



Eco-Schools Committee Meeting Minutes

15th Dec 2015



Venue: Music Room 3

3:50pm –4.30pm

Tuesday Dec 15th

Agenda

Present: Miss McCay, Mr Abbott, Mrs Mc Cullagh

Minutes: Mrs Mc Cullagh & Miss Mc Cay

Apologies- Mr Healy & Mr Mc Sorley, Miss Pender, Miss Montgomery

1) Review of Year 1 (Bronze Award)

- Miss McCay gave an outline of all the initiatives that have been set in motion to meet the criteria for the Bronze Award

- Paper recycling
- Planting of trees
- Fairtrade initiatives (tuck shop)

2) Plans for the silver award

a) Zero waste pilot (plastic and compost and other items/ideas)

- A waste audit has been completed by staff with the help of yr 13 eco class
- Some staff and pupils completed an attitudes survey
- Miss McCay proposed having a communal collection point for packaging resources: A point where staff store packaging resources delivered to the school which could be re-used again. This will be facilitated in Jan 2016 by ICT technician Wendy Baxter.
- The school will become a teracycle collection point for recycling stationery (pens, tippex etc) from Jan 2016. Recycling point outside the Geography Resource Room – Registered by Mr McSorley.
- Mr McSorley set up a battery recycling point
- Classroom Bins:
The trial of removing the metal residual waste bins in Geography and Music departments has not been fully effective. Decision made to reinstall these bins but to leave other bin options in place eg every room now has- green (paper & cardboard), red (hard plastics), brown compost (controversy regarding collection once a week- worry of vermon/ smell being created- SMT request that these are collected every day but the small bags for these bins are no longer provided by council. Cleaning staff are happy to accommodate the collection and disposable of this waste to the proper area. It is hoped that all students and staff will become more aware of waste sorting and make full use of all options available.
Notices will be produced for each classroom outlining waste management
Representatives from Zero Waste North West will give assemblies on importance of separating waste in January.
- The Zero Waste Project will be filmed and made into a video to share with other schools
- An email announcement will be sent to staff about the project

- b) **Biodiversity**- the planting of a wild flower garden has been completed by Miss McCay's ecoclass: M McCay will contact Parents Association to see if anyone with green fingers would take a after schools club on horticulture/gardening/wildlife etc...

Fairtrade award- the fair-trade tuck shop has been established by Mr Mc Sorley and the Year 13 Eco prefects and is fully active since Oct 2015. It is proving successful with many students using the facility on a weekly basis. **Canteen products and staffroom products need switched to fairtrade if we are to achieve fairtrade status**

Energy- Science and Geography are working on a unit of work regarding Energy and intend to create an Energy Awareness morning with the whole Year 8 to coincide with Earth Hour on the 19th of March and will include designing an eco-house and listening to a short talk from Donal Gormely representative from Airtricity. Miss McCay stated that Mr Mc Sorley would like to investigate the possibility of a wind turbine being installed in the school to generate electricity.

The energy use calculator installed at the end of the Science and Geography corridor which displays amount of energy saved refers to the solar panels.

1) Responsibilities

Miss McCay & Mr Mc Sorley- ZERO WASTE PILOT & biodiversity.

Mrs Mc Cullagh & Mr Abbott to manage the Energy section- Implement the Year 8 awareness session in March 2016.

Mr Mc Sorley- Fairtrade Award and paper work for Silver award

2) Set date of next meeting

Email to be sent out in Jan to confirm next possible meeting in March. >>>>>>>

Priorities

January

It was also agreed that staff training would be an essential component zero waste scheme to ensure everyone within the school community buys into the concept and ethos in order to make its implementation successful like it was with the paper recycling scheme last year.

- A second waste audit needs to be completed in Feb
- The school would develop a waste management policy.