

Action Plan for Eco Schools Silver Award

This plan has been drawn up following the completion of the full environmental review and discussion by the Action Team 29th February 2008

Energy

Encourage use of window and light monitors in each class.
Ask staff to be much more rigorous about turning off computers.

Waste Minimisation / Recycling

Waste minimization policy will be written during 2008. Monitoring of new waste recycling scheme and disposal of hazardous waste is in the School Development Plan 2008/9.

Water

Eco club is going to get hippos for use in toilets.

Transport

Transport a major issue. Transport survey completed last year 2007.
Improve communication: with installation of WCBS system we can group parents by post code in order to give parents this information in order to encourage car sharing.
Inform parents via parent mail about mini-bus routes and progress.
Information will be on website from September 2008. Ask school reps to encourage and promote car sharing. Parking for dog walkers is to be moved. Staggered end of day is to begin from September 2008 to ease congestion. Parking permits have been given to staff – improved management of car parking areas. New parking areas and one way system is to be arranged following completion of build 2008/9. Plot number of cars waiting – track parents who collect from 2 or 3 of the schools. Re-look at minibus routes to see if there is demand for a different area to be supported. 2 new routes are currently being investigated.

Healthy Living

A new catering company is to start April 2008. They have promised use of locally grown produce, more fresh organic produce.

Biodiversity

Conservation plan will be produced for the Parkland 2008 – in School Development Plan. Tree preservation program underway in consultation with Tree Officer of TWBC

School Grounds

Ensure heritage of the grounds is YC and DL introduced - suggest in PSHE year 3 JC and AMM from September 2008.
Establish log piles that are safe and child friendly for minibeast hunting. Investigate possibility of a jetty for safe pond dipping by children. Use Kent Wildlife Trust information on better use of grounds. Programme of restoration/upkeep of Grade 1 listed building and estate management detailed in School Development Plan 2008/9.

Global Perspective

Put information about Nepal link on the website and make sure link is sustained. YC is to form their own link with project overseas.

Pupil Participation

Encourage more pupil participation – eg Green week in YC as well as DL – invite Robert Tacon/David Chaplin to give talks in Green Week date fixed 9th June 2008.
Raise profile so all children engaged in Eco agenda. Ask Robert Tacon to join Action Team
Gardening club – new garden area to be planted – use garden as a teaching resource once established 2008/9. Eco club – write Eco code and make sure it is ‘owned’ by whole school.
Wildlife explorers – raise profile of what they do – perhaps present an assembly.
Malcolm Gough is to ask a Governor to join the Action Team.

Progress on major projects and other elements of the Action Plan 24th June 2008

Waste Minimisation

New company – Greensolve - employed to enable major improvement in level of recycling. Monitoring of the new system is underway.

Healthy Living

New catering company – Accent - began in April 2008. They are providing a greater range of fresh fruit and vegetables including extensive salad bar. Monitoring is under way to ensure that promised locally grown produce and organic produce is provided.

Transport

Staggered end to the day confirmed to begin in September 2008 in order to ease congestion

Global Links

Link with HVP School in Nepal firmly established and details are on the school website. Regular assemblies in DL established to give girls update on news. Handicrafts, locally made by Nepalese women in associated community centre, have been sold at Christmas and Summer Fairs to raise awareness and money for the Peace Home.

Biodiversity/School Grounds

Conservation plan for the parkland is under way. A conservation manager has been appointed to write the plan which will be submitted to the Borough Council. Plan should be ready for December 2008. Upgrading of parkland including tree preservation programme, and a programme of restoration of the mansion are continuing and will be part of the plan. Commitment to work towards Green Flag award embedded in the School Development Plan 2008/9.

Pupil/whole school participation

Much progress has been made on raising awareness of eco matters and of the wider world to pupils. Both YC and DL held a green week 9th June 2008. David Chaplin spoke about recent projects in Rwanda, including the use of sustainable technology. Richard Tacon, involved with environmental policy making by the UN, spoke about importance of eco agenda on a world scale. Girls organised their own assemblies about endangered maybugs, and conservation of coral reefs. Form assembly on composting. Eco code circulated and announced to whole school. Poetry Competition in DL had eco theme. Nepal handicrafts sold at Summer Fair. Gardening area has been prepared and gardening club open to boys and girls established, although rabbits are proving a problem. Generous donation of £346.25 from PA for eco garden given June 2008.