

Jackie Fernandez
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Dear Jackie Fernandez and Laura Obernay,

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback

Congratulations to everyone at Banchory Primary School for achieving an amazing 6th Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award!

I have very much enjoyed reading through your journey. You have worked really hard on your wide-ranging actions to make your school a more environmentally friendly place to be. It has been a particularly difficult time to be doing this work, so I am doubly impressed at your efforts to overcome the challenges imposed by the Covid pandemic. Well done!

Your Eco-Committee have done a great job in using your Environmental Review to identify areas for you to work on during this journey and taking this forward as part of your Action Plan. This is particularly evident in your identification of the need to set up a litter rota and address the issue of dog fouling in your school grounds. It is great to hear your success in dealing with both of these issues. A special well done to your litter picking group for their hard work keeping the school litter free. I like your idea to design posters to help reduce litter and dog fouling and to give out certificates to reward the best designs.

Your growing initiatives sound really exciting and are a great way to tackle both your Biodiversity and your Food and the Environment topics. It's great to hear you were able to get parents involved in helping with your growing and I loved seeing the pictures of the children gardening. It is a great opportunity for your pupils to take on responsibility. As well as parental involvement, it is great that you were able to engage your local community through letter writing and your newspaper appeal to help create a wonderful outdoor space for pupils and wildlife to enjoy. You have done well in linking your work on these topics to the Curriculum.

I really like your Eco-Code as it is clear and memorable.

Overall, you have done a fantastic job and are highly deserving of this Green Flag Award.

I think you will have no problem getting started with your next Green Flag journey. You have lots of brilliant ideas and hopefully you can take some actions further that were not possible on this journey, including your local community litter pick and getting your dog waste bag dispensers back out. Good luck with your Tesco 'Farm to Plate' funding application. I hope this is successful.

For your next journey, you could consider improving your knowledge of the 5rs of waste management (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle). You have made a good start with preventing items from becoming waste, such as your book swap and efforts to reduce paper use. Consider how you could take this further to 'refuse' and 'reduce' more items in your school.

You have submitted some really lovely evidence of what you have been doing on this journey. For your next journey, it would be good to see the inclusion of more details of your measuring, for example, volume of litter collected. We love seeing this information, so please include it in your next submission. Consider recording a baseline at the start, and then remeasuring to compare to this at the end of your next journey. This will allow you to clearly see the difference you are making. Remember as well, the more data you can gather, the better you will be able to evaluate if your work helped you to achieve your targets and aims, and to understand the impact they had.

Please note that we have a new format of Action Plan template that allows you to focus on an aim for each of your actions, as well as tying your Sustainable Development Goal to a whole topic, rather than to individual actions. Please use this template when you start your next journey. You can find the new Action Plan template on our website. I will send the link when I email you a copy of this feedback.

Keep up the great work, and a big congratulations again to Banchory Primary School from everyone at Eco-Schools Scotland!

As you continue your Green Flag renewal journey, remember that you should plan to log on to the application site and start your new journey right away. After you have elected your new Eco-Committee, completed your Environmental Review, chosen three Topics (one of which must be Litter & Waste) and one UN Sustainable Development Goal, you will then submit your Draft Action Plan for approval before you begin work, ideally within three months of your last award date.

Please make sure that the three Topics you choose cover the same two-year period and that all three Topics are linked to your chosen UN Sustainable Development Goal. Do not forget to include all activities and ideas you have in your Action Plan to make sure they are all captured. With the online system we encourage you to upload as you go, in real time.

Congratulations once again and we wish you every success as you move on to your next application.

The Education and Learning Team
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