

Blackpool Sixth Environmental Review

(conducted between June 2023 and October 2024 by students on the Eco Schools Committee, supported by staff members)

School Grounds

We have / we do:

- A gardening club - staff/students / gardening lessons (as part of Eco Action)
- A greenhouse / polytunnel
- Areas of uncut grass

We don't / we haven't:

- Have a specific outdoor learning area / regular outdoor lessons (other than sport and some 'Eco Action' enrichment activities)
- A green roof or 'living wall'
- The last tree-planting was more than 12 months ago (Jan 2022)

To check - use of pesticides / herbicides

Waste

We do / we have:

- We do have some very small scale food-composting (wormery)
- We do send letters home by email by default

We don't / we haven't:

- We don't currently organise recycling of 'difficult to recycle' items such as batteries, crisp packets.
- Food-composting is not done for kitchen waste or for food waste in bins (other than a very small amount for the wormery)
- We haven't organised a second-hand clothes sale in the past 12 months
- We don't have a uniform so don't collect / distribute this
- We don't have a book / stationery / revision guide exchange
- We have taken steps to reduce the use of paper

Unclear:

- Our large recycling bins are labelled with signs showing roughly what can be put in them but this does not apply to the bins in classrooms and some of the signs on bins aren't very clear
- Need to do some spot checks of correct use of bins

Global Citizenship

We have / we do:

- Raised money for charities in the past 12 months
- We have raised money for environmental charities in the past 12 months (March 2023 at the Fylde Youth Climate Conference)
- Young people are involved in planning fundraising events and selecting which charities to raise money for
- We have not declared 'a climate emergency'
- We do celebrate diversity with events and education e.g. Black History Month, Pride (put it was agreed that students and staff would like to see more on this)
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We haven't / we don't:

- We don't have links with schools in other countries at the moment

Unclear:

- Awareness of Sustainable Development Goals amongst student and staff (need mini-survey)
- Green / ethical labelling / sourcing of foods in catering areas e.g. Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance
- Use of Fair Trade tea/coffee / biscuits in Staff Room.

Transport

We have / we do:

- Have a safe, dry place for bikes and scooters
- We do have hedges / trees / vegetation around our boundaries to prevent air pollution
- We have surveyed students and more than half cycle, scoot or use public transport

We don't have / we don't:

- Have an electric vehicle charging point
- We haven't had a walk to college week or similar in the past 12 months
- We don't have park and stride or a car share scheme
- We don't provide safety training for cycling, scooters etc
- The road outside isn't a 'School Street'
- We don't have an 'No idling' policy for drop-offs / visitors

- We haven't surveyed staff transport habits

Water

We have / we do:

- A water butt
- Water saving devices
- Hand dryers rather than paper towels in toilets

We haven't / we don't:

- We haven't had a assembly/talk/visit from our water supplier in the past year
- Our toilets don't have posters reminding people to turn off the taps
- We haven't shared water-saving tips
- We haven't raised money for water-based charities in the past 12 months
- The site has been checked for leaks and leaks have been fixed

Unclear:

- % of students using a reusable water bottle at college
- Reusable water bottles being taken on college trips

Marine

We have / we do

Balloon releases and glitter are banned

We have held events in the past year for marine conservation (staff/students working with primary children)

The estates team only use environmentally-friendly cleaning products

Reduced the use of single-use plastics in the catering outlets (though more to do on this e.g. drinks bottles, plastic cutlery)

We haven't / we don't

- We haven't banned laminating and don't have a strict policy on it
- We haven't created any murals or sculptural artworks highlighting the harm single-use plastics can cause
- We haven't organised and completed a beach / river / canal clean in the past 12 months

Unclear:

- Art department's use of single-use plastics in art lessons

Healthy Living

We have / we do:

- We have taught some young people how to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs (Eco Action group)
- Our catering outlets do provide plant-based options every day
- We do have natural areas to help students / staff feel more relaxed
- We do discuss mental health issues and help students / staff with strategies and exercises to cope with them
- We do provide opportunities for mindfulness, meditation and yoga (though mainly just for staff as occasional wellbeing activities)

We don't / we haven't

- Our canteen doesn't currently use plants grown on site as ingredients
- Plant-based options aren't specifically encouraged in any way
- We don't have meat-free days
- Students haven't worked with canteen staff on healthy new menu items
- We don't provide parents/guardians information about healthy eating for students

Biodiversity

We do / we have:

- Our grounds provide habitats for insect life
- We have put up bird boxes
- We do have 'rewilding' areas
- We do grow plants to support biodiversity
- We do have a pond
- We have provided advice to the college community (which includes parents/carers) on ways of supporting biodiversity at home
- We did take part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch in 2023
- We have raised money for conservation projects in the past 12 months

We don't have / we don't:

- We haven't had classes visit a nature reserve in the past 12 months

Litter**We do / we have:**

- We do have access to litter-picking equipment
- We do have enough bins inside / outside and they are emptied regularly

We don't / we haven't:

- We haven't had a litter pick in our community by our students in the past 12 months
- We don't have student litter monitors
- Students haven't created anti-litter posters / signs or delivered anti-litter talks in the past 12 months
- Our grounds are not completely litter-free

Energy

We have / we do

- We have involved some students in checking that lights / electronic devices are switched off (but this is not currently a regular thing)
- We do have posters and signs reminding students and staff to turn off electronic devices when not in use
- We do have solar panels
- Windows are kept free of displays and blinds are drawn back during the daytime to maximise natural light
- We have shared energy-saving tips with the college community in newsletters etc
- Our building has insulation and other energy-saving features

We don't have / we don't

- We haven't had an energy-free day / energy-saving week or similar
- We don't have an overall 'smart meter' and students are not currently involved in accessing energy data