



Learning for Sustainability

Introduction

The big issues that affect our planet such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and global poverty, require a population committed to living equitably within ecological limits and to finding solutions that enable them to do so.



Democracy needs people who recognise the importance and value of participation and of making their voice, and the voices of others, heard. Addressing the injustices and inequalities in and between societies requires people who care about social justice and human rights, who recognise that our lives are inextricably linked and that, in our interdependent and globalised world, we all have a role in both creating and addressing injustice.

We are part of rather than apart from nature, and so the threat to biodiversity is a threat to ourselves, and understanding and acting to preserve biodiversity calls out for people who are ecologically literate and are deeply connected to the natural world.

Learning for sustainability (Lfs) involves learners actively participating in environmental stewardship, social justice and democracy in ways that develop a sense of connection to the local, national and global community to build understanding of their own and the school's role within these communities.

Learning for sustainability is about who we are and the type of community and world we want to live in. It is about improving the quality of life and the wellbeing of all. It is very much about the here and now, the present day, but also about the future.

ethical issues environmental stewardship peace and conflict
human rights school linking culture engaging with democracy
outdoor learning respect waste reduction and recycling
resilience skills for work community partnerships curriculum
learners as leaders tackling climate change international education
creativity cooperative, collaborative and active learning

learning for sustainability

play ethos contact with nature local to global
sustainable buildings and grounds developing political literacy
addressing discrimination and prejudice social justice
discussing controversial issues protecting biodiversity
sustainable development education systems thinking
critical thinking fair trade problem solving global citizenship
improving attainment and achievement equality and fairness
children's rights growing food identity and heritage
values-based links between environment, society and economy
reducing energy and water use health and wellbeing
tackling poverty and inequity social and cultural diversity

Learners experience belonging to groups; actively protecting, conserving and transforming their physical environment; building relationships with local people, and engaging in genuinely reciprocal partnerships across generations and nations. This fosters attitudes of love and care, and a high regard for interdependence and collective wellbeing.

Jordanhill School has been awarded the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award as part of its wider commitment to Lfs and pupils from Primary and Secondary have agreed and published a [Jordanhill School Charter](#).



What is Learning for Sustainability?

Learning for sustainability encompasses *sustainable development education, global citizenship and outdoor learning*. It is

A whole school approach that enables the school and its wider community to build the values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and confidence needed to develop practices and take decisions which are compatible with a sustainable and equitable society.

Sustainable development education, global citizenship and outdoor learning provide motivational, relevant, challenging and creative learning experiences which engage learners and improve behaviour, attitudes and attainment.

Eco School

Jordanhill was first recognised as an [Eco School](#) in 2008 and having been awarded three Green Flags now has permanent Eco School status.

The creation of ecologically valuable habitats formed part of our campus redevelopment. (See campus design below.)

The Eco Committee of pupils and staff have built on this work and seek to embed eco/health across the curriculum and life of the school

- ♦ Going Green Weeks
- ♦ Bag2school Recycling Appeals
- ♦ Planning eco garden and play opportunities
- ♦ Gardening club
- ♦ Knitting for India
- ♦ Community and national litter picking campaigns
- ♦ Support for international charities focused on sustainability
- ♦ Community and campus awareness programme with Strathclyde Police S1-S3

Within Jordanhill School learning for sustainability is reflected in a range of key aspects of our work

- ✓ Eco School
- ✓ Fair Trade
- ✓ Rights Respecting School
- ✓ Primary Harvest Appeal
- ✓ Secondary Christmas Appeal and community event
- ✓ Outdoor Learning & Learning out of Doors
- ✓ Learning to lead
 - ♦ Duke of Edinburgh Award
 - ♦ Leadership Awards
- ✓ Campus Design
 - ♦ Travel Plan
 - ♦ Technology
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence
- ✓ Community Partnerships
- ✓ Charity fund raising

Jordanhill School **Eco** code



Recycle, re-use and reduce
All of this can be of use
Walk instead of using your car
It is better for the planet by far
Clean up cans and bottles too
You know it's really what to do
Turn off heaters, taps and lights
Just remember our planet has rights
Helping plants and animals grow
So that our school grounds are clean to show
This is the new important rule...
KEEP JORDANHILL AN **Eco** SCHOOL!



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning – the direct experience of the landscape and the natural and cultural heritage of Scotland - helps all young people and teachers understand the Earth's systems

- develop respect and care for our planet
- create a personal connection with the environment
- improves their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

The School offers a very extensive range of programmes and activities designed to complement classroom activities and develop our pupils' talents. Each has merit in its own right, together they form a powerful vehicle to develop each child. Not every child will feel comfortable in or draw benefit from every experience. Indeed, that discomfort is usually an important element of the learning.

Learning out of Doors

Our school grounds play a significant role in delivering learning for sustainability. They provide an accessible space for curriculum-based outdoor learning and offer the opportunity for pupils to connect with nature on a daily basis and throughout the seasons.

We have a wild life garden and a range of play areas: the 'castle' for younger children and the adventure area including the pirate's ship for older Primary pupils.

By helping to develop and look after our school grounds, pupils can become active stewards of the environment.

Outdoor Education

From P5 to S3 our outdoor education programmes form a key element of children's development. It sets personal challenges, widens horizons, develops capacity to work with others and provides opportunities to demonstrate leadership qualities.

- P5 8 days sailing, orienteering, cycling, canoeing
- P6 5 days at Abernethy outdoor centre
- S1 3 days at Raasay outdoor centre
- S3 4 days at Lockerbie Manor outdoor centre

The **John Muir Award** can be achieved by pupils in P6 (Discovery level) and S3.

From S4 pupils have the opportunity to participate in the **Duke of Edinburgh Award** scheme and ultimately in S5 or S6 to participate in our biennial expeditions to developing countries.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

From S4 pupils have the opportunity to complete the DoE Bronze and Silver Awards.

23 pupils completed awards in 2012 with one team winning the Scottish Power Inspiration Award for the most creative expedition report.



Expeditions

From 1997 there have been 11 expeditions to developing countries in South America, Africa and Asia. In 2014 the challengers spent 4 weeks in Vietnam and Laos trekking and working on a community project.

In 2016 an expedition is going to Peru.

You can read more about these expeditions in the back copies of the [Journal](#).



Campus Design

Pupils learn through their entire experience at school. The design and management of the school campus has a strong influence on what pupils understand about learning for sustainability. The school has a longstanding commitment to embedding sustainability into its estates development. BREEAM (the BRE Environmental Assessment Method for buildings) was utilised in the design and construction phases of the campus redevelopment project. Key elements of the project include

- ♦ Rainwater harvesting system which supplies the toilet cisterns
- ♦ SUDS – sustainable drainage systems
- ♦ Energy conservation – automatic lights; copiers; no mechanical ventilation
- ♦ Provision of cycle shelters
- ♦ Wild life garden

The campus and the associated [movement plan](#) have been designed to segregate pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles and to enhance the overall safety of campus users.

Primary and secondary pupils, staff and parents are all required to comply with the plan from 08.00 to 17.00 on school days.

The key features of this plan contributed to the [Secured by Design](#) award from the Police.

Travel Plan

The school actively promotes sustainable modes of travel to and from school through the [Travel Plan](#). This is reviewed regularly by the Pupil Councils along with the results of annual travel to school surveys and the results communicated to parents.

Technology

Energy conservation is a key consideration when renewing campus facilities and services. This applies to heating and lighting systems and also to the wealth of information and communications technology in use across the school.

The school has reduced its energy and carbon footprint through use of our management information system, web site, e-bulletin services and ParentPay wherever this can sensibly replace printed and manual modes of working.

Curriculum for Excellence

Aspects of learning for sustainability are explored explicitly through the experiences and outcomes covered by pupils as they progress through the curriculum. As they mature, the complexity and inter-connectedness of the issues are addressed in greater depth.

Sustainable development and environmental conservation are not synonymous. United Nations documents related to sustainability make it clear that social and economic issues are also at the heart of sustainability. In the educational community, this translates to incorporating into the curriculum social justice issues as well as ecological and economic topics.

McKeown, R. and Hopkins, C. (2010)

These issues are also at the heart of a number of the conferences and events organised for specific year groups. These may be led by staff and external speakers or by the pupils themselves as part of their leadership programmes.

Political Literacy

The school actively seeks to engage pupils in society by raising their awareness of the political process and political issues. This is particularly true for the senior phase now that the voting age in Scotland has been lowered to 16. Examples include the Referendum debate in June 2014 and the Scottish Parliament election debate in March 2016. [You Decide](#)

A wide range of issues arise in Modern Studies, the debating club and through the work done on Rights Respecting School.

Community Partnerships

The [partnership](#) between home and school is a key element in supporting and delivering learning for sustainability and is a major strength of the school's ethos. Many of our outdoor learning and eco school activities rely upon the support of parents and carers. We are also dependent upon parents to support the wider messages about sustaining the school environment and the wider ecological messages.

Parents in School

Parents support the work of the school in a wide variety of ways

- Infant playroom
- Accompanying educational visits
- Supporting extra-curricular activities
- Primary bookshop
- Parent Teacher Association
- Careers events
- Mock interviews
- Work experience
- Enterprise events
- Board of Managers

We support the work of local charities through the [Youth Philanthropy Initiative](#) and in partnership with the charities chosen by pupils in S6 and Primary.

Jordanhill School benefits from a close working relationship with Partick Community Police. Police officers have helped to deliver PSHE lessons on pupil safety and have helped to promote pupil responsibility by leading discussions on looking after the local environment.