



## Glen Hills Primary School

### Environment

## Statement of Intent

### Intent

- Glen Hills is committed to minimising its environmental impact and to its improvement of the local and global environment in whatever way it can. It raises awareness throughout the school to encourage and engage both staff, pupils and parents to learn more about waste prevention and recycling, as well as open up a range of opportunities for the pupils to learn and demonstrate their knowledge (*Respect, Self management*)
- Our aim is to empower the children to work towards a more sustainable lifestyle and to help mould them into responsible global citizens. This is achieved by encouraging this lifestyle into everyday family life (*Gratitude, Respect*).
- What young people learn today will influence how future generations live. As a developing Eco School our intent is to be part of a growing global movement that seeks to nurture knowledge, creativity, kindness, wisdom and many more skills that will allow our children to develop and flourish, as well as helping to provide a better environmental future (*Going the extra mile, Empathy, Self management*).
- As a school we believe we play a vital role in developing awareness and passion for the importance of our environment. Children are educated in the global challenges that are impacting on the way we organise and live our lives.
- It is crucial to educate our children to become independent in the knowledge of what and how things can be recycled, how to be less wasteful and how to be responsible citizens (*Self management*).

### Implementation

- Global learning is increasingly embedded across a variety of subjects. This involves both a formal and informal curriculum, including areas such as Citizenship, Geography, Science, outdoor gardening club and the Eco committee.
- Assemblies and our 'whole school ethos' are other ways we encourage and develop the skills to help understand what is going on in the world around us. Children are taught how events can change and impact our environment and global issues.
- All staff and children are involved in a team effort to recycle paper/card. Recycling boxes are accessible in all rooms. Rules of what can be recycled are advised throughout the school. The Eco Team (a small group made up of elected members from each junior class) help to empty and sort these recycling boxes each week.
- Where possible, the school endeavours to participate in local and national schemes which support our environmental policy. One example of this is February 2020's pilot 'Wastebuster' competition, where children and families were encouraged to save and recycle all plastics from their home, which would have otherwise been disposed of. Even though we were not the winning school (most plastic collected)/ The school is awaiting the results, families and children were well involved and eager to recycle,

improving awareness and participation in such issues. This has helped to promote an anticipation of further similar schemes and competitions.

- Assemblies are delivered to the children educating them on the detrimental impact plastic is having on the planet and what needs to be done to help prevent further damage and destruction. This in turn helps the children to educate their families and friends.
- Compost areas: Children get rid of food waste in a bucket (during lunch times) and this waste is taken to the compost area to be used in the school garden. Through this, children are made more aware of the benefits and positive impacts from their lifestyle and habits.
- Gardening Club: Volunteer pupils from Year 5 are involved in growing fruit and vegetables.
- Computing: Children will be given passwords to the 'Wastebuster' website, whereby, they can read facts etc. The impact of recycling and the environment will also be studied at home involving the family and complete quizzes. PP/ SEN will also have the opportunity to complete the quiz at school with a member of the Eco committee. ALL children will have access. Homework/projects work - children will also have the opportunity to work with the Eco committee at school, so all children will have access to the activities.
- Local environment: As part of being a healthy school, we encourage families to walk or bike to/from school where possible. Recycling at home is also promoted by homework activities to educate and encourage family members to continue to recycle at home.
- The school promotes the use of re-useable bottles and any recyclable containers to be taken back home and recycled. Plastic bottles are no longer available to buy at lunchtimes. This encourages less waste at school and helps children to see how simple lifestyle changes can be made and even become a healthy habit.
- Measuring environmental behaviour change – 'The Initial Waste' sort. This is designed to give a realistic picture of what type of waste our school is producing. After this education and awareness arrange a second 'waste sort', this will measure the waste and check that the overall amount of rubbish has been reduced.

#### Cross – curricular links

- A wall display promoting recycling of packaging in the dinner hall.
- Competition plastic recycling display – winners work is displayed promoting British Values of individual liberty and mutual respect, as well as Cultural Capital concepts of personal and social development
- Links with Geography, Science, Citizenship – WIP linking to schemes of work.

#### Impact

- All Glen Hills children will be highly aware of the impact of environmental changes and what they can do to help their future. They will know how to be responsible for waste and recycling and take personal ownership of these ideas.
- The children will act as models of best practice within their local communities to help others reap similar benefits – whole community awareness.

- Pupils will be aware of the importance in continued self-improvement when it comes to improving habits and lifestyle choices which impact on their local and global environment.

As school leavers, pupils will know how to continue with the good attitudes, practices and habits they have formed whilst at Glen Hills. They will know where to look for advice, ideas and news of current issues, thus contributing further to them being responsible citizens.

