



Molescroft Primary School  
**Overarching Environmental Policy**  
January 2011, Reviewed April 2012

The Governing Body of Molescroft Primary School originally adopted this policy in the Spring Term 2011

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It is vital that everyone at Molescroft Primary School understands that every action and every resource used has an impact on the environment locally and globally. It is vital that through education, good management and making economical choices everyone can help to achieve the goal of a truly sustainable school.

Key words in this process are: REDUCE, RE-USE, RESTORE and RESPECT

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Spotted by the Green Mole

**GREEN TARGET**  
To share our environmental journey with children in Britain and around the world.

Eco-Schools

Spotted by the Green Mole

**GREEN TARGET**  
To be inspired by and understand the cultures of communities in Britain and around the world.

Eco-Schools

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**GREEN TARGET**  
To share our hopes and aspirations with children in Britain and in Germany.

Eco-Schools

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**GREEN TARGET**  
To achieve Fair Trade status.

Eco-Schools

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**GREEN TARGET**  
To ensure our beautiful school grounds stay beautiful and free of litter.

Eco-Schools

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**GREEN TARGET**  
To reduce the use of paper unnecessarily in school.

Eco-Schools

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**GREEN TARGET**  
To find ways to reuse materials which we find hard to recycle, and to continue to recycle as much as possible.

Eco-Schools

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**GREEN TARGET**  
To reduce energy costs in school.

Eco-Schools



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**GREEN TARGET**  
To plant more hedges increasing the variety of wildlife in our school grounds.



**GREEN TARGET**  
To encourage more and more children to walk, cycle and scoot to school.



**GREEN TARGET**  
To improve the health and well-being of everybody at Molescroft Primary School.



**GREEN TARGET**  
To enable the Green Team to work effectively to improve the quality of life and sustainability of all that we do at school.



**GREEN TARGET**  
To collect water and reduce our use of water.



**GREEN TARGET**  
To appreciate the environment through our work and find more opportunities to appreciate how we can influence the environment for the good of all life.

### 3. ECO CODE

**We work with nature.**  
**We use resources more than once.**  
**We invest in our environment.**  
**We're switched on to switching off!**

### 4. GREEN TEAM

The Green Team meets on a half termly basis to review and amend the policy as well as to look at ways of achieving the school's environmental aims. The Committee includes representation from each class, SMT, Friends Association, governors, caretaking, and the leader of the Really Wild



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Club. The team is led by seven Green Team leaders from Year 6, each of whom liaises with pupils from younger classes.

A typical agenda includes:

1. Those present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Energy update
5. Really Wild Club update
6. Review of Action Plan – Targets
7. Fair Trade Status
8. The Pod
9. Royal Horticultural Society / Beverley & Yorkshire in Bloom
10. Recycling update
11. Gardening Club
12. Any other business

The Green team has a strategic as well as practical role in the school.

The Green Team is influential on School Policy and runs in a similar manner to the School Council.

## 5. ECO SCHOOL GREEN FLAG AWARD

The school uses the Eco School Green Flag Award as the basis for developing the Green Agenda at school. The award provides an excellent basis to ensure that all aspects of the sustainability agenda are addressed. The school produces a specific action plan based upon the Eco School headings. These feed directly into the School Improvement Plan. The following shows the key headings and what the school is already achieving (Jan 2012)

### **What are we already doing and maintaining**

#### **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Sustainable Schools assemblies

Annual Multicultural week in February

The School is linked to Kabalega Primary School in Uganda through the LINK Charity



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The School also has achieved the 'International School Award' three times in 2005 – 2008 2008-2011 2011-2014

We are sharing our environmental journey with other schools via the schools blog and international blog

Exercise books are made from a sustainable source

Oasis created for reflective time, seats made from recycled products.

### **LITTER**

Assemblies on anti-litter are presented

There are sufficient litter bins in the school

Litter is rarely a problem

### **WASTE MINIMISATION/RECYCLING**

All classes have paper monitors

Annual environmental week is held in June

All classes have paper recycling facilities

All classes have small composters

Large composters in vegetable plot area

Compost is produced and used in the vegetable plots.

Recycling points for: paper, plastics, cardboard, glass and tetra paks and old school uniform are available in school

### **ENERGY**

Energy walk round completed annually to co-inside with health and safety inspection

All classes have Green Team reps. who are aware to shut doors and windows and turn off lights which are not automatic.

Light bulbs have been changed to energy efficient ones as the old ones failed. The older part of the school has strip lighting and the new part of the school and library has energy efficient lights which switch off if there is no movement in class.

The school's Energy Certificate grades the school C better than average.

70 Photovoltaic Panels have been installed on the school roof.

### **TRANSPORT**

Cycle proficiency training is provided for all year fives



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Records are kept on how pupils travel to school

The school works closely to promote non-car travel to school with the schools Travel Plan Advisor

### **HEALTHY LIVING**

Water bottles are provided for all children.

Lots of extra curriculum sports activities tennis etc

School blog shows extent of sports activities at school

Biking and scootering encouraged with new facilities

Education in PSHCE

Health Week every October

Safety Week every January

The School has the Healthy Schools Award and Sports England Awards

New climbing play equipment erected

Introduced new healthy school meals including vegetable choice and salad bar

Achievement and renewal of the Active Mark Award annually

Shaded seating provided

Brain Gym is provided every day for every child

Free fruit / vegetables are provided everyday for pupils in FY / KS1

Fruit / fruit kebabs, milk and or vegetable soup are available every morning for KS2

Milk Bar every morning and lunchtime for all pupils

No Sweets policy

Provision of safe 'hiding' places for pupils on the field in the shape of willow igloos - Wigloos.

### **SCHOOL GROUNDS**

The pupils grow vegetables in their own vegetable plot

Vegetables grown are eaten by the pupils through the school meals

All pupils work in the conservation area six at a time for an afternoon at a time

The school has won Beverley in Bloom educational Endeavour Awards GOLD in 2007/2008/2009/2011

The School has won a Silver Gilt Award from Yorkshire in Bloom 2009 and the Golden Rose in 2011

Contractual use of the Conservation Area within the different Subjects' Long Term Plans has been completed. This is to ensure that the impact of the changes made to the environment are



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celebrated through the Arts and the opportunities to link learning to the environment is exploited in every relevant learning unit.

### **WATER**

Eco-Schools grant applied for successfully and taps changed to push on/off taps

### **BIODIVERSITY**

School has an impressive conservation area in which children maintain and study the wide range of habitats

The Wild garden is completed and children attend the area for curriculum activities and also in a mini green initiative 'The Really Wild Club,' where children spend the whole afternoon exploring in small groups

Pupils are made aware of the living things within the pond and in the wild area

The children do drawings of the creatures they find

Log piles and lady bird boxes are in area

The school has surrounding trees and these are investigated and sketches have been made in mini green link lessons

The school has several green areas through out the school and new flower containers have been planted as well as a 'School Friends' garden with climbing clematis

Curriculum links to science

## **6. REALLY WILD CLUB**

The children in all classes have the opportunity to spend an afternoon in the Conservation Area working with a TA specifically responsible for developing the Environmental and Sustainable agendas with the pupils. The children work in the Conservation Area in groups of six at a time. Each child has the opportunity approximately once a term. These sessions are known as the 'Really Wild Club'.

A specific programme of approved activities has been agreed for the Really Wild Club on wet and dry days and all seasons, relating to:

- Appreciation of the environment
- Protection of habitats
- Maintaining the environment
- Inspiration from the environment
- Use of natural Resources
- Growing produce
- Recycling

Thus all children are engaged in the whole sustainability agenda.

Pupils enjoy their Really Wild Club afternoons appreciate above anything else the power of man to influence and use the environment for good, and that mankind has the power to destroy what is natural.

The activities are enjoyable but do not compromise school policies and procedures.



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The activities of the children through the Really Wild Club are shared through the school's own Blog on the school website and also through Eco Schools' 'The Pod' on the Eco Schools' website.

A Gardening Club for those who are particularly interested in growing produce is organised in the Summer Term.

## 7. CURRICULUM & ASSEMBLIES

The Green Agenda has been contracted to the Long Term Curriculum Plan. This is identified by a special 'Green Link' box on each termly plan. Often suggestions are made demonstrating how the school grounds, particularly the conservation areas can be used as an effective resource.

Each term the assembly plan is produced. Each week has a theme and a 'thought of the week'. Frequently the theme has global links and matches the sustainability agenda.

## 8. ANTI LITTER STATEMENT

### Statement of fact

Molescroft Primary School thankfully has very little litter. This is primarily because children do not bring sweets etc. to school.

### Maintaining a litter free environment

- Pupils are reminded of the need to keep the environment clean.
- There are only three key rules at school. The second rule states: "We take care of wherever we are and whatever is in it".
- The caretaker is vigilant in maintaining the grounds.
- There is a pupil team (Year 6 Green Team) which twice a week supports the caretaker in maintaining the tidy state of the environment. This usually involves sweeping up leaves as other litter is very rare.
- Bins are provided for general waste, recyclable waste and compostable waste.
- Cardboard is also recycled as are plastic pots and bottles.
- Children are expected to continue their good behaviour and respect for the environment into the community.

## 9. REDUCING WASTE STATEMENT

It is imperative that all is done to minimise waste and wherever possible recycle.

### **ACHIEVING THE GOAL**

Largely under the watchful eye of the school's Green Team and each class's representatives the following is achieved:



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### **Recycling**

- Paper recycling bins are provided in every room with blue bins in each corridor.
- All collected paper is sent to the L.A. for recycling.
- A special cardboard skip is provided on site for sending to be recycled.
- Yoghurt pots are recycled from lunchtimes to be used in school.
- Uniform is recycled via a monthly second hand stall.
- The 'Friends Association' organises a termly collection of unwanted clothing which is recycled.
- All fruit/vegetable waste is composted and used on the school's vegetable garden.
- Plastic containers, Tetra Paks and glass containers are recycled.
- Our printer cartridges are returned to the supplier for recycling
- All photocopying paper purchased is recycled

### **Energy**

- All lights are labelled to remind people to switch them off.
- Each class has a light and projector monitor.
- Each class has a Green Team Representative to ensure that Green issues are addressed by the class.
- Photocopiers switch off automatically each evening.
- **Computers:** Staff and students are asked to ensure that all computers, screens, printers and videos are turned off after their last use of the day.
- Class 'A' fridges have replaced the previously inefficient models.
- Energy Walk rounds produce reports to guide future developments.

### **Use of paper**

- Staff are asked to use double-sided photocopying wherever possible.
- Staff and students are asked to use the paper bins to recycle all paper.
- Each classroom should contain a scrap paper box.
- Staff and students are asked not to print documents or websites unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Staff, are asked to use e-mail wherever possible.
- Wherever possible letters to parents are now published on the school website and their publication announced by text.
- Display paper is taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.
- Paper will be used on both sides wherever appropriate.

### **Composting**

- **Fruit**  
Year 6 sell fruit, milk, fruit kebabs or vegetable soup (depending on season) at morning playtime. In addition, children in KS1 and FY receive free fruit daily. Fruit waste is collected in compost caddies and sent to the conservation areas for composting



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- **Gardening**  
Gardening waste is put into the school compost bins.
- **Kitchen waste**  
Fruit peelings are composted  
Used Cooking oil is collected by a local charity 'Real Aid' and is converted into fuel to run their vehicle.

### **Computer and electrical equipment**

- Outdated or unwanted equipment is offered to others who might have a use for it. E.g. computers through the Round Table. Books via Real Aid to Uganda.

## **10. GREEN MOLE**

Crofty the mole is the mascot for the school. He is also reinvented as the 'Green Mole' with his own special logo. This is used to indicate where the green agenda is being met through perhaps displays or in the curriculum.

The Green Mole is also a regular feature of the monthly newsletter. Through this the Sustainability Agenda can be effectively promoted at home and our work shared with a wider audience.



## **11. FAIR TRADE**

**The school is keen to achieve Fair Trade Status.**

So far the following has been achieved:

- A Fair Trade shop has been established and is open every Friday at 2:15pm. It is staffed by the Year 6 Green Team.
- Coffee and tea refreshments purchased by the school for the use in school are all Fair Trade
- All coffee and tea sold by the Friends Committee are Fair Trade.
- Fair Trade is a feature of assemblies in school at least once a year.



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- A Fair Trade stand is set up for at least one school event per year.
- The school celebrates Fair Trade Fortnight with a number of special events e.g Coffee Mornings / Hot Chocolate Afternoons / Fair Trade Football competitions etc.
- Fair Trade is linked to and contracted specific curriculum events e.g Enterprise Day.

## 12. TRAVEL PLAN

### Transport

The school has a travel plan with developing targets. This is supported by the Local Authority. We continue to take part in the cycling proficiency scheme to encourage safe cycling. The school has provided two cycle sheds.

The school provides Pedestrian Skills Training for all pupils in Y4.

The school provides 'Scoot the Route' training for all pupils in Y3 and also provides six scooter storage points.

We encourage staff to share transport when going on courses etc.

## 13. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

The Governors of the school worked together with the Green Team to consider the possibility of using renewable energy sources.

The use of solar/photo-voltaic panels was seen to be the most effective option open to the school. The school researched the positioning of such panels on the expansive south and west facing roofs. 70 panels were fitted in time to benefit from the maximum 'feed in tariff' available. This is guaranteed for 25 years.

Green Team reps in each year group have energy use readers. These devices are used by classes to view how much energy different appliances are using in 'on' and 'standby modes'. The information is fed to the Green Team for consideration.

## 14. THE PLANET OUR INHERITANCE

Through all of the above our pupils should appreciate the impact for good or ill that humans can have on his/her environment. The pupils should take with them to secondary education a personal investment in the world around them.

The pupils should be equipped to make informed choices.

Ultimately the test will come when this generation has the power to make decisions which will protect the world, our only home. Our ultimate accountability will be measured by how more effective the next generation will be in comparison with the current.