

All Different: All Equal: All Protecting Our Planet

Introduction

Taking decisive action against climate change and protecting our planet are of paramount importance to the pupils and students across The Gateway Learning Community. They deeply recognise that it's up to them to 'Be the Change'. With this understanding firmly in mind, they've diligently collaborated to build upon the impactful social action work they initiated during the last academic year. The Gateway Learning Community is embarking on a vital journey to empower its pupils to become catalysts for positive environmental change. Our collective aim is to foster a deep sense of responsibility towards our local environment and contribute significantly to safeguarding our planet's future. Our dedicated Eco Warriors have championed this initiative by committing to the following:

- **Inspiring Role Models:** Act as exemplary figures for their peers, families, educators, and the wider community, demonstrating unwavering commitment to ecological principles.
- **Cultivating Sustainability:** Champion the critical importance of environmental care, actively promoting the creation of allotments and the practice of growing our own food within the community.
- **Community Partnerships:** Forge strong collaborations with the Thurrock Pyramid Centre, leveraging collective efforts for greater environmental impact.
- **Driving Change:** Galvanize peers, families, educators, and the community to embrace sustainable practices through initiatives like our 'Eco Community Fests' and future plans for an environmental summit.
- **Leading Eco-Excellence:** Proactively identify and lead impactful change projects across all schools, striving to achieve the prestigious Eco-Schools Award.

Eco Pledges

All GLC primary academies continue to drive our Eco Pledge which was developed by the pupil/student leaders with their peers. In line with the GLC motto, they are all different, all equal and reflect the unique characteristics of each academy.





GATEWAY PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL ECO-PLEDGE

1



We will reuse, reduce and recycle as much as possible.

2



We will encourage students and staff to waste less food by composting appropriate foods that have not been eaten.

3



We will optimise our energy usage by turning off lights, interactive whiteboards and conserving energy where we can.

4



We will protect our environment in school and in the community, promoting and caring for biodiversity in the wider world.

5



We will encourage our community to take an active role in improving our environment by holding regular litter picks in different areas of our town. In doing this, we will educate the community on the detrimental impact that litter has on our environment and wildlife.





HERRINGHAM PRIMARY ACADEMY ECO-PLEDGE

We will care for and increase the biodiversity in our area, through planting and creating spaces for wildlife to grow and live.



1

2



We will optimise our energy usage, using class electricians to remind others to turn off switches and conserving energy where we can.

We will encourage students and our community to use their cars less, to help reduce pollution in our local area.



3

4



We will reuse, reduce and recycle as much as possible.

LANSDOWNE PRIMARY ACADEMY ECO-PLEDGE

We will reuse, reduce and recycle as much as possible.



1



2

We will encourage students and staff to waste less food by composting appropriate foods that have not been eaten.

We will optimise our energy usage by turning off lights, interactive whiteboards and conserving energy where we can.



3



4

We will protect our environment in school and in the community, promoting and caring for biodiversity in the wider world.

We will encourage our community to take an active role in improving our environment by holding regular litter picks in different areas of our town. In doing this, we will educate the community on the detrimental impact that litter has on our environment and wildlife.



5



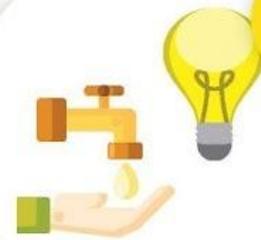
TILBURY PIONEER ACADEMY ECO-PLEDGE

1



All Pioneers will reuse, reduce and recycle as much as possible both in school and at home.

2



All Pioneers will save energy and water, wherever and whenever we can.

3



All Pioneers will support each other to waste less food and compost all that we can.

4



All Pioneers will strive to protect our environment in school and in our community, to care for bio-diversity across the planet.



Next Steps

- Continue to find different ways to communicate and encourage sign ups to the Eco Pledge, from young people, parents, staff and the community.

Eco Community Fests

Planning

Pupil leaders throughout The Gateway Learning Community haven't just talked about protecting our planet; they've actively championed its importance through numerous awareness campaigns.

Furthermore, each Eco Warrior team from each academy teamed up with Together productions to plan and deliver an 'Eco Community Fest', successfully fulfilling their goals of serving as positive role models, raising public awareness, and inspiring others to take action.

We were delighted that local estate agents were also able to help promote our Eco Fests with the use of their sale boards outside houses across Thurrock.



Eco Community Fests

Our eco leaders didn't work in isolation; they actively collaborated with Maths leads to weave environmental principles into 'My Money Week,' and teamed up with local partnerships, agencies and trades to really ensure a sense of belonging and a community feel in each academy.

A notable shift occurred with 'My Money Week over the last two years.' In past years, the planned activities often relied heavily on non-recyclable materials like plastics for crafts or as food and drink containers. This year [as last year], the eco leaders continued to drive their new guidelines that truly sparked creativity and sustainability. For example, instead of simply selling items, some stalls featured games made by recyclable materials, as well as archery and penalty shoot out games. Eco leaders also invited a reptile petting zoo, where families were able to purchase photos. Both pupils and staff quickly noticed that these health and wellbeing-focused activities were not only hugely popular but also among the most profitable.



"What a fantastic afternoon! Thank you so much for the invitation and the tour of your Eco Fest – it was my very first time inside the school. I truly enjoyed exploring and found my conversations with the students incredibly inspiring. It's clear the school is doing exceptional work in teaching the vital importance of care for all, a sentiment beautifully echoed in so many of the messages I saw displayed throughout."

- Counsellor Steve Liddiard



 **GLC Gateway Primary Free School**
All Different: All Equal: Together, Improving Upon Our Best

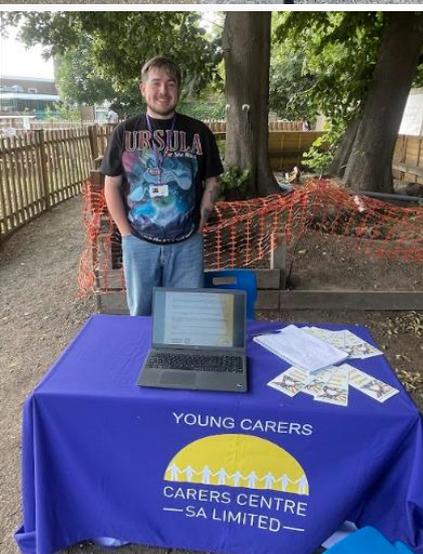






Community Partners

Community partners once again were thrilled to support the Eco Family Fests, showcasing their businesses and providing entertainment for families.





Eco Community Fest Outcomes and Benefits

- This year's Eco Community Fests were a tremendous success, growing notably in scale and combined with a genuine sense of family and collective care. Our Eco leaders highlighted the remarkable unity of the entire community, bringing together pupils, staff, parents, and local residents. They shared how all teams—including those not typically involved—and every class honed their communication and critical thinking skills to plan and execute such a large-scale event. The significant benefits derived were clearly recognised by all key stakeholders.

"Being an Eco Warrior this year has been amazing! I feel so much more confident speaking up and sharing ideas, especially when we were planning the Eco Fest. And it's not just about confidence; I feel a lot more compassionate too. Seeing how much effort everyone put into making our community and planet better has made me think more about how we treat everything and everyone around us. It's really changed how I see things." - Year 6 Eco Warrior at LPA

Highlights - Pupils/ Staff Perspective

- Togetherness of all teams pulling together
- Pupils taking the lead more than ever!
- A range of performance opportunities
- Community engagement - promoting local businesses
- Parent support was huge
- Everything sold was eco friendly
- Key messages and pledges

The GLC Eco Community Fest Data

	Children who planned	Children who participated	Parents	Partnerships	Governors	Money Raised
GA	4	0	0	0	0	0
GPFS	10	Whole School	80%	15	1	£598
HPA	12	Whole School	85%	7	1	£550
LPA	18	Whole School	96%	18	1	£1700
TPA	10	Whole School	95%	16	1	£1000

- Both the children and staff were thrilled by the strong turnout of parents and the incredibly positive feedback received from all attendees.
- The partnerships forged proved to be mutually beneficial and are set to grow even stronger next year. The local businesses will visit more often and support with further events that we plan to have.
- Funds raised will directly support future activities designed to boost sustainability both within our academies and the wider community.

Key Learning Points

- Planning for a large scale event.
- Planning in teams: roles for each of the pupils.
- Development of key learning competencies including critical thinking and creativity.
- Development of our core values throughout the whole process, particularly taking responsibility for the whole process and being aspirational.

Next Steps

- Advertise the Eco Family Fests more widely and ensure clarity about responsibilities earlier, including more pupils, parents and community partners
- In 2025-2026, the Family Fest will be further developed to add a Cultural aspect as part of the Telling Our Story project.

Colchester Zoo Educational Outreach

- The Eco-Warriors from across the trust had a fantastic opportunity to participate in an interactive learning experience with Colchester Zoo during Carers Week.
- The Eco-Warriors learnt about conservation and how it plays a huge part in protecting our planet. We gained an insight into endangered species and their declining numbers.
- By partaking in the Colchester Zoo outreach program, we developed our understanding of how we can contribute effectively to wildlife preservation efforts.



Food Waste Bins Initiative

We have introduced our new food bins within our lunch halls.

On the 31st March it will be illegal to put food waste into landfill.

Using the food bins is very important for several reasons.

Using food bins reduces food waste.

We will be sending our food waste to a bio collectors, where they will turn our waste into energy.



Eco warriors in each academy delivered assemblies to explain the importance of the food bins and how this will help turn our waste into energy. A small change can make a big difference.

Next steps:

- Monitor the usage in each school
- Tweak the systems that are in place to ensure the food waste scheme is in place
- Learn from each academy to improve standards

Our work within our school and the local community....



- We have held local letter picks within the community.
- We reuse recycle whenever possible.
- We respect and take care of animals and we actively try to attract wildlife to our school.
- We work together to raise awareness of our eco code.

Eco Schools Award



All GLC academies have continued to work hard on achieving the Eco Schools Award. Gateway Primary Free School, Herringham Primary Academy and Lansdowne Primary Academy have achieved their award. Miss Bevan supported the leads to complete their application.

Next Steps

- Continue to explore the Eco Schools framework to identify areas to develop and gather the impact
- All schools to achieve the Green Flag award.
- To continue developing each school allotment;
- To continue to grow our own food;
- To create growing stalls and market, in order to sell the food that we grow, which links to our healthy living topic.

