



Eco-Schools Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 24th November 2014

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

Simple Environmental Review

- The Year 13 students presented the results of their findings from the completion of the simple environmental review of the school completed in their Eco-Schools enrichment class.
- Areas which were identified from this review as priorities for action were: recycling, practical action for the promotion of biodiversity in the school grounds and strategies to reduce wastage of energy. It was agreed that these areas should form the basis of action planning for the year ahead with specific SMART targets drawn up.
- It was also agreed that the same review should be carried out at the end of the academic year again to monitor and evaluate the progress made by the Eco-Schools committee.

Action Plans

- The following areas were identified by the committee for action planning for the year ahead:

Biodiversity & School Grounds

- Native tree planting and wild flower seeds sown
- Expansion of school garden (raised beds)

Energy

- Reminders to turn off computers at the end of each day to reduce energy wastage
- Examine viability of installing SPV panels as renewable energy source

Global Perspectives

- Establish a Fair Trade tuck shop
- Encourage canteen to buy Fair Trade products
- Apply for 'FairAware Award' from Fair Trade Foundation

Waste

- Paper recycling across the entire school

- Mr McSorley agreed to draw up detailed action plans for the year ahead based on these areas of priority but noted that the action plans should be working documents throughout the year which should be added to when additional relevant environmental projects are undertaken and when the priorities / goals are monitored / reviewed / evaluated.

Recycling

- It was agreed that main priority for the year ahead would be the whole school initiative of paper and card recycling.
- Miss McCay gave an update on the progress being made with this initiative. Currently the Year 13 students have drawn up a list of the number of recycling bins needed for classrooms in the school and other recycling point areas such as resource rooms / offices and photocopier points in the school. After consultation with the caretakers about the practicality of recycling these bins have been ordered.
- Miss McCay has invited staff to take responsibility for different are of the school for emptying the classroom recycling bins into larger blue bins placed in resource rooms on a weekly basis which the Year 13 enrichment class will then empty each week.

Tree Planting

- Mr McSorley and Miss McCay had placed an order for free native tree saplings from the Woodland Trust, which has arrived. Miss McCay has consulted the caretaking staff about an appropriate area in the school were these saplings can be planted to further promote biodiversity within the school. It was agreed the Year 13 enrichment class with Miss McCay and 9D with Mr McSorley will help plant these saplings.