



## Eco-Schools Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 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

### Action Plans

- Mr McSorley presented the detailed action plans for this school year, which were derived from the priorities agreed by the Eco-School committee in the last meeting. The action plans presented were ratified by the committee.
- Additional points were added into the action plans in the monitoring / review / evaluation section based on the progress already made on some of the priorities as it remains a working document.

### Recycling

- Miss McCay provided an update on the paper and card recycling initiative within the school. A list of staff who have volunteered to be responsible for recycling in designated areas of the school has now been drawn up and this scheme has been running smoothly for the last number of weeks. A considerable amount of paper and card is now being recycled by the school as noted by the caretakers which indicates the initiative has been a great success and has been fully adopted by the entire school community. Miss McCay noted her thanks and congratulations to all involved.

### Biodiversity

- Mr McSorley noted that he had signed up the 'Grow Wild' scheme, which is being run by the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew and funded by the Big Lottery initiative. This means the school will receive a number of packets of native wild flower seeds to plant in an area of the school grounds to promote biodiversity in both plant and animal life. In addition to this a number of small plastic beehive's will be sent to the school which can be scattered among the wild flowers to help promote a habitat for the declining bee population. Mr McSorley has consulted with the care-taking staff about an appropriate area of the school grounds to sow the seeds of these wild flowers. They have agreed the embankment from Geography and Science up to the PE running track would be most appropriate. They very kindly agreed to prepare the ground and help with the sowing of the seeds.
- Mr McSorley also noted that Mr McCay (who is in charge of the Extended Schools Programme in the School) had been in contact with the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership who agreed to fund the building of new raised beds to extend the current school garden. They also agreed to plant crops in the beds as well. Mr McSorley noted he had enrolled in the school in the Royal Horticultural Society's School Garden initiative who donated a number of packets of seeds which could also be grown in the raised beds.

### **Earth Hour**

- Miss McCay noted that the school should be proactive in participating in Earth Hour this year as part of the Eco-School Committee's work on Energy. She noted Earth Hour will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 8:30pm and agreed to produce posters to display around the school to promote this initiative. Mr McSorley noted that as part of the Year 8 cross-curricular unit of work on Energy, which the Geography, Science and Maths Department are completing – he has signed up the school with the WWF for taking part in Earth Hour and students are engaged in exploring the concept of Earth Hour and encouraged to be proactive in their involvement in it.

### **Fair Trade**

- As part of the Eco-Schools work on Global Perspectives the committee agreed it would be important to promote the work of the Fair Trade Foundation within the school and encourage students to buy Fair Trade products both in school and within their local community.

- It was agreed to promote the Fair Trade Fortnight campaign on 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015. As part of this Miss McCay agreed to establish a Fair Trade weekly tuck shop, which the Year 13 students agreed to run. It was decided this could be completed at break-time every Friday and be called 'Fair Trade Fridays'.

- Miss McCay has also been liaising with Miss Hamilton and the Foyle Fair Trade Group about the possibility of holding a Fair Trade Workshop with a KS3 year group.

- Mr McSorley noted that both the Geography and Home Economics Department complete units of work Fair Trade in Year 10 with students. It was agreed then that the Year 9's might be a good year group to complete the workshop with as a foundation to developing their knowledge on Fair Trade to help with their work in Year 10. Miss McCay asked Mr McSorley if he would assist her in the schools application for the 'FairAware Award' with the Fair Trade Foundation given that he teaches a unit of Fair Trade with students.

- It was agreed that a future area for development in Global Perspectives could be the promotion of locally sourced food and the concept of reducing food miles as a dimension of sustainability as well as curriculum mapping in a more detailed manner the other subjects in the school which contribute to this theme in their curriculum which the Eco-School committee should have an overview of.

### **Application for Bronze Eco-Schools Award**

- It was agreed by the committee that given the work completed this year the school should be successful in achieving the Bronze Eco-Schools Award and so Mr McSorley will submit an application before the next committee meeting.