

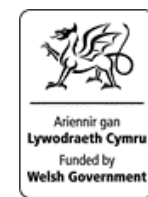


ECO-SCHOOLS WALES CASE STUDY

Reduce, reuse, recycle! Reinventing rubbish and rejuvenating our recycling.

Cefn Glas Infants Bridgend LEA

A whole school initiative to rejuvenate recycling in Cefn Glas culminating in Eco Week with our first ever Trashion Show!



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What did you do and how did you involve the whole school?

This year we have had a whole school focus on reducing, reusing and recycling. It began with a focus on bins, making sure all classes were recycling correctly. This turned our attention to managing food waste as at this time it was being put in the 'general waste' so led to an overhaul of our waste management with Veolia. Pupils then became inspired to manage paper waste in school; all non-confidential paper waste is now delivered to scrap paper trays and the new whole school rule is all paper must be used on both sides before it can be thrown away. Staff photocopying was a focus to further reduce the amount of paper used and via a graph of weekly photocopying staff were alerted to how much paper had been used. All families were invited to take part in 'The Big Plastic Count' and we were pleased by the response and it was interesting to see our plastic footprint.

How and why did you decide on this target?

Following an Eco Council meeting in which we were discussing the Eco Audit, recycling was brought up by 2 council members as they felt recycling wasn't being done properly in class. Following monitoring visits to classes, Eco council decided class bins were being used incorrectly, paper was being wasted and that Cefn Glas Infants wasn't doing enough to help reduce waste and help the planet. We decide that Recycling and reducing waste and paper usage needed to be a whole school focus and our main target for 2021/22.

How has the project impacted on your school and your community?

The impact on our school has been huge, we have rejuvenated our recycling habits, bins are being used correctly, food waste disposed of separately and our paper usage has been cut down by half. This impact has come from staff and huge effort to cut down on photocopying and by pupils who now use every tiny bit of paper available before it is thrown away. Parents were amazed their plastic footprint during the Big Plastic Count and state this has impacted on their daily habits. Parents and the community are using our recycle banks for batteries etc. and anticipation over feedback for the clothes bank is very positive.

How did you celebrate success and what are your next steps?

To celebrate our efforts through the year we held a Recycling themed Eco Week which culminated in Cefn Glas' first ever 'Trashion Show'. Over the week we learned about the importance of recycling correctly, plastic in our oceans, the problems of fast fashion and materials including clothes going to landfill instead of being recycled or reused. Then each child was challenged to make an item of clothing using only recycled materials at home. Eco Council felt that by making at home we were spreading our message to parents and families. The results were awesome. Pupils paraded their clothing on the Cefn Glas cat walk for the whole school to see and then wore them home to spread the word through the community.

Mrs Nixon 'I'm so happy with the effort everyone has put into saving paper and recycling this year. I think we have made a big difference.'

'I'm not going to moan about wearing my sister's clothes again' (Why?) ...because it's better to wear them till they are old than put them in the rubbish when there is nothing wrong with them!' Olivia, Yr 1

Fearne's mum – 'I've never been so good at recycling. If I don't put it in the correct bin she shouts at me!'

'I'm so sad for the fishes. We wouldn't put all that plastic in our house, would we?' Dylan, Yr 1



