



# How Eco Schools contributes to raising achievement.

“More schools than ever have achieved green flag status. Becoming sustainable brings more benefits than reducing costs and carbon emissions. Education for sustainability helps improve teaching and learning. Schools using sustainable development as part of their improvement plan improve their inspection grades.”

Bryan Davies HMI Head of sustainable development OFSTED

“Schools that placed emphasis on sustainable development had teaching that was good, lessons were stimulating and pupils took an active part in improving the sustainability of the school and the wider community.”

## **Ofsted sustainable schools pilot scheme.**

The Eco-Schools programme improves child wellbeing, increasing self-confidence. Positive changes in children and young people’s behaviour, motivation and cognitive skills have also been reported. Research and evidence from OFSTED, DFE and several leading academics show schools that place importance on environmental and sustainability issues are also schools that raise achievement across the board. Eco-Schools have reduced their carbon footprint by, on average 30% using less water and energy. In fact, 79% of school management teams that were surveyed said adopting the Eco-Schools programme had enabled them to cut energy costs. 91% of senior staff said pupil wellbeing was an overall benefit.

Eco-Schools can enhance the curriculum. Eco-Schools provides great ways of introducing environmental topics into your curriculum. Eco-Schools helps to deal with real in-school issues and delivers cross-curricular themes. The programme ties into virtually all school topics, including British Values, Learning Outside The Classroom, Human rights and SMSC.

Eco-Schools provides a framework of learning for pupils, helping them to understand how different issues are linked together, i.e. the connections between transport and pollution and climate change. The Eco-Schools programme is about showing students the bigger picture. By letting pupils know why the work they are completing is important, where it fits in on a local and global scale, you’re enabling them to see its value.

Eco-Schools encourage practical, real-life activities that have the potential to develop thinking skills, providing vital opportunities for children to make connections between subjects. Experiential learning in the outside classroom in real situations also has the capacity to raise levels of learning across subjects. Many schools report a big change in the behaviour of the students as they take on a bit more responsibility for the world around them.

Eco-Schools will help you save money. Implementing simple things like stopping draughts and switching off lights can reduce energy bills.

Eco-Schools will get you recognition and publicity. Involvement in Eco-Schools can raise the profile of your school locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally. At a local level, as an Eco-School you often have the opportunity to promote your achievements to the local community, possibly gaining displays in local libraries or supermarkets and even articles in the local media.

A benefit of Eco-Schools is that you're rewarded every step of the way and can show progression to OFSTED. When you achieve Bronze and Silver awards, you receive a certificate that proves your commitment and a logo you can use. When you reach Green Flag Award level, you also receive an actual Green Flag that you can either fly or use as a display in its own right. With support for schools from the Carbon Reduction officers the profile of the scheme continues to rise and those not now signed up to the scheme are in the minority.

For further information on the scheme please contact Peter "Power down Pete" Bell or Ruth Stacey NYCC schools carbon reduction officers. [Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk)  
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