



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BECOMING AN ECO SCHOOL?

There are many, many varied benefits to becoming an Eco-School, which can be summed up as “the next generation understanding sustainability in a way that ours does not.”



MORE CONCRETE BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Money savings and behaviour improvements
- Pupils developing confidence and eloquence through leading activities
- Practical ways for the whole school to work together
- Pupils; teaching, premises and catering staff; governors and parents all fully engaged
- Pedagogic benefits through pupil teaching, curriculum linking and topic work
- Illustrating the school's role as a model / example to its community
- Engaging many non-engaged and SEN children
- Educating parents and community partners as well as children
- Not to mention...
 - Saving money
 - Ofsted recognition

FAQ 1 - HOW DOES THE SCHEME WORK?

After registration via the Eco-Schools website above, there are three first steps:

- form a pupil-led Eco-Schools action team;
- use the team to conduct an environmental review;
- and use the review to develop an action plan.

Once these are in place you can work towards gaining one of three awards; bronze, silver and the prestigious green flag award.

Bronze and silver are both self-accredited and fairly straightforward to achieve. The green flag is a more rigorous demonstration of excellence in the field of environmental activity, and is externally assessed by Keep Britain Tidy, who run the Eco-Schools scheme.

Newham currently has two green flag schools - y, St Helen's and St. Luke's



FAQ2 - DOES ECO-SCHOOLS INVOLVE LOTS OF EXTRA WORK AND PAPERWORK?

Very little, for two main reasons.

Firstly, **you are probably already doing a lot of Eco-Schools activity!** For example, healthy schools work, school travel plans, and rural/urban linking or international school partnerships are all directly relevant to Eco-Schools

Secondly and **most importantly, Eco-Schools is pupil-led.** Some staff input and admin support will be required, but the action team is pupil-led, with support but not control from staff and other adults.

It is becoming usual for the 'grown-up' Eco-Schools lead to be a non-teaching staff member. Many schools report a positive outcome being improved behaviour of teaching staff, led by the pupil body!

FAQ3 - IS THERE ANY FUNDING AVAILABLE?

Short answer - no. BUT the scheme is completely free AND there will be savings in energy and procurement costs. Also, the Eco-Schools website has comprehensive links and resources which do include some grant-funding possibilities.

Eco Schools also works with a number of partners who are able to help with the costs of, for example, installing solar panels, recycling for funds, sourcing recycled uniforms and a range of other products.

GETTING STARTED

In most cases schools are already doing much of the work needed for bronze award self-evaluation!!

How soon before your school could be flying the prestigious green flag?



Further details and to register at <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

- Further Eco-Schools resources are found in the appendices