



GCBBS SCHOOLS ECO IDEAS SWAP EVENT

3RD MARCH 2020

Thank you for attending our second GCBBS Schools Eco Ideas Swap Event. We hope you left feeling inspired and better armed to make green changes at your school. You'll find below notes taken at the event, which include links to resources where mentioned by the speakers.

The 2 main takeaways we'd like you to focus on are: [switching to green energy](#) (and more than halving your carbon emission in the process) and run an anti-idling campaign (feel free to use our [GCBBS anti-idling leaflet](#)). You will also find our [list of schools funding opportunities](#) very useful.

And please consider joining our GCBBS Schools Eco Ideas & Support Forum Facebook group to be informed of further events and ask questions / share tips:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/459187921314258/>

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SCHOOLS HEADLINE TALKS

ALEXANDRA INFANTS

Jessica Farrand, parent.

Doing: Small initiatives. Fundraising for green screen wall now. Applied to mayor's fund summer 2019. December found out not successful. Found Meristem who build living screens and green screens and install in 2 days, 2 metres high. Addison Lee pledged £5000 of £14000. £2000 pledged in five days from crowdfunding. Meristem offers a 10% discount for GCBBS members.

Future plans: install the screens at Easter.

ALEXANDRA JUNIORS

Nicole Lucas, Teacher, New to role.



Doing: Gardening club. PTFA involved. Collecting crisp packets to make waterproof sleeping bags for the homeless. Mini election showed focus on environment. Energy monitoring- pupils monitoring teachers re lights, laptops left off. Using food waste from kitchen.

Future Plans: Pond to increase biodiversity. Massive playing fields – not being used. Being done on 21st.

Would welcome help on: Bromley brush up – litter picking in local area. Trying for bronze eco schools but at start of journey – any support and ideas to be gladly accepted

BICKLEY PRIMARY

Emilie MacMullen on behalf of Elisabeth Blake, Headteacher

Doing: Eco school award. Big grounds. Gardening. Terracycle. Realise doing more green things has built up communities – 3 schools very close to each other and working together on litter picking. Working with the local pre schools around Anti-idling. Not to dress up for world book day- bring a book and do a swap. Recycling through BIFFA now. All the trust cooperating. Warren Road coming to talk about outdoor classrooms and teaching.

Future plans: Recycling art show across the schools and inviting the community. Working with older neighbours on gardening and recycling art projects.

Crofton Primary

Mrs Jolly, Deputy Headteacher

Doing: Communication: Celebrate what they do and make sure parents know what done across both schools. Assemblies to parents around green issues eg recycling. Forest school- all year groups. Site staff onboard – changing to LED lightbulbs. Travel ambassadors. Gold/Silver awards Eco School. Environment is a curriculum drivers. Bike and storage parks. Catering- meat free Mondays. PTA/PSA recycle school uniform. TFL for all school trips, not coaches. Thames Water and Air Quality surveys. IT shut down all computers every night. Recycle paper. Food recycling on hold after some overnight visitors. Juniors, solar panels on the roof. Photocopy key to stop waste paper. Terracycled playground benches. Infants will save by recycling. Bromley Big Brush. Working group with parents.

DALMAIN PRIMARY

Zaria Greenhill, Parent

Doing: Tree planting, forest schools

Future plans: focused in April on Schools Street, right by South Circular. June 18th clean air day (play streets). Climate change exhibition of children's work – open to the public.



Can offer help on: School streets and play streets (mostly for Lewisham but happy to advise), LEEF (London Environmental Educators' Forum)

GORDONBROCK PRIMARY

Nikki Connelly, Deputy Head

Doing: Early in journey. Year 6 student asked to do assembly and then to get other students involved each year. Educating children and talk to parents at home. Huge idling banners and largely ignored. Want children to go home and pester. Big display changed weekly with letters written to companies/ borough issues. Eco tip of the week to all parents. Low power hour, get readings and compare- talk about how much saved.

Future plans: Need to get PTA, Governors and other teachers involved.

HARRIS PRIMARY- BECKENHAM

Rebecca Pizer, Reception Teacher / ECO Lead /SENCO Lead

Doing: Multiple staff engagement: SENCO and eco lead Works with outdoor learning lead & science lead. Eco schools Silver Award. Gold award on travel plan (community engaged).

Eco warriors fight with plastic – Working with catering company to reduce the packaging supplied. Meat free Mondays, increasing to two days. Campaign to fizzle out glitter- removed in one class and no one noticed.

Allotment started and involving all children. Own version of Forest School – challenge in linking to OSFTED rules. Able to access a pond outdoors.

Campaign idling and other issues poster campaign across the school, in newsletters, on website. One parent met Bromley Green Team to see what could be done and got poor reply- “no idea” from council.

Future plans: Getting wormery.

HAYES PRIMARY

Sam Fahy, PTA Green Lead

Doing: Compost bins for kids. Terracycle crisps, make up and baby food.

Doing drive on anti-idling - Leaflets in school bags. Trying not to drive to school. Every Wed is walk to school Wednesday.

As a PTA steps in place for no single use plastic for PTA events. Some challenges with hot drinks. Litter pick after school events every time.

Lots of green space- millennium garden left to decay, being redeveloped. Purge on trees- urban tree challenge fund (meets half the cost). School eco council planting Xmas trees at Forresters and in



return will get some seedlings.

School trips- lunch was in plastic bag and thrown away. Now changed, reusable stuff taken.

JOHN DONNE PRIMARY

Ruth Beesley, Year 4 Teacher (NQT)

Doing: Getting children's point of view.

Project on activism. Saw what the problems were and that they can make change. Children all inspired. WWF came to do a workshop- talked jobs etc. Thing they want to change – plastic, letters to head and to supermarkets to cut down single use plastic. Mini protest with signs and marched down the road. Stood outside Sainsbury's. Chanting outside the Head's office. Got reusable water bottles for trips.

A LOT to do as a school. No laminating. No covering books. Felt tip pen and ink cartridges recycling.

Future plans: Setting up gardening club,

Would welcome help on: Keen to become eco school and how to do green screen. Recycling pencils.

LAFONTAINE ACADEMY

Michael Tirrell, Deputy Headteacher

Doing: recycling around the school- pens, batteries, glue sticks.

Refillable bottles, reusable cups etc.

Just moved into schools. Sensor lighting in rooms.

Working with other schools on local park clean ups.

Good on global issues (kids) but not always clear what they can do themselves. Eco council 30-40 kids meet fortnightly, priorities decided. At the moment it's idling. Poster competition. Signs all around the school. Children writing to the community including parents in letters home.

Future plans: Looking at biodiversity- playground nearly finished building. Tree plants and grow your own. One teacher saying bees should be an option.

LANGLEY PARK SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Oci Stott, KS5 Teacher and Eco Schools programme

Doing: New to this. Group of teachers were concerned as no focus so spoke to catering, Head, etc and just getting up and running. Reduced plastics in catering. Got some recycling in place- plastics, food waste.

Future plans: Trying to become an eco-school and wanting student leads. It's a challenge, as small group committed people but seen as very uncool, and scale (2000 young people). Resistance from children more than with younger children. Classroom attitudes poor throw stuff in wrong bins. Some stuff starting but need more guidance.



Would welcome help on: How to motivate older children to get involved and change the mindset that being eco friendly is uncool.

MYATT GARDEN PRIMARY

Sally Williams, Headteacher

Doing: Embedded into curriculum in all areas.

School council from children led way on recycling. Using less paper. Recycle batteries and pens.

Composting fruit snacks. Book swap. Tiny allotment producing lots.

Awareness raising assemblies. Drawing on parent expertise. Climate Change and Policy parent and biodiversity parent. Reducing electricity, turning heating down etc. assemblies can be taken home to talk to parents.

Big banners for anti-idling funded by estate agents using children's art. Air Quality champion at council- idling currently but likely to expand.

Safer streets campaign- closed school streets twice so people could play, supported by council.

Community supportive and engaged. Shortlisted for school streets so closed every day at drop off and pick up.

Future plans: Air Quality monitoring assessment. Greening classrooms and outside- no grass. Increasing bike and scooter storage.

PARISH PRIMARY

Maria Staines, PTA

Doing: Eco school Awards. School Terracycle. Eco reps for school just joined PTA to help make it greener.

Future plans: Wants to implement food waste collection. Plans for pond and growing vegetables.

PERRY HALL PRIMARY

Caroline Mace, PTA and Parent Governor, heavily involved in the school.

Doing: Head and eco lead in the school are very supportive.

Food waste: composting all food waste with newly installed Ridan composter. Raised money through co-op: huge compost bin and maturation boxes. Learning as they go. Looking at reducing waste at the source by monitoring volume of waste post lunch and feeding back to Nourish, the catering company to focus menus on what kids like.

Gardening: Use compost in edible garden. Children raised bed per year. Grow linked to curriculum.

RHS gardening award, some extra plants. Have chickens and chicken club and ducks. Caught hedgehog on trail camera 😊

Single wall stainless steel bottles, wholesale account. Half children have bought one. No single use at PTA event. Use veg ware for home composting. Got rid of glitter- big blue day. Terracycle at public drop off.



Fundraising: Coop, Veolia and others funded. Events – food and gardening for fundraising. Match giving for events. Better energy award competition. Abel and Cole good food fund.

PICKHURST

Regan Anderton, Parent

Doing: Small tweaks: secret Santa for Xmas cards rather than filling out 30 cards and used as class displays. Swapped cartons for milk to large cartons and cups- kids washing up. Swapping plastic glowsticks for battery powered reusable ones. Bring and buy toys books and clothes on Fridays. Using up food each week. Chickens, small composting, mini allotment, wormery, bug hotel. NOURISH themed menus e.g. pirates, Gruffalo- asking them to hero the veg (not name as horrid).

PLUMCROFT PRIMARY

Tamasin Rhymes, Governor

Doing: Challenges linked to Urban school: Lots of students and very limited space inside and out (AstroTurf and old buildings). Lot of interest/ concern but little time and no money to do anything. Need to capitalise on willingness. Meeting the Head to talk about what needs to be done and why. Focus of art week on state of the planet. A week to talk together about what can be done. Allotment was abandoned and now reusing it- runs own catering so allotment food going in. Veg scraps go back to the bins. Want kids to see the cycle of food and involved. Passion for dressing up days- starting library of fancy dress. Second hand uniform sales and using what can't be sold differently (Scrunchies, bunting, buttons bank). Campaign against idling. Greenwich have installed CCTV (dangerous parking and driving on corner). Walk to school days and storage for bikes.

SANDHURST

Rebecca Dove, Headteacher

Doing: Governor recycling. Lewisham play out. Highly recommend Picture News - every week discussion point (cheap as only £130 / year for online subscription). Green team run by parents- memorial garden, making own green screens. Energy monitoring. Anti-idling. Got rid of prizes – kids have stamps on a card and into draw for one prize.

Future plans: Complete switch to sustainable energy.

Would welcome help on: How to stop attracting rats when composting.

ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY

Kathy Tormann, PTA green fundraising team

Doing: Early stage on journey (9 months ago gave out plastic water bottles- the norm, archaic now). Easy wins- not giving out stuff they don't need. No drinks bottles at events. Didn't sell glowsticks and



no one complained. Had mug amnesty and used for PTA events. Mother's Day shop for children, wrapped beautifully (not doing now). Increased use of IT and cutting down paper use. Made own Xmas crackers. Tiny school and no outside space owned (common land).

New ideas- world book day costume swap. Not many donated. Will ask for them after the day for next year. Halloween and Xmas jumpers.

Future plans: Working towards permissions for planters around school. Festival style cups for cold drinks. Zero waste prizes at summer fetes.

Can give help on: Making your own Christmas crackers, fundraising

Would welcome help on: Tips to work with the rest of the Trust.

UNICORN PRIMARY

Grace Bartlett, Parent

Doing: At beginning of journey. School agreed to work toward eco schools award.

Uniform sales working well. Blue bin all year round outside the school. Pop it in any day you like. Checked, takes home, washes, small fixes. Labels on outside with size so parents can find stuff. Stored in plastic boxes in PTA shed stored in order (at least once a half term) unpacks everything across giant tarpaulin in size order. Sold x700 pieces, making about £1k for the school and saving parents and estimated £2.5k.

Would welcome help on: Eco school accreditation advice.

WORSLEY BRIDGE PRIMARY

Martha Taylor-Phillips, PTA sustainability officer

Doing: New to journey. Green team to PTA (sustainability officers). Started with Christmas fair. Took away bins and had one recycling stall with cardboard boxes and talked to people about what to do. Outside traders (sustainable). Xmas jumper donations. Kids did decorations with no glitter and used around the school. Mother's Day donated yoghurt pots, covering in fabric and planting. Secondhand book fair. OPAL outside play and learning using donated equipment from parents.

VALLEY PRIMARY

Tanya Scott, PTA chair

Doing: Work very closely with Head. Head had long wish list. Raised funds for mezzanine in library initially and now focus on outside (grounds not well used). Early 2019 researching funds. TV event got people interested with a focus on school grounds and air quality.

Greening Valley project, tailored bids. Award £30k mayor, Coop local, £5k Thames Water, over 500 trees.



Outdoor learning block. Orchard pruned and story telling space. Wildflower meadow. Committed to eco school. All prizes for Xmas fair donated.

Future plans: Sensory garden, Green gateway to infants entrance, seating planters, trees, edible planting, scooter storage. Improve adventure playground. Field- low pollution route into school through field.

COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- Anti idling campaign: Bromley Council will launch an idling campaign in April. [Free GCBB anti idling flyer](#) is also available for schools to circulate in this pack.
- [Schools funding list](#)
- [GCBB list of eco resources for schools](#)
- [GCBB Eco school calendar](#): plan ahead to reduce waste
- Green screens / living screens: <https://www.meristemdesign.co.uk/> (10% off when mentioning GCBB)
- Food composters: <https://www.ridan.co.uk/>
- Picture News: <https://www.picture-news.co.uk/>
- Eco school awards: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/about/howitworks/the-awards/>
- Trade card for Provender nurseries- mature nurseries (50% off) PTA etc can apply for own: <https://www.provendernurseries.co.uk/>

EXPERTS TALKS

DR JUDY JOHN, BROMLEY BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Schools can do a lot: create wildlife habitats, track and monitor plants and look at animals on them. When planting, plant native species to get native invertebrates etc. Keep small area scrub for birds and pollinators. Mixed species hedgerow, free whips from Woodland Trust. Need grounds staff who are sympathetic and willing to do a little bit to keep things done such as creating a mini meadow in a corner, letting grass grow, stopping using pesticides. Over 40% of UK species have been lost. Be a hedgehog and / toad champion if in the area.

More information:

- [Be a hedgehog and /or toad champion information pack](#)

ANDREW RUCK ON SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL, BULLERS WOOD SCHOOL FOR BOYS GOVERNOR

Brand new school, in second year. Given assemblies and sharing messages. All children to walk, scoot, cycle, public transport. Why matters- pollution, most kids not getting enough exercise in daily routine. Active independent travel being encouraged. Key objection to school was the concern of carnage on the roads, cause gridlock- council refused planning twice. Condition of planning was school to be a beacon for sustainable travel in the borough. No park zone around the school (500m



away) over 80% using sustainable routes.

Focus on - independence, exercise, mental wellbeing, helps with learning, effect on environment, contribute to society. Governor has a lead on policing this!

Home-school agreement contains it and is signed up to. Armed pupils with stats. Thinking competition, Fitbit and steps. Using bike training from council.

PARISA DANVERS ON AIR QUALITY PROJECTS, FOUNDER OF GREENER & CLEANER BROMLEY (& BEYOND)

Air pollution- 64,000 UK deaths per year linked to Air Pollution (more than smoking). And yet we do very little and don't talk about it much. Two main pollutants: Nitrogen Dioxide (out of cars) (at height of children and buggies) and PM2.5 tiny particle we breathe and straight into bloodstream – foetuses and children affected, and development slowed and lung growth slowed. Pretty horrendous stuff that you can't see it. Pollution from cars, diesel bad, HGVs, wood burning stoves DEFRA for an hour (as much as 18 diesel cars for an hour).

Solution: Active travel, school streets, anti-idling should obviously be the focus but living in London, there are many schools with classroom directly outside of busy and congested roads. For every metre away from emitting cars, PM2.5 and nitrogen dioxide decrease. Barriers improve it more but they cost a fair amount of money and schools are notoriously cash strapped.

Ivy green screens, 2m high, 20cm deep, reduce PM2.5 particles between 23 and 40% (recommended by Kings College).

Purifiers in classroom clean up the air by 80-90% so a combination of both is ideal in set ups where the class windows give directly onto the road.

Leylandii hedges, 2 m high and 1.8m thick, have also been proven to effectively trap PM2.5 but require much more space.

[Parisa's research](#) is available in the pack for those of you interested in finding out more.

How to raise funds?

- You might be lucky if your school is in a Liveable Neighbourhoods Programme with TFL and council, such as Valley Primary School being in the catchment of the Shortlands, Ravensbourne and Bromley Better Villages (SRBBV).
- Get in touch with your local councillors and ask for their help.
- Trawl Twitter and message specialists and companies which bursaries / funding programmes
- Get the community together and organise event. Valley hosted a preloved clothes sale organised by Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond) and, in combination with a silent auction, raise almost £6k.

TAMASIN RHYMES, GREEN ENERGY SWITCH

Switching to Green Energy can decrease your school carbon footprint by at least 50%.

The good news is that the process is getting easier fast. Lots of changes to market mean both Green Electricity and Gas are possible. Fixed flex tariffs mean energy price can drop too. Get school on side,



get the bills together, meter details, site address, know type of meter. Need to know if contract individually, through a Trust or through council.

Then Use SchoolSwitch, a comparison tool created by Crown Commercial on behalf of the Department for Education (<https://schoolswitch.crowncommercial.gov.uk/>) or go to an Energy Broker. Once have quotes, have to agree quickly.

New apps and technology means you monitor energy use hourly down to room level.

More information: Tamasin has very helpfully prepared a [Green Energy Switch pack](#) that can be circulated to your school or trust business manager.

NADIA SMITH, SELCE SUSTAINABLE FUTURES PROJECT MANAGER

South East London Community Energy (SELCE) is an award winning not-for-profit social enterprise. Taking action on climate change and fuel poverty lies at the heart of their business model. SELCE aims to speed-up the renewable revolution by capitalising on the power of community.

Although their initial focus was on solar power, SELCE is now leading the way on installing LED lights in schools. Schools get equipment upfront and can then pay small amounts back, meaning you don't have to have the full sum upfront. It reduces bills and creates healthier environment. For same amount of light, LEDs use a lot less energy (up to 75%) and last 5x longer. They also have an impact on wellbeing and health- reduces headache, increases alertness.

More info is available on <http://www.selce.org.uk/>.

SOPHIA KNOWLES ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, VEOLIA BROMLEY'S EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH MANAGER

VEOLIA – 8 year contract for waste management collection, recycling and street cleaning.

Recycling is currently not available for schools in Bromley although the council is reviewing its position on the matter due to increased demand and the fact that other councils commission Veolia to pick up recycling as part of their contract.

Schools support- The Veolia Recycling Fund awards communities grants of up to a maximum of £1k (£2k if your project reduces plastic waste). Veolia has supported project to the sum of £40k so far and can also send volunteers to help sometimes.

More info:

- The Veolia Recycling Fund: www.veolia.co.uk/london/recyclingfund
 - What can I recycle in Bromley:
https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/2521/recycling_guide
 - What happens to my recycling:
https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/524/household_waste_and_recycling/1356/what_happens_to_my_recycling
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ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES

ZARIA GREENHILL, LEEF (LONDON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS' FORUM)

Zaria is the coordinator of the London-wide network of educators who offer training, networking, support and resources on a city-wide level. They offer a number of events that may be useful to teachers, and membership would offer them the chance to attend free members events, and more networking with appropriate organisations that may help them. They can join our mailing list for free and find out more about the green opportunities in the area, and beyond. www.leef.org.uk/join-leef.html

Claire Jones, Maintenant

MAINTENANT Sustaining Now is a social enterprise providing high quality training and support on issues of sustainability and the climate crisis.

They work with primary schools, providing CPD for teachers to enable them to integrate the holistic ideas of sustainability into their teaching and providing resources to use including our FREE educational hub. They also work in Higher Education giving students the understanding and guidance they need to be impactful in their future workplaces and everyday lives. They have produced sustainable card games to be used by individuals, schools and communities to understand the issues and solutions facing the world today.

More information: <https://maintenant.org.uk/>

Laura Dempsey, Volunteers for Future

'Volunteers for Future' work in partnership with leading conservation organisations to help young people feel engaged, inspired and empowered to take action in their local communities. Our amazing volunteers are deliver free workshops to primary schools in London.

More information: please email laura@volunteersforfuture.org or visit us at <https://m.facebook.com/volunteersforfuture/>

Gail Freeman, Global Action Plan / Transform Our World

[Global Action Plan](#) is the charity behind [Clean Air Day](#).

What's available for schools on air pollution / for Clean Air Day?

As part of our work we support schools to take action on air pollution; there are a raft of [free resources for schools](#) here, on the [Clean Air Day website](#), including KS1, KS2 and KS3, as well as posters, leaflets, banners, Clean Air day action plans, stickers, school newsletter templates etc.

What is Transform our World?



It brings together top-rated, free, practical, and curriculum-linked resources to help teachers empower students to think globally and act locally. The “For teachers/schools” page on the website also has a nice explanation of what TOW is if that is useful: <https://www.transform-our-world.org/about/for-teachers-schools> .

We want the website to be a true hub, that teachers come back to and meet like minded peers on. With that in mind, the website will host a Transform Our World community - a chance for teachers who are on a collective mission to connect with one another. Teachers can also set up their own account where they can gather all their favourite resources together for easy access.

Sign up using this link:: <https://globalactionplan.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=806a1249ac4cf82c43096e23b&id=dadea11b07>
