



Sustainability Champions: Pupils at Castle Hills Primary Academy Receive Eco-Schools Green Flag Recognition with Distinction

This academic year, pupils at Castle Hills Primary Academy have demonstrated outstanding leadership in championing sustainability and inspiring meaningful environmental action across their school and wider community. Their passion, creativity, and commitment to creating positive environmental impact have been recognised with Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation, which celebrates excellence in environmental education and pupil-led action.

Established in 1994, the Eco-Schools programme has spent more than 30 years inspiring and empowering young people to become environmental leaders. Today, Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation is awarded in more than 100 countries, reflecting the programme's global impact. In England alone, it reaches over one million young people each year, supporting them to take meaningful action and drive positive change for our planet.

At Castle Hills Primary Academy, a pupil-led Eco-Committee, supported by Mr Jackson, used the Eco-Schools seven-step framework to drive improvements in their school's sustainability. They began by carrying out a thorough environmental review of their school grounds, buildings, and curriculum. Using their findings, the committee then collaborated to create a detailed, year-long action plan designed to deliver meaningful, measurable change.

Their Action Plan focused on three key areas: Healthy Eating, The Ocean, and Saving Water. To address these priorities, the Eco-Committee led a series of impactful initiatives, including, Meat Free Mondays (a whole school survey shortlisted 3 vegetarian meals that would be served every Monday instead of meat dishes), we collected waste plastic that otherwise might find its way into the ocean, we then made class artwork based on marine life out of the collected plastic, and we appointed class water monitors in Key stage 2, that would check if taps were left on during the day, helping us to reduce our wastage of water. Each activity was designed not only to improve their school's environmental performance but also to inspire the wider school community to adopt more sustainable everyday behaviours.

Speaking about their achievements, staff member Mr Jackson (Site Manager) said, "This year we have made a huge impact on how we view our environment, our pupils have shown great enthusiasm is helping to reduce our carbon footprint, highlighting how a small change can make a huge impact. The pupils have worked hard all year to achieve this amazing outcome and it is thoroughly well deserved"

And pupil Amelie Marshall aged 10, stated, " I really love helping out in Forest School and being an Eco Knight. I am very proud that we won our Green Flag Award, and I am excited to see what projects we will be working on next."

Eco-Schools England Manager, Adam Flint, said: "Young people want to create meaningful change, and they have shown they are more than capable of doing so. Their efforts deserve recognition and should act as inspiration to us all. Our planet is already feeling the effects of climate change, pollution and waste, but young people across England have shown we do not have to accept this, a more sustainable future is possible."

To learn more about the Eco-Schools programme and accreditation, head to www.eco-schools.org.uk.

