Eco-Schools Environmental Review

This review is a suggested format, designed to be an audit tool for the eco-committee to use in your school. The questions are labelled so that you can tell which will require investigation by the pupils, which you will need to ask a member of staff about and which may take a bit of research.

The Eco-Schools programme does not require that you complete all the suggestions in this document. It is designed to be a stimulus, so that you can use it to assess what happens in your school at the start of the programme and as a monitoring tool each year. It also might not include every possible idea that you could carry out, so please don't take the questions as exhaustive.

The questions should help committee members to think of actions that can be undertaken in the school to improve the environment and the school's impact on our planet. The chosen targets for the year/term should then be put into an action plan.

Please take the time to investigate each year as a lot can change over 12 months.

Date completed: Autumn 2022

Completed by: Eco School Council and Mrs Chinnock

Key:

Pupils can find the answers themselves by looking carefully around the school.

Pupils may need to ask an adult to find the answers to these questions.

A little bit more investigation is required, maybe a survey or asking questions to other pupils.

This is a way of **measuring** the impact that you are having on the environment so you can show how much you are improving. This is an important part of being an Eco-School.

Global Citizenship

These questions supplement the Global Perspective questions that run throughout the rest of the review. You can consider those as well as the questions below when reviewing your overall Global Citizenship coverage.

Are all pupils aware of and have undertaken work projects linked to the Global Goals?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Do you link with pupils from another country to discuss environmental or global challenges?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do the teachers have Fair Trade tea and coffee in the staffroom?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are there any other Fair Trade products used in school? (fruit juice, footballs, bananas)	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you take part in the Fair Trade Schools programme?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are there games from other countries for pupils to use during break time or in class?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Do you have any visitors from the local community to talk about local or global issues?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are pupils aware of their Rights and Responsibilities (linked to the UN convention on the Rights of the Child)?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you have resources from other countries e.g. Clothing to dress up / artefacts / musical instruments/books?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you have any whole school awareness days linked to international issues?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do school meals ever include food from other cultures/countries?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have pupils learned about how other countries are becoming more sustainable or helping our planet?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points / Comments:

Reopen the Fairtrade Shop.
Learn games from other countries.
Learn about Global Goals.

Litter

Does the school have a clear policy on litter?	Yes ☑	No ☐

Around your school

Is the inside of the school free from litter?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are the school grounds free from litter?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are there enough bins around the school grounds?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are the bins in the right places?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are the bins suitable? E.g. does the litter blow out or are they too small/big?	Yes ☑	No ☐
If litter is present, is it coming from pupils in school or from outside the school grounds?	School ☐	Outside ☑
If there are problem areas, where are they?		
What types of litter do you primarily find? (gum, bottles, crisp packets etc)		
Do you keep a record of what, where, when and amount of litter found?	Yes ☐	No ☑

In your Community

Is the area around your school litter free?	Yes ☑	No ☐
s your community generally litter free?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Are there enough bins in the community?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Does the school help to keep the community clean?	Yes ☑	No ☐
If there are problem areas, where are they?		
What types of litter do you primarily find? (gum, bottles, crisp		

packets etc) Crisp packets, bottles and gum.	
Number of bags collected in last community litter pick	5

Global Perspective

Do all pupils know the problems caused to the environment and wildlife by dropping litter?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Have you investigated how your litter impacts on the marine environment?	?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Have you investigated litter problems or solutions from other countries?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you linked any of your litter actions to the Global Goals?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points / Comments:

Go on a learnikng walk around the school and count the bins in the local community.
Do more litter picks - every half term.

Waste Minimisation

Do you always follow the waste hierarchy by reducing before reusing and recycling?	Yes ✔	No
Does anyone check how much waste you are preventing from going to landfill sites?	Yes	No ✔
If yes, what percentage of waste is being diverted from landfill by your school in the last year:		

Around the school - Reduce

Does the school use email to send newsletters?	Yes ✔	No
If you send letters, is it one per family?	Yes ✔	No
Do teachers photocopy back to back when they can?	Yes	No ✔
Do pupils bring their packed lunch in reusable containers?	Yes ✔	No
Does the school encourage pupils to use reusable drinks bottles?	Yes ✔	No
Do teachers store documents electronically where practical?	Yes ✔	No
Has the school surveyed food waste at lunch time?	Yes	No ✔

Reuse

Is paper **always** used on both sides before it is recycled?	Yes ✔	No
Is scrap paper made into useful notebooks?	Yes ✔	No
Are envelopes reused in the office?	Yes	No
Are exercise books made from recycled paper?	Yes	No
Are the toilet paper and hand towels made from recycled paper?	Yes	No
Does the office and photocopier use recycled paper?	Yes	No
Do you have a swap shop for school uniform/games/ books/DVDs?	Yes ✔	No
Do you have an upcycling programme in school or the local community?	Yes	No ✔

Recycle

Which of the following do you recycle? (tick all that apply)		
Paper ☑ Plastic ☑ Cans ☑ Cardboard ☑ Clothing/Material ☑ Batteries ☑ Phones ☐ Stamps ☐ Glasses ☐ Cooked food ☐ Ink Cartridges ☐ Waste Electrical Equipment ☑ Pens ☐		
Do you have a compost bin/area that is in use?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Is the compost made up of a mix of 'wet' and 'dry' materials?	Yes ☐	No ☐ N/A
Does the kitchen recycle their waste?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are there enough recycling bins around the school?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do the recycling bins always have the right things in them?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you actively look at reducing your recycling as well as your general waste through reducing and reusing?	Yes ☑	No ☐

In your Community

Has the school explored how well local shops/businesses reduce/reuse/recycle?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Has the school run any project to help families reduce, reuse and recycle at home?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Global Perspective

Does everyone in the school know why you are trying to reduce waste?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do people in the school know what happens to things we recycle?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Have classes looked at the way people in other countries reduce, reuse and recycle?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you linked any of your waste actions to the Global Goals?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points / Comments

Collect data for rubbish and recylcling bags.
Survey food waste.
Sign on photocopier - staff - bak to back.
Encourgae recycling at home - poster/video/tip sheet?
Link to Global Goals.

Energy

Around your school

Are curtains or blinds fitted at the windows and closed at night?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are windows and doors always kept shut when the heating is on?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are reflector panels fitted behind radiators?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A
Does each classroom have a thermostat on the radiator so you can turn it down if too hot?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A
Does each classroom have a thermometer so you can try and keep the temperature at 18 degrees centigrade?	Yes ☐	No ☑	
If there is a hot water boiler in the staff room, is it switched off when not in use?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are hot water pipes and tanks properly insulated?	Yes ☐	No ☐	
Is there insulation in the roof of the school building to reduce heat loss?	Yes ☐	No ☐	
Are lights **always** turned off in empty rooms (even on sensor lights)?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are lights turned off as soon as there is enough daylight?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are light switches for lights next to windows labelled, so that they are left off during the day?	Yes ☐	No ☑	
If you have sensor lights, are they still turned off if not needed?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are sensor lights on a short enough timer?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are computers switched off when not in use?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
If computers are left on are the monitors turned off to save energy?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are overhead projectors, televisions and videos switched off at the socket when not in use?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Are photocopiers and similar equipment switched off when not in use?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
In the staff room, is the kettle only filled with as much water is needed?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A
Does anyone in the school regularly check how much energy is used/saved?	Yes ☐	No ☑	
Has the school investigated possible sources of renewable energy?	Yes ☐	No ☑	
If you have renewable energy, does everyone in school know that	Yes	No	N/A

it is there and how it works?		☐	☐

In your Community:

Have you undertaken a home energy audit to help families reduce energy use?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Do you share tips and ideas with the local community for reducing their energy footprint?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you looked into or are you part of any community energy programmes?		Yes ☐	No ☑

Global Perspective:

Is everyone aware of how saving energy helps our planet?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do most pupils understand what Global Warming is and how we impact on our planet's climate?	?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Have pupils investigated the impacts of Climate Change on people globally?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Have you linked any of your energy actions to the Global Goals?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points / Comments:

Thermometers for classrooms.
Label light switches (windows).
Undertake a home energy audit and share tips and ideas for reducing energy footprint.
Link to Global Goals.

Water

Around your school

Is there a water meter to record water use in school?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Does anyone check how much water is being used/saved?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Is the school free from dripping taps?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Do pupils always turn the taps off fully?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are the toilets designed to reduce water loss with a low-volume flush?	Yes ☑	No ☐
If not, do you have water saving devices in the toilet cisterns? *e.g. a Hippo bag or bottles filled with water*	Yes ☐	No ☐
Do the urinals flush only on request or only during school hours rather than constantly?	Yes ☑	No ☐
If you have push taps, do they dispense the right amount of water at the right speed?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you have a water butt to collect rainwater for watering plants?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Is rain water collected and used for anything else around the school? *e.g. Flushing toilets or maintaining pond levels*	Yes ☐	No ☑
Do pupils only fill their water bottles with as much as they need?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Does your canteen always use the dishwasher/ washing machine fully -loaded?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Does the canteen always put the plug in the sink when washing vegetables?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Do pupils learn about why we need to save water in Wales and the process involved in getting clean water to our taps?	Yes ☐	No ☑

In your Community

Have pupils investigated the potential sources of water pollution?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have pupils investigated how they can save water at home?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you investigated how to reduce the risk of flooding by reducing rainwater run-off or increasing vegetation in your community?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Global Perspective

Do you learn about issues surrounding the availability of water and sanitation in other countries?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Do you learn about the need to protect the oceans, fish and all living creatures that live in them?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Does the school have links with any national water based organisations, such as Water Aid?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you investigated the 'hidden' water in food and products and which things we consume use the most water globally?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you linked any of your water actions to the Global Goals?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points / Comments:

Investigate how we can save water at home. Share tips and ideas.Welsh Water - Get Water Fit https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/help-advice/get-water-fit
Learn about water in different countries.
Reconnect with Water Aid.
Visits to Cilfynnyd Water Works.

School Grounds

Around your school

Are there games painted on the playground?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Are there murals, mosaics, sculptures or other artwork?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Are there lots of different surfaces to feel, touch and explore?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Are there plenty of things for climbing and balancing on, jumping and swinging from?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Are there quiet, shady places to sit and talk?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you grow your own vegetables or fruit in the school grounds?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Does the school recycle garden or fruit/vegetable waste in a composter or wormery?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Do you have an outdoor classroom/log circle area?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you have friendship stops or buddy benches?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Is outdoor learning a priority across the year groups?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Do all pupils have the opportunity to suggest what changes or new things they would like in the school grounds?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Top yard only

In your Community

Do parents and members of the wider school community help with improvements to the school grounds?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you support a local park/ green space / allotment?		Yes ☐	No ☐

Global Perspective

Are there games from other countries for pupils to play?		Yes ☐	No ☑
If using compost, do you always use peat-free compost?	?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are sustainable products used for the outside furniture and play equipment? For example picnic benches that are made from recycled plastic, planters that are made from recycled items and wooden items made from FSC certified timber.	?	Yes ☑	No ☐

Have you linked any of your school grounds actions to the Global Goals?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points /Comments:

Seperate areas for ball games, skipping, hopscotch, quiet area etc.
Ask children to share ideas.
More outdoor learning in all classes.
Games from other countries.
Link to Global Goals.

Biodiversity

Around your school

Does your school provide any of the following for wildlife?	Yes	No
Trees	✔	
Hedgerow		✔
Pollinator friendly native plants	✔	
A pond		✔
A marshy / bog area		✔
A native wild flower area	✔	
Log Piles		✔
Stone Piles		✔
Uncut 'wild' areas		✔
Bird boxes	✔	
Water baths		✔
Perching posts		✔
Bird feeders	✔	
Bat boxes		✔
Bug hotel	✔	
Hedgehog home		✔
Berry / nut bearing plants		✔
Butterfly friendly native plants	✔	
Reptile Hibernacula		✔

Are the school grounds free from herbicides and pesticides?	Yes ✔	No
If present do you avoid cutting trees/ brambles during bird nesting	Yes	No

season?		☐	☐
Do pupils regularly have the opportunity to observe and/or experience nature and wildlife in different ways in the school grounds?	?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are there interpretive boards / information available regarding the wildlife?	🔍	Yes ☐	No ☑
Do you keep a record of the wildlife spotted in your grounds?	📐	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you checked your school grounds for any invasive species?	?	Yes ☑	No ☐

Around your Community

Do you visit any local sites outside of school to observe / experience nature and wildlife?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you helped improve the biodiversity at a local site outside of school?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Are pupils aware of the loss of biodiversity on a local level?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Global Perspective

Have you participated in a national wildlife survey? For example the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch or the Big Butterfly Count.	📐	Yes ☑	No ☐
Are students aware of the loss of biodiversity on a global level?	?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Have you done anything to prevent biodiversity loss on a global scale? For example investigated sustainable palm oil production or worked with Size of Wales.	?	Yes ☑	No ☐

Action Points / Comments:

Make a bug hotel.
Visit local areas to look at nature and wildlife.

Transport

Around your school

Do most pupils walk, cycle, scoot or catch the bus to school?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Do you survey how people travel to school?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Is there somewhere dry and safe to store bikes?	Yes ☐	No ☑	Safe but not dry
Does the school provide cycle instruction for pupils?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Do you hold regular walk or cycle to school events/days?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Is it safe to walk or cycle to school?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Do cars park legally away from the entrance to the school?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Is the school car park a safe place for pedestrians?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A
Do the teachers share lifts wherever possible?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Where cars are used do they bring more than 1 person to school?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
If pupils are collected in cars, do the drivers make sure that they turn their engine off when waiting?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
If pupils are dropped off/collected by bus do buses make sure that they turn their engine off when waiting?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A
Do any school vehicles use alternative energy e.g. Electricity or vegetable oil?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A

Around your Community

Do you try to source fruit for tuck locally and in season?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A
Does the kitchen try to source food locally?	Yes ☐	No ☐	
Does the school order supplies in bulk to avoid too many deliveries?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
Has the school run any projects to help families reduce car use?	Yes ☑	No ☐	

Global Perspective:

Do you learn about about food production and food miles?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Have pupils looked at the global impact of air pollution?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Has the school investigated methods of transportation in other countries?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you linked any of your transport actions to the Global Goals?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Percentage of pupils and staff currently not travelling by car:	

Action Points / Comments:

Dry and safe bike storage.
Do more work with Active Journeys again.

Health, Wellbeing and Food

Around your school

Do you have a fruit tuck shop that is run by pupils?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Are pupils encouraged to bring fruit for break?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do most pupils who bring a packed lunch have at least 2 pieces of fruit or vegetables?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Does the school canteen always have a healthy option?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Does the school canteen avoid chips for at least 3 days a week?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do pupils have the opportunity to suggest what they would like to include in the dinner/canteen menu?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Is there free drinking water available all day?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Are pupils allowed to have water during lesson times?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do you link your Healthy Schools and Eco Schools targets together?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do all pupils get to experience growing and then eating their own food?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Does the school use environmentally friendly cleaning products?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Is there a fitness programme established in the school?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Do pupuils have an opportunity to care for and look after animals in school?		Yes ☐	No ☐
Have measures been put in place to help with staff wellbeing?		Yes ☑	No ☐
Are pupils given the opportunity to take part in any activities to help pupil wellbeing? E.g mindfullness, tai chi, active dance classes.		Yes ☑	No ☐
Does the school provide a peer mentoring or buddy scheme?		Yes ☑	No ☐

In some classes

Around your Community

Do pupils visit shops/restaurants in the local community to learn about food production or invite them in to school?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Are pupils involved with any wellbeing based projects in the community, such as visiting nursing homes?		Yes ☐	No ☑

Do you support local farmers by sourcing food locally and organic where possible?	?	Yes ☐	No ☐ N/A

Global Perspective

Do pupils learn about the global impact of food production in class? E.g palm oil, sugar production		Yes ☐	No ☑
Have pupils investigated food cultures from around the world?		Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you looked at introducing a meat free day to reduce the school's carbon footprint?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Have you linked any of your health, wellbeing and food actions to the Global Goals?	?	Yes ☐	No ☑

Action Points / Comments:

Restart fruit tuck shop.
Leaflets to encourage healthy packed lunches - work with Healthy Schools Council.
Visit local shops or invite them to school to learn about food production.
Take part in well-being based community projects e.g. work with nursing homes.
Work on global perspective.
Link to Global Goals.