



Deanshanger Primary School

Eco Policy

Deanshanger Primary School is committed to the core aims and objectives of the Eco Schools programme and leading the way in green awareness. Having achieved our Bronze and Silver Awards, we are now seeking to qualify for Green Flag Status.

The Eco team will encourage all staff to promote the values of the Eco Schools project in a variety of ways, for example through

- specific curricular links to the environment
- departmental links to environmental organisations
- competitions
- community involvement
- sourcing of environmentally friendly products for department
- departmental recycling initiatives
- use of the school grounds for learning

Pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff alike should be aware of and fully support the school's policy on Eco related matters in the school as detailed below:

Litter

- Pupils will be educated on the impact of litter in their local environment as well on the wider world, during the course of the curriculum, house activities and eco projects.
- All members of the school community should take responsibility for the collection of litter on the school site and on occasion, in the local community. Litter reduction and prevention is a process that involves all members of the school community.
- Pupils should regard litter clearing as positive environmental action. Litter collection should not be used as a punishment.
- Assemblies and audits should show pupils that litter prevention improves the environmental quality of the school and the neighbourhood.

School Grounds

The school's nature area is a preserved area of natural beauty. It should be kept as 'wild' but safe as possible.

- The school grounds should provide teaching and learning opportunities to enrich the experience of the pupils.
- Pupils should be able to play, learn, relax and make good connections with the natural environment within the school grounds.
- Habitat creation should promote biodiversity within the school grounds.
- Opportunities for gardening and growing produce are encouraged.

- The school grounds should be viewed as a part of the local community and as such pupils and staff alike should endeavour to make them a good show case for Eco work within the school.

Waste Minimisation

- Pupils should be aware that by minimising their waste they are contributing to the National Waste Strategy.
- The school aims to raise awareness of what schools can do to minimise waste going to landfill.
- The school community should aim to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste whenever it is practicable and beneficial. Children are involved in this on a weekly basis.
- The school community should appreciate the financial as well as the environmental benefits of waste minimisation and recycling activities. The school aims to work with the local community and council to reduce waste
- The council collects our food waste each week.

Sustainable Development

The school aims to carefully control its use of energy and new raw materials and to cut down on pollution and waste. The school encourages the recycling of used materials (currently paper, printer cartridges, textiles, batteries, cardboard).

Health and Well-being

We are part of Northamptonshire's Healthier Child Programme and have an action plan to ensure that we follow the highest standards and lead the way.

- The school has a comprehensive programme of physical activity and encourages pupils and staff to participate at all levels. This also extends to an early morning – 'Run a Mile in Style'.
- The school encourages healthy eating through its school dinner choices and festival events
- The school has a strict anti-bullying policy and encourages all members of the community to work as a team, co-operate with others and support each other. This is supported by the school's Anti-Bullying Committee which includes parents, governors, children and staff. Meetings are on a monthly basis.
- The school has a rigorous PSHE programme which promotes healthy attitudes and information pertaining to social and emotional development at all stages. Awareness of the risks of smoking, drugs, alcohol, Internet/social Networking abuse, sexual relationships, poor diet and bullying are part of the programme.
- The school is committed to improving the aesthetic qualities of the grounds to provide a stimulating and pleasant environment for all to work in.

Transport

Deanshanger Primary School aims to encourage and enable children and parents to walk, cycle and use public transport - there is an annual walk to school campaign.

Water

All members of the community should endeavour to reduce unnecessary water usage. We aim -

- to raise awareness of simple actions which can substantially cut down water use
- to educate pupils and the wider community to show how conserving water is vital for the future of our planet
- to will raise awareness of the link between clean water and good health in a global context
- encourage all pupils (and staff) to drink as much as possible. School branded water bottles are provided to all children (and staff).

Energy

At Deanshanger Primary School we aim to

- raise awareness of the importance of monitoring energy consumption by regularly tracking the school's use of gas, electricity and oil;
- make pupils aware of the link between energy supply, use and the potential for environmental damage ;
- make pupils aware of the link between energy use and financial cost and encourage a reduction in energy consumption wherever possible;
- ensure pupils are educated about alternate sources of energy;
- work in conjunction with Northants County Council to reduce energy costs wherever possible.

Food and the Environment

At Deanshanger Primary School we aim to -

- raise awareness of the value of healthy food production. This is modelled in our lunch time provider choice – Fresh Start.
- promote healthy and responsible food choices
- help pupils to recognise their own food culture within a diversity of food cultures – this is supported by working alongside the Tesco's 'Food to Fork' project
- support local producers of food and seasonal produce where possible and aims to help pupils to understand the wider environmental implications of our food choices