School Travel Plan.
- Very strong parental and local community support and involvement eg local estate providing wood for projects, open days for the local community. Pupils heavily involved in organising these.
- Eco work visible everywhere - photographs on display, ongoing recycling projects, investigations into the effects of discarded plastic on wildlife, monitoring charts (maintained by pupils), wormery & compost bin in grounds - again monitored by pupils on a regular basis.

