



Eco Schools.

Rationale.

It is very important at Alton Infant school to care about our environment. A lot of our Science work centres around the school grounds and the children are very aware that we need to look after the world around us to make it a safe and happy place for them to grow up in. We are also careful to care for the plants and animals in our immediate environment and the wider world.

Intention.

We intend to be as eco-friendly as possible in our school, in order to look after the environment both immediately around us and in the wider world in so far as possible. Children are the ones who will inherit our earth and we want them to be informed and able to feel that they make some difference.

Implementation.

As a Green Flag award winning school (through the Keep Britain Tidy scheme) we try very hard to think about how we can save electricity by turning off lights and computers when we are not in the room, and water by recycling our waste water to feed the plants. We have recently had solar panels fitted to the school and this has helped us to generate our own electricity to help offset our carbon foot print. We think hard about how to recycle all that we can, including composting our food waste from class snacks and having a recycling bin for the waste paper in our classrooms. Children are encouraged to act as monitors and take charge of the recycling and composting. Each class also has an eco-monitor who is responsible for making sure that we adhere to the school's eco policy which is displayed in every classroom.

In some other subjects across the curriculum, notably Science and English, we talk about endangered animals and discuss wider implications of global warming in a child friendly and proactive way. The children are very engaged and interested and ask pertinent and mature questions to further their own knowledge and this knowledge is, in turn, passed on to parents and carers. We also recycle batteries and metal and reuse milk bottle tops for phonics games and other activities.

Our Eco School ethos also connects very well with our Rights Respecting status and children are aware that they have the right to clean water – but know that they have the responsibility to not waste the water that they use. Children also have the right to nutritious food, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, but this comes with the responsibility to compost the fruit and vegetable waste. The compost is used on our own gardens and the Year 2 Gardening club make use of it on their vegetable plots to enrich the soil. The children know that they have the right to a clean and safe environment and know that it is their job to help to keep our school clean and safe and care for the equipment so that everyone can benefit and there is less breakage and loss. Finally, children have a right to an education and we feel that this right should help to educate them about the earth and the world

around them as well as teaching them the more traditional academic subjects. It is our hope that our children will grow up caring about the world and the environment around them and help to make the world a better place for every child that follows.