



Harold Boys' National School

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Sustainable Environment/Green Schools Policy 2020

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School Name	Harold Boys' N.S.
Date of Commencement	December 2020
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Green Schools Action Plan 2018-2020

Harold Boys' N.S., Dalkey

Introduction

Our school opened in 1902. It was originally a red-bricked building with three classrooms. It was extended during the 1980s to become a school with four classrooms, a hall, an office and a staff room. In 2012, one new classroom and corridor were built at the front of the school and in 2013 another new classroom was added. It stands on approximately one acre of ground and has a grass area to the front and the children's playground to the rear of the building. It is located on St. Patrick's Road, Dalkey. There is a small car park to the side of the building which was added in 1996. The school had a complete refurbishment including new windows, roof, insulation and heating system in the summer of 2007 and is much improved and brightly painted.

There are five mainstream teachers and three SEN teachers including our teaching Principal, Ms. Teresa Buckley. We have six full time special needs assistants, a part-time school secretary and a part-time caretaker. There are 125 pupils in the school from Second to Sixth class since Harold Boys' is a Senior school.



GREEN SCHOOLS

Harold Boys' N.S. was awarded its first Green Flag in 2008. Green Flags are earned and presented under the Green School international environmental education award scheme.

The Green Schools programme promotes and acknowledges long-term whole school action for the environment. In Ireland Green Schools (www.greenschoolsireland.org) is run by the Environmental Unit of An Taisce in partnership with local authorities and corporate sponsors. (FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education) seeks to promote environmental education by carrying out campaigns and improving awareness of the importance of environmental education. It is composed of a network of organizations which undertake individual projects in their own countries and participate in international efforts. An Taisce, as the Irish member of FEE, co-ordinates these campaigns in Ireland). The Green Schools initiative was established in Ireland in 1997 and since then has gone from strength to strength. Currently over 90% of Irish schools participate in the programme.

The aim of the Green Schools initiative is to increase students' awareness of environmental issues through classroom studies and to transfer this knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and wider community. Student involvement is a priority, and the award must be re-applied for every two years.

Most young people care deeply about environmental issues and wish to make a positive change to the environment around them. The Green Schools Programme provides an ideal way for fostering environmental awareness in the entire school in a way that links to many curriculum areas.

The Programme is based on the EU EMAS (Eco-Management and Auditing System) approach and encompasses four principle aspects:

- Green Schools is an international environmental education programme
- Green Schools is holistic
- Green School is both a programme and an award scheme
- Green schools is a long-term programme

Our Local Environment

During a whole school planning day, the teachers of Harold Boys' N.S. decided to assign one area of our wonderful environment to each class level to ensure that each child was given the opportunity to become familiar with his very beautiful surroundings. All aspects of the SESE curriculum History, Geography and Science, were to be applied in the study of these local habitats. We have a great advantage in that we are able to walk to these picturesque sites and the boys have been given the opportunity to learn about their own environments in small groups. We take part in the National Spring Clean in these areas every year.

Rang 2 – The school grounds and St.Patrick's Road
Rang 3 – Dillons Park and Sorento Park
Rang 4 – Sandycove
Rang 5 – Coliemore Harbour and Bulloch Harbour
Rang 6 – Killiney Hill

Benefits & Requirements of the Green Schools System

The Green Schools Programmes offers our school opportunities to:

- Help develop children's decision-making skills/develop student voice
- Build students' confidence and sense of citizenship through participation
- Supply curriculum materials and ideas for projects and events
- Gain access to a network of support agencies
- Link with other schools in Ireland and internationally
- Gain a prestigious award
- Provide local; and national publicity
- Save money
- Reduce waste and litter
- Improve the school environment
- Reduce energy and water consumption levels
- Tackle and improve transport issues around the school community
- Involve the local community

The Green Schools Programmes requires

- The support of the Principal and Board of Management
- The appointment of a Green schools Co-Ordinator to manage the programme
- The willingness to involve children in decision making and action at every stage
- Action involvement of staff and support from parents and the local community
- The willingness to take action to instigate long-term change

Harold Boys' N.S. has most recently been awarded its 6th Green Flag for **Global Citizenship: Litter & Waste** [Ref: Green Schools Action Plan 2018-2020].

Green School Awards to date	
2009	Litter & Waste
2011	Energy
2013	Water
2015	Travel
2017	Biodiversity
2020	Global Citizenship: Litter & Waste

We are now in the process of pursuing our 7th Green Flag **Global Citizenship: Energy**, which was launched in September 2020.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

RATIONALE

Stage 1: Registration and Implementation

In January 2008, despite being a small school, the staff at Harold Boys' N.S. decided to become involved in the Green School Project to encourage individual as well as whole school responsibility for our environment. As a result of our registration with the Green Schools Project, we saw that we could bring about the following:

- Improve the school environment
- Reduce litter and waste
- Increase environmental awareness
- Involve the local community
- Gain local publicity

With support from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Environmental Officer and An Taisce we set up a committee which is representative of pupils, staff, parents and the community. The pupil representatives are elected by their class members annually.

Peter Smith is the teacher and Ms O'Neil is the SNA involved in the Green School Project. Our caretaker, Marvin Bautista also has an important role in the Green School Project.

It was agreed that the committee would meet once a month. The older pupils record the minutes of each meeting, the pupils do the P.R. in the school and maintain the Green School noticeboard.

Care of the Individual

A clean and healthy working environment and respect for the wider environment are necessary for the personal development of each individual associated with the school. High standards in caring for the environment enrich the carer as well as protect the environment.

Environmental Issues

Our pupils should be aware of, and respond to, unprecedented environmental changes; the use of fossil fuels and resultant global warming; future oil shortage, the scarcity of clean water, the creation and disposal of waste, protection of plant and animal species and ecosystems and related issues.

Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present generation should not jeopardise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Ireland is committed to this principle and signed up for Agenda 21 (the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992) and the Department of the Environment has a sustainable Development Strategy.

Economic Reasons

The conservation and wise use of electricity, heating fuel, water and other resources, and the minimisation of waste, will save the school money.

Pride

We are proud of our school surroundings and approach to environmental issues. It is important to us that our school and grounds look clean, neat and litter-free. We take part in the Dalkey Tidy Towns Tidy Schools in the Community competition each year and have won many awards through this, including a certificate of Honours in Pioneering for a Clean Local Environment.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote environmental awareness and conservation amongst the school community and to encourage pupils and staff to actively participate in solving environmental issues affecting the school
- To encourage pupils and staff to examine and interpret the environment through the subject areas of the curriculum and to be aware of it through co-curricular activities.
- To provide pupils and staff with an appropriate environmental education so that they can acquire knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment and skills to protect and improve the environment both locally and globally.
- To promote the concept of reduce, re-use, re-cycle amongst pupils and staff.
- To reduce any waste of energy and resources amongst pupils and staff and thereby reduce the school's ecological and carbon footprint.

IMPLEMENTATION

Green Flag activities

By using the Action Plan (Action Plan 2018-2020 attached) as a practical means of involving pupils and staff and by monitoring its goals on a regular basis. The re-award of the Flag depends on the implementation of the Action Plan.

Energy Conservation

By striving to reduce school use of electricity (for example switch off lights when not in use, use automatic sensor switches, programming computers to switch off at a fixed time etc)

Heating/lighting

By adjusting the heating systems to avoid over-heating; reducing heat loss through doors and windows. By increasing energy efficiency through upgraded insulation (School Development Plan 2020/2021), efficient ventilation (Green Schools Action Plan 2018-2020), maintaining the efficiency of the boilers, by using energy efficient lightbulbs. We have recently installed a SMART metre on our electricity metre to measure our use and to reduce our heating costs.

Renewable Energy Sources

Seeking way to increase the school's use of renewable energy sources.

Surroundings

By planting and maintaining trees, plants and flowers on our grounds. We also grow herbs and vegetables at the front of our school in the springtime. In our classrooms we grow a variety of plants including tomatoes and strawberries.

ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

- Fully involve all staff and especially our caretaker
- Promote and continue our involvement in the Green School's Programme [Ref: Green Schools Action Plan]
- Ensure Green Schools Co-Ordinator works closely with the School Leadership Team
- Give re-use and recycling a high profile and include environmental issues in school assemblies
- Promote awareness through school assemblies, school newsletter and school website
- Promote awareness with participation in Discover Primary Science programme
- Take part in the Dalkey Tidy Towns competition annually
- Participate in the National Spring Clean every year
- Encourage environmental education across the curriculum
- Inform pupils, parents and wider community of achievements in this area.
- Work closely with local schools, businesses and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to promote our school's involvement in the Green School Programme
- Ensure that the 'green' criteria including energy efficiency are used and promoted in any new buildings/developments on our grounds

EVALUATION

The effectiveness of the policy will be measured using the following indicators:

-
- A litter-free, clean school environment, the retention of the Green Flag and the obtaining of future Green Flags, result in Tidy Towns competition
 - Reduced bills for electricity, heating fuel, water and waste disposal

This policy will be subject to regular review by the Board of Management

Ratified: This policy was ratified on January 21st 2021

Review Date: 2023

Signed:

Chairperson BOM

At the time of drawing up this policy, all details and the enclosed information are correct. It is possible that between now and the review date, changes may have to be made to the provisions, policies and procedures of the school. This may be due to external changes required by the Department of Education and Skills, the school patron or other agencies. Mandatory policies will be available on the school website and up to date information will be posted regularly.



Green-Schools Action Plan

Action / Target	Person/Group responsible	Timeframe	Progress Made
Set up Green Schools Committee	Mr Smith	Sept 2018	Done
Applications for Committee – 5 th and 6 th class	Mr Smith, Ms O'Carroll and Ms Mossop	Sept 2018	Done
Planting of Wheelbarrow Gardens	Ms O'Neill and 5 th /6 th class committee members	Sept 2018	Done
GOAL Jersey Day Fundraiser	Ms Mossop and 6 th class	12 Oct 2018	Done
Wheelbarrow Gardens to Church gardens for Dalkey Creates Festival	Mr Smith, Ms O'Neill and 6 th class committee members	12 Oct 2018	Done
Tiled Litter and Waste Mural with Siobhán Brennan from Crazy Glazing	Mr Smith, Ms O'Carroll and 5 th class	Nov 2018	Done
Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition for DLR	Mr Smith	Nov 2018	Done
Organise Recycled Christmas Decoration display in Roberts' of Dalkey	Mr Smith and 6 th class members of the committee	Dec 2018	Done
Prizegiving for DLR Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition	Mr Smith/Alex Kral	Dec 2018	Done
Global Citizenship Awareness Survey	4 th -6 th class	Jan 2019	Done
Increase awareness of similarities between pupils in our school and children in poorer parts of the world by 20% as assessed by Global Citizenship surveys	All teachers	Jan 2019-Jan 2020	Done (Increase from 41% to 79% in surveys)
Litter and Waste Audit	Mr Smith, Ms O'Neill & 5 th class committee members	Feb 2019	Done

Reduce plastic waste in the school as assessed by litter and waste audit	All classes	Feb 2019-Feb 2020	Done (Decreased from 1.4 kg to 1.2 kg in audit)
Planting in flower bed on school perimeter	Ms O'Neill and 2 nd -4 th class committee members	Feb 2019	Done
DLR Tidy Schools' Application	Mr Smith	Mar 2019	Done
Plastic Free Lunch Day - Organise	Green Schools Committee	April 2019	Done
Plastic Free Lunch Day	All classes	4 April 2019	Done
DLR Tidy Schools' Visit	Mr Smith	Apr 2019	Done
National Spring Clean	All classes	Apr 2019	Done
Attend Tidy Schools' Awards	Mr Smith, Ms O'Neill and 6 th class committee member	17 May 2019	Done
WOW Day for Wellbeing Week	Ms Molloy – organise, All classes – participate	May 2019	Done
Continue WOW Days for rest of school year	Mr Smith and Ms Molloy, all classes	June 2019	Done
Complete Green Schools Summer Course	Mr Smith	July 2019	Done
Set up Green Schools Committee	Mr Smith	Sept 2019	Done
Applications for Committee – 5 th and 6 th class	Mr Smith, Ms O'Regan and Ms O'Carroll	Sept 2019	Done
Walk on Wednesday – Weekly	Ms Molloy	All year	Ongoing
Change Tea & Coffee in Staff Room to FairTrade brands	Mr Smith & Ms O'Neill	All year	Ongoing
Give ideas to class teachers for Climate Action Week	Mr Smith	Oct 2019	Done

Climate Pledges for Climate Action Week	All Classes & SET Rooms	14-20 Oct 2019	Done
Climate Action Week – Display pledges with clear targets	All Classes & SET Rooms	14-20 Oct 2019	Done
GOAL Jersey Day Fundraiser – Global Citizenship and Celebration of Diversity	Whole School	3 Oct 2019 (Ire vs Rus in RWC)	Done
Plastic Free Lunch Day	Announce at assembly – 6 th class members of committee	16 th Oct 2019	Done
Planting in School Garden	Ms O’Neill & 4 th /5 th class members of committee	Oct 2019	Done
Use water butt for watering plants	Ms O’Neill & 4 th and 5 th class members of committee	All year	Ongoing
STEPS Engineering Project	3 rd and 4 th class	Oct 2019	Done
Wheelbarrow Gardens for Dalkey Creates Festival	Mr Smith & Anna Fox of Dalkey Creates	Nov 2019	Done
DLR Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition	All classes	Nov 2019	Done
Judge Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition	Mr Smith, Ms O’Neill & Mr Bracken	Nov 2019	Done
Sustainable Decoration Competition for Lisney, Dalkey	All classes	Dec 2019	Done
Organise Recycled Decorations to go to Roberts’ of Dalkey	6 th class members of committee and Mr Smith	Dec 2019	Done
Visit to Santa’s Grotto and Prizegiving at Lisney offices in Dalkey	2 nd class & Ms Molloy	Dec 2019	Done
Prizegiving for DLR Recycled Decoration Competition	Mr Smith/Beau McCabe	Dec 2019	Done

Sustainable Christmas Tips for website	5 th class members of committee and Mr Smith	Dec 2019	Done
Planning for Action Day – School Open Evening	5 th & 6 th class members of committee	Jan 2020	Done
Nationalities Survey	5 th class members of committee/All classes	Jan 2020	Done
Apply for new cycle parking	Mr Smith	Jan 2020	Done
Action Day – Information Stand	Patrick Howard & Antoni Siejko	28 Jan 2020	Done
Action Day – Waste Sorting Game	Patrick Howard, Antoni Siejko, Andrew Meehan and Cillian Randles	28 Jan 2020	Done
Action Day – Global Citizenship/Global Goals Quiz	Andrew Meehan and Antoni Siejko	28 Jan 2020	Done
Global Citizenship Awareness Survey	4 th -6 th class	Feb 2020	Done
Fundraising to help past pupil to go to Special Olympics (Global Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities)	6 th class	Feb 2020	Done
Arrange Review Visit for Green Schools Flag	Mr Smith	Jan/Feb 2020	Done
Dalkey Tidy Towns – Energy Saving Art Competition	All classes	Feb 2020	Done
Litter and Waste Audit	Mr Smith & 5 th and 6 th class members of committee	Feb 2020	Done
Arrange Energy Audit for school as part of SEAI Energy Master Plan for Dalkey	Mr Smith, Dalkey Tidy Towns & SEAI	Feb 2020	Done
No Uniform Day – Special Olympics Fundraiser	6 th class	Mar 2020	Done

Green Flag Review Visit	Green Schools Committee/ Whole School	10 Mar 2020	Done
Energy Audit with SEAI as part of Dalkey Energy Plan	Mr Smith, Ms Buckley, Fergal Purcell (SEAI) and Jane Arden	11 Mar 2020	Done
Apply for Green Schools Flag	Mr Smith	March 2020	Done
Apply for DLR Tidy Schools' Awards	Mr Smith	April 2020	To be completed
Install new toaster rack parking for bicycles	Mr Smith, Marvin Bautista	April-June 2020	To be completed
Install swift boxes on school building	Mr Smith and Dalkey Tidy Towns	April-June 2020	To be completed
Information talk with pupils on swifts	Mr Smith, Des Burke Kennedy of Dalkey Tidy Towns, All classes	April-June 2020	To be completed
