

# Environmental Review

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## What we had to do

We had to complete a review of Little Heath School against each of the ten Eco-Schools topics:

- **Biodiversity**, caring for all plants, animals and insects.
- **Energy**, reducing energy use and investigating greener energy sources.
- **Global Citizenship**, working with others on local and global issues.
- **Healthy Living**, improving mental and physical well-being.
- **Litter**, taking action to reduce litter in your local area and beyond.
- **Marine**, protecting rivers, canals, lakes, oceans and the plants and animals that inhabit them.
- **School Grounds**, enhancing your learning environment.
- **Transport**, travelling in an environmentally-friendly manner.
- **Waste**, refusing, reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling.
- **Water**, protecting our most important natural resource.

We scored one point for each 'Yes' answer.

## Completed By

All members of the Eco-Committee were involved as they were split into sub groups for each topic. This includes students from Year 7 to Year 13.

November 2022

## Positives

- We have a bat box, a pond and quite a lot of trees and hedgerows
- We promote second uniform sales and Bag2School collections
- Our canteen switched to plates and metal cutlery once our new building opened (April 2021)
- We have some solar panels and can monitor energy on some newer buildings, and A Block built to meet BREEAM regulations
- We have a Diversity Society who organised a Cultures Day and Evening event for the first time in 2022
- As a school we are very focussed on mental health/wellbeing
- Students have a lot of choice/input into charitable giving
- We have daily litter picks and staff also litter pick
- We have outdoor areas of the school which could be improved
- Students are quite good at walking/cycling/taking the bus to school and we have lots of bike sheds
- Letters are generally sent home by email and the Papercut system has helped to improve unnecessary printing

## Negatives

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- We haven't done very well at any of the topics in the review!
- Our litter picking isn't very effective, attitudes to dropping litter need to change. We receive complaints about litter in the local area
- Bins are often overflowing and recycling bins are unclear meaning the wrong items get put in the recycling bins
- Healthier or plant based options in the canteen are sometimes dearer
- Lots of school buildings are old and not very energy efficient
- Lots of lights and equipment left on in classrooms – culture change
- Not much focus on sourcing Fair Trade, FSC etc products
- Attempts in the past to grow food/plants in Inclusion have been short lived due to willing volunteers to support it

## More Thoughts

- Voted to focus on LITTER, SCHOOL GROUNDS and ENERGY
- *Other ideas:* Greenhouse; non uniform day for conservation charity; House charity fundraising days; Canteen to sell water bottles rather than bottled water; battery for solar panels; send energy saving tips to parents