




ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



School: **ONSLow INFANT SCHOOL**


Date of Review: **7 OCTOBER 2015**

Carried out by: **ECO-COMMITTEE, MRS BURCHELL, MRS HOLMES-HIGGIN
& MRS ZAZZERA**

| LITTER/RUBBISH  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Is there any litter in the playground? | | X |
| Are there enough litter bins in the playground? | | X |
| Are there enough litter bins in the classrooms? | X | |

Children's comments:

Although there is hardly any litter in the playground the committee thought that there should be additional bins in areas that currently do not have any so that there are no excuses for dropping litter or other rubbish.


| WASTE / RECYCLING  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|
| Does the school recycle paper? | X | |
| Does the school compost waste, fruit, vegetables, grass cuttings etc? | | X |
| Does the school try to buy things from recycled materials? | X | |
| Do we recycle other things? | X | |
| Does the school recycle: Clothes (clothes collections) Mobile phones Printer cartridges Batteries | X | X X X |

Children's comments:

The committee is concerned that not enough recycling is being done. This included paper recycling as some people were not using the bins correctly.

The committee would like to raise awareness about recycling in school to ensure more is done to recycle effectively. For example this should include the milk cartons from morning milk.

The committee also wanted to see food waste reduced from the snacks at morning breaks and also at lunchtimes. They thought that some of the waste food could be composted and for that we would need some new compost bins placed in the school gardens. They also considered that appropriate food waste could possibly be used to feed the wild birds and animals.

| ENERGY  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Are the lights left on in the classroom when not in use? | X | |
| Do the lights come on when you enter an empty room? | X | |
| Are there draughts around windows and doors? | X | |
| Are the whiteboards left on when classrooms are empty? | X | |
| Are computers or monitors left on when not in use? | X | |

Children's comments:

Lights are often left on but that is because the teachers know that they automatically turn off after a few minutes. The committee thought that if there is a light switch lights should be turned off whenever there is no-one in the classroom for more than a couple of minutes.

There are some draughts around some of the doors, but all the windows are double glazed. Due to how the school was constructed over 40 years ago, the panels of the walls do not keep the heat in very well. This would be very difficult to make this better.

It would seem that most whiteboards are turned off if the classroom is going to be empty for long period, but for short periods they seemed to be left on once they have been used during the school day.

Computers are left on during the school day but are turned off once they have been finished with. However monitors would seem to be left on. Everyone needs to learn to switch these off.


| WATER ↑ | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Are there push taps or self-stopping taps in the toilets? | X | |
| Are there any dripping taps? | X | |
| Are any other leaks fixed quickly? | X | |
| Are there water saving devices in the toilets? | X | |

Children's comments:

Occasionally the push taps don't work very well when they have been installed for a long time. When this happens it takes a bit longer for them to stop running. They then have to be replaced. Our caretaker keeps an eye on this.

Occasionally there are dripping taps where there are no push taps. These are usually repaired quickly. There is a dripping tap in the kitchen.

In the new toilets (new build, The Burrow and the staff toilets) they have a shorter flush which is water saving. However all the older toilets (children's toilets in reception and two year 1 classes) need to be looked at to see if water saving devices can be installed.


| SCHOOL GROUNDS  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Does the school have a growing area? | X | |
| Are there lots of places to play and sit outdoors? | X | |
| Do you play indoors and outdoors? | X | |
| Are lessons or part of lessons held outside? | X | |

Children's comments:

Currently Early Years and Year 1 have a growing area, although both of these need some work done to tidy them up and more use made of them.

Year 2 do not currently have a specific area. An area was identified on a small bank opposite the ball court that could be suitable for Year 2 to grow vegetables after some work to prepare the area is done.


The children would like to make more use of the outside spaces.

| BIODIVERSITY  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Does the school have any plants in containers, pots or beds in the school grounds? | X | |
| Do we try and attract wildlife in the school grounds? | X | |
| Does the school have bird feeders? | X | |
| Does the school have bird boxes? | | X |
| Does the school have log piles for bugs? | X | |
| Does the school have bird baths? | | X |
| Does the school have bat boxes? | | X |

Children's comments:

The committee would like the rest of the school to be more involved with creating more areas to attract wildlife and also have bug hotels and more bird feeders.


The school has lost some of its shrubs and green areas due to the expansion build so the committee members are keen to look at ways of addressing this.

| TRANSPORT  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Is there a problem with cars outside school before school starts and at home time? | X | |
| When possible do pupils walk/scooter/cycle to school or take public transport? | X | |
| Does the school have somewhere for bikes & scooters to be stored? | X | |
| Does the school have a walking bus scheme? | | X |
| Does the school organise regular 'walk to school' events? | X | |

Children's comments:

The children commented that there are a lot of cars around the vicinity of the school at drop off and pick up times. Many children do walk or use scooters/bicycles but they would like to see people more using these methods. One committee member suggested that we could have 'Walk Wednesdays'.

The school currently takes part in the local authority initiative called 'The Golden Boot Challenge' each year, and the committee thought this was good and that we should continue with this.


| HEALTHY LIVING  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Does the school provide and promote healthier food at breaktimes and lunchtimes? | X | |
| Are healthy options encouraged for school dinners? | X | |
| Is drinking water available in classes? | X | |
| Do pupils take part in daily exercise? | X | |

Children's comments:

The children commented that they have fruit or vegetable snacks provided by the school at breaktimes and that we need to have more facilities to be able to compost the waste from these.

Nearly all children at school have school dinners and the content of these are monitored by the kitchen staff to ensure they provide a balanced diet. The children are encouraged to eat their meals and not to waste food.

The children enjoy running around and playing games at morning break and lunchtimes.

| GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  | YES | NO |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Do pupils think about how things they do affect the environment? | X | |
| Do pupils think about how things they do every day affect other people? | X | |

Children's comments:

The children are aware about the environment and the effect of waste and how recycling can help. The children talked about wasting energy and had a limited knowledge of 'greenhouse gases'.

The school has a link with a school in Gambia and as a result the children have some knowledge about children in a poorer country and how little they have.

COMMENTS / NOTES FOR ACTION

On completion of the Environmental Review fill in the following boxes with any comments relating to each topic and list possible actions that could be taken. Some of these actions can then be used in your Action Plan

Litter/Rubbish

Purchase more bins for the playground

Waste/Recycling

Purchase/install more compost bins
Ensure enough recycling bins for paper and food waste in each classroom
Look at food waste from lunchtimes
Start recycling printer cartridges again

Energy

Ensure computer screens are switched off at the end of the day and any lights turned off when the classrooms are empty
Ensure printers are switched off at the end of the day
Look into alternative energy sources and include information into curriculum where appropriate

Water

Ensure any dripping taps are repaired
Ensure all push taps are working properly and automatically switch off
Look at the older toilet installations to see if water saving devices can be installed
Monitor water usage in the school (meter)

School Grounds

Increase the areas for growing flowers and vegetables
Look at making better use of the outside spaces

Biodiversity

Attract more wildlife through planting and bird boxes and bug hotels
Include more information into lesson plans (science)

Transport

Look into introducing 'Walk Wednesdays' and other more environmentally friendly ways to get to school
Look into a walking bus

Healthy Living

Encourage children to eat all their lunch
Look into other activities that promote healthy living

Global Perspective

Include more information into curriculum areas about how things we do directly affect the environment
Find out more about how the food we eat or buy has ended up on our plates or in the shops and the global impact in relation to transportation of this food and the impact in the country of origin