



Eco Curriculum Statement

Why is Eco important?

Environmental education plays a vital role in giving children an awareness of environmental issues and the freedom to decide how is best to tackle these issues at both an individual and a community level. Children learn about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste: something that will be necessary to take with them throughout their lives. Knowledge and awareness of topics like sustainability and energy usage prepares children for their future: where environmental issues are becoming increasingly important. Eco seeks to develop children's resilience through the introduction of long-term challenges, mutual respect when they must listen to the opinions of others in meetings and encourages them to be a beacon of light in our community; inspiring others to follow in their footsteps.

What is Eco like at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery?

At St. George's Central, children from Reception to Year 6 are invited to attend our weekly Eco club where we follow the Eco-Schools guidance towards gaining our Green Flag status. Children take ownership of their duties which include:

- carrying out an environment audit of the school and its grounds.
- collectively forming an action plan based on the findings of our audit.
- working together to complete and monitor the actions on the action plan.

The Eco-Schools program addresses ten key topics which cover a broad enough range to allow the children to run projects that they are passionate about. These are:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Global Citizenship
- Healthy Living
- Litter
- Marine
- School grounds
- Transport
- Waste
- Water

Environmental education is taught in a variety of subjects, for example, in English, Geography and Science. The members of our Eco Council plan to update the school about their progress on a regular basis by using their display board and during assemblies. The wider community will also be notified of our actions and intentions using social media and newsletters. This ensures that all children in our school will leave their primary education with a sound environmental knowledge which will prepare them for life's journey. Eco work is also a central part of the work that takes places as part of the local community.

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

Ways to explore Spirituality in Eco

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery we believe that our curriculum should provide opportunities for children to develop a love of learning, so that they go on to make a positive difference to themselves, their community and the wider world. We have developed a definition of what we believe Spirituality is:

'Spirituality is...an understanding of how beliefs, values and experiences shape the identity of individuals, their spiritual disciplines and connections with life.'

Our Eco curriculum provides opportunities for spiritual development through/by

- *Creating opportunities for reflection on our relationship with God's creation and our place within it.
- *Exploring moral and ethical choices around sustainability and considering the impact of actions on our local and global community.
- *Teaching that promotes stewardship, gratitude, responsibility and respect for the natural world.
- *Allowing safe spaces for discussion about environmental issues, encouraging thoughtful listening and valuing different viewpoints.
- *Making links between Eco learning, Christian values and everyday lifestyle choices.
- *Allowing time for stillness, awe and wonder in nature, including moments of mindfulness and prayer outdoors.
- *Enabling reflection on spiritual growth through eco projects, environmental action, and community engagement initiatives.

Opportunities to celebrate Eco at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery

Attending the Eco-Schools conference, regular litter picks, working with outside agencies, eco events.

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