

Eco Schools Policy

Policy Statement

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is committed to educating about caring and respecting for the environment and developing responsible citizens that are able to make valuable decisions. The Eco Committee at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has a key role in achieving this and is a paramount part of our Eco-Schools Programme. The Eco Committee represents the whole school community.

Eco Committee purposes:

- To ensure a whole school approach to caring for the environment.
- To give pupils responsibilities and promote team work.
- To develop pupils' skills in the decision-making process.
- To develop an awareness of environmental issues.
- To develop a structure to implement the national Eco-Schools Programme in the School.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Eco Schools Programme are:

- To become more sustainable in the school environment and reduce the environmental impact of the whole school
- Promote environmental awareness
- To develop an awareness of global issues
- To develop a whole school approach in promoting environmental awareness – pupils, all staff, governors, parents and members of the local community.
- To help create a shared understanding of what is needed in order to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.
- To help develop pupils' decision-making skills
- To link environmental issues in with the curriculum as well as the daily running life of the school.

Eco Schools Scheme

(Eco Schools – Wales – Website www.eco-schoolswales.org)

The structure of the Eco-Schools process is made up of seven elements and this forms the basis of the programme. The seven elements include:

- The Eco Committee
- The Environmental Review
- The Action Plan
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Involve and Inform the Wider Community
- Eco Code

The Eco Committee is the key part in implementing the other elements. The pupils mainly drive the Eco Committee with the support of other adults. The Eco Committee then undertakes an Environmental Review and from this devises an action plan. The curriculum is also integrated. Progress is then evaluated and improvements are monitored. The Eco Committee need to involve and inform the wider community of their actions. The Eco Committee produce an Eco Code which is agreed with the rest of the school which reflects their aims and ethos.

The scheme covers the following topics: Litter, Waste Minimisation, Transport, Healthy Living, Energy, Water, School Grounds and Global Citizenship.

School Eco Committee

Electing the Eco Committee

The Eco Committee consists of students across the school and a Schools Co-ordinator). Committee members are elected by their class peers at the end of each academic year. To stand for election, pupils prepare a speech to present to their class explaining the reasons why they should be chosen to represent their class on the Eco Committee. All pupils in the class then complete a secret ballot choosing the students they think will be the best for the job.

The Running of the Eco Committee

At the start of the academic year in the initial meetings the roles within the committee will be decided. The pupils will be made aware of the roles: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officers and Litter-picking Manager and the responsibilities these roles entail.

The Curriculum

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd aims to link Eco-School activities into the curriculum in different ways. Activities will be incorporated into lessons that link in with the action plan covering different curriculum areas to embrace a cross curricular approach.

Implementation and Monitoring

- The Head Teacher and Eco Schools Coordinator will monitor the ethos and culture of the school to ensure it reflects a school that values caring for the environment and it is a whole school approach.
- To participate in and follow the Eco Schools Scheme..
- To complete Action Plans each academic year.
- To monitor and implement national and local initiatives when they arise.
- The Head Teacher and Healthy Schools Co-ordinator are to ensure there is adequate resources and if appropriate training for staff to ensure the school can educate and promote in caring for the environment.

The Role of the Eco Schools Coordinator

- To update the policy.
- To complete Action Plans each academic year to contribute to the School Development Plan.
- To participate in the Eco Schools Scheme.
- To keep staff informed of actions and new developments.
- To keep a portfolio of evidence of action areas.
- To co-ordinate / provide staff INSET.
- To involve outside agencies.

Cwricwlwm Cymreig

Where appropriate, students will be given the opportunity to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, physical and linguistic areas of Wales.

Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of race, gender, culture or disability shall have the opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of caring for their environment and developing a caring attitude. The school will promote equal opportunities.

Provision for Special Educational Needs

Educating students about caring for the environment forms part of our School policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all students. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of students with learning difficulties. All students will be included in all activities related to caring for the environment and teachers will differentiate activities to fit the needs of the students.

Health and safety

Health and safety issues will be considered in all activities and relate to the School's health and safety policy.

This policy will have close links to citizenship, education for sustainable development, personal and social education and health education.