

Eco-Schools Action Plan

School name: The Discovery School

Eco-Schools topics: Energy, Litter, Marine

Date range of this plan: September 2025 – July 2026

Our overall aim for these topics:

Work with the school and Governors to become a more sustainable school. So, our focus this year will be to cut our carbon footprint, get our Community, Well-being garden up and running so the children can grow their own fruit and vegetables and maintain liaisons with our partner school in Africa.

Topic	Actions	How will you implement the identified action?	What will success look like?
Energy - How can we reduce the impact of our carbon footprint?	Invite and encourage children, staff, and families to partake in Cut Your Carbon campaign in November.	Email staff and parents. Update webpage with details of the Cut Your Carbon campaign. Eco Council assembly explaining why it is important.	90% or more of the Cut Your Carbon checklist activities are completed. 70% or more children and staff engage with the campaign.
	Calculate school's carbon footprint.	Eco-Coordinator to liaise with Head Teacher and Sustainability Council (led by the Chair of Governors) to complete 'Count Your Carbon'.	School's carbon footprint will be calculated. School Cut Your Carbon goals to be set.
	Re-introduce the 'traffic light' system around the school and ensure all classes have a Light Monitor (to switch off classroom lights).	Traffic light system to clearly identify which switches should be left on, and which can be turned off. Light Monitor to ensure lights are switched off when required or on leaving the classroom.	Children's awareness will be increased and behaviours changed in school and at home. (Through a survey before and after). Energy usage will decrease.

Topic	Actions	How will you implement the identified action?	What will success look like?
Energy - continued	Introduce an energy efficient heating and window protocol.	Eco-Coordinator to liaise with Senior Leadership Team and School Business Manager. Eco Council to inform classes of the new protocols.	Children's awareness will be increased and behaviours changed in school. Energy usage will decrease.
	Take part in Switch Off Fortnight.	Eco Council to audit electricity usage, before, during and after. Launch assembly and update website with the campaign to encourage parents to get involved too.	Children's awareness will be increased and behaviours changed in school and at home. Energy usage will decrease.
	Celebrate Earth Hour.	Eco Council to hold an assembly introducing Earth Hour and suggested actions or activities that can be done in 60 minutes to encourage everyone to 'Give an hour for Earth' by taking positive action for the planet.	Children's connection to nature, sustainability and Earth will be deepened.
	Post regular energy saving tips on the school's website and in the newsletter.	Eco-coordinator to organise and post tips regularly.	Children's voice sharing their energy usage at home.

Topic	Actions	How will you implement the identified action?	What will success look like?
Litter - How can we educate the children on the environmental impact of litter?	Make posters reminding everyone which bin to put their rubbish in.	Eco Council to design posters and distribute around the school.	Litter to be disposed of in the correct bin.
	Continue with litter picking club.	Teaching assistant to run a litter picking club during lunchtime.	Less litter around the school grounds.
	Organise a school litter pick. Including Big School Clean.	Take part in the Big School Clean. Monitor the type and quantity of litter collected.	Tally sheet will collate data. Reduced litter around the school grounds.
	Organise a community litter pick.	Eco Council to do a community litter pick. Monitor the type and quantity of litter collected.	Tally sheet will collate data. Reduced litter around the local community (close to the school).
	Organise a river litter pick.	Eco Council to do a river litter pick. Monitor the type and quantity of litter collected.	Tally sheet will collate data. Reduced litter around the local community (close to the school). Compare results with the community litter pick.
	Post tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle litter on the school's website and in the newsletter.	Eco-coordinator to organise and post tips.	Children's voice sharing their reduce, reuse, recycling at home.

Topic	Actions	How will you implement the identified action?	What will success look like?
Marine - How can we reduce the amount of single-use plastic?	Introduce a single-use plastic and glitter protocol limiting to Christmas time only.	Eco-Coordinator to liaise with Senior Leadership Team and School Business Manager. Eco Council to inform classes of the new policy.	Staff and pupils will be more aware of the effects of single-use plastic on the environment and their health.
	Introduce a laminating protocol.	Eco Council to make posters explaining what to and what not to laminate. Eco-Coordinator to liaise with Senior Leadership Team and School Business Manager. Eco Council to inform classes of the new policy.	Staff and pupils will be more aware of the effects of laminating with single-use plastic.
	Invite and encourage children, staff, and families to partake in World Environment Day – Ending Plastic Pollution.	Email staff and parents. Update webpage with details of World Environment Day. Eco Council assembly explaining why it is important.	70% or more children and staff engage with the campaign.
	Plastic activism challenge.	Eco Council introduce a single-use plastic art challenge. Each year group to create a piece of art showing the effect of single-use plastic on marine life.	Children's awareness of the effect that plastic pollution has on the local and marine environment will be increased.
	Post tips on how to reduce the amount of single-use plastic on the school's website and in the newsletter.	Eco-coordinator to organise and post tips.	Children's voice sharing how they've reduced their use of single-use plastic at home.

Which of the UN Sustainable Development Goals does our Eco-Schools Action Plan cover?

Circle at least one which we can link our Eco-Schools work to this year:



This is a suggested addition to your Action Plan. For more information about the SDGs please visit www.eco-schoolsni.org "About Us" section.