



Eco-Schools Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 22nd June 2015

Venue: Geography Room 2

3:45pm –4:45pm



Present: Mr H. McSorley, Miss McCay, Miss K. Gormley, Miss Corinne Gorman & Miss Evelyn Morrison.

Minutes: Mr H. McSorley

Clothing Bank

- It was noted by the Eco-Schools Committee that Mrs McCauley and the St. Vincent de Paul group had started a clothing bank scheme in school to recycle and donate old unwanted clothes to charity. This could be included the schools wider contribution to the Eco-Schools initiative as it meant the clothes were being recycled rather than thrown out. The clothes bank is located at the pupil entrance.

Fair Trade in School Canteen, FairAware Award & Tuck Shop

- Miss McCay was delighted to inform the committee that the school had not been successfully awarded the 'FairAware Award' by the Fair Trade Foundation and next year we could work towards to the 'FairActive Award' as a means of progress.

- The school canteen are now only buying in only Fair Trade bananas and the Fair Trade tuck shop has been running very successfully for the last few months. Mr McSorley agreed to take on the responsibility for the running of the Fair Trade Tuck Shop next year in the Geography Department as it complimented many strands of the curriculum being covered in Geography Year 10 and 12.

Year 13 Enrichment Waste Management Visit

- Miss McCay reported that she had taken the Year 13 Eco-Schools enrichment class to an educational visit to Natural World Products – an award winning locally owned waste management, recycling and recovery company – to afford students first-hand experience of good practice in sustainable waste management in practice.

Pilot of Hard Plastic Recycling & Composting

- Miss McCay has been co-ordinating a recycling of hard plastics and composting scheme in the Music Department which has now been rolled out into the Geography Department overseen by Mr McSorley. All general waste bins have been removed from classrooms with only 1 remaining in the Geography and Music corridors for waste, which cannot be recycled. In all Music and Geography classrooms there are now 3 bins – 1 large green bin for recycling paper and card, 1 grey bin for recycling hard plastics and 1 small brown caddy for any material, which can be composted. Once this scheme is embedded and is successfully run for a few months it is hoped the scheme can be rolled out to further Departments next year to work towards a zero waste scheme in the school. It was agreed the staff responsible for the emptying of the paper bins will also take responsibility for the weekly emptying of the hard plastic

bins in classrooms but that the school cleaners would empty the small brown caddies each day putting all the waste in a compost bin at the back of the school.

- Miss McCay noted that the school will have to meet statutory food recycling requirements being introduced in April 2016 and so further thought will need to be given next year to waste separation, recycling and composting in key areas of the school such as the school canteen. Having spoken to the caretakers about this who have expressed concern about the school facilities for waste management Miss McCay is in the process of contacting our local education authority (WELB) and local politicians regarding funding for improved waste management facilities in the school (a compound) to facilitate further recycling and composting.

Revisiting the Environmental Review & Action Plans

- Mr McSorley noted that a 2nd environmental review had now been carried out at the end of the school year to identify the progress which has been made by the Eco-School team in working towards embedding a more sustainable attitude in the daily life of our school community. He noted that the key areas identified at the start of the year as priorities had all been successfully addressed and achieved and this has been noted in the review and monitoring section of the committees action plans.

Bronze Eco-Schools Award & Next Year

- Mr McSorley was delighted to announce that the school had been successfully awarded the Bronze Eco-Schools status thanks to the hard work of the school community but the Eco-Schools committee in particular – so all their hard work had paid off.

- The committee agreed to give consideration over the summer break to possible further areas for priority next year as the school works towards the Silver and Green Flag Awards.