

**CREATE**



**CASE STUDY**

Environmental Activities at St Helens Eco House

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CREATE delivered a series of interactive environmental sessions, which took place at the new Eco House in St Helens, on behalf of St Helens MBC. Twelve students from St Cuthbert's High School and 36 Year 5 pupils from Holy Spirit Primary School took part in the sessions. The sessions formed an exciting initiative to encourage the local community to use the Eco House to find out about environmental issues and what they can do to protect the environment.

**Aims of the sessions**

- To increase energy and environmental awareness amongst secondary school students and primary school pupils
- To improve planning and practical presentation skills amongst the secondary students
- To raise awareness in the local community of environmental issues

**Work Programme**

The sessions for the Year 8 pupils were carried out over a five-week period culminating on the fifth visit, with a presentation to the Year 5 pupils about what they had learnt about environmental issues during the time they spent at the Eco House.

The Year 8 students were divided into three groups. Over four weekly sessions, each group worked to separate lesson plans in all three areas of the Eco House: the kitchen, the meeting room upstairs and the ICT room. Each group studied a different topic, the topics being; Waste and Wildlife; Energy and Water Use of Electrical Appliances. National Curriculum topics that were covered during the sessions included: Art and Design; Food Technology; Art/Drama; Design and Technology; Information Research; Social Action Research.

During their final session, the secondary school pupils gave a presentation to the primary school about what they had learnt during their time spent at the Eco House. The presentation included the following:

- § A large floor game that looked at how children could save water and energy in the home
- § A quiz that challenged the myths about waste and pollution
- § A drama presentation, seeing how many things could be made out of a piece of pipe lagging!
- § A role-play act, where the primary children took part in discovering what electrical appliance their classmates were using in the home
- § Finally the Year 8 Students presented the Year 5 children with an Eco medallion to wear, a fairy cake to eat and a bird seed cake to take home for their garden, all made during their time at the Eco House.

The pupils from Holy Spirit Primary spent a half-day session at the Eco House, all taking part in the three activities:

- § Making Rice Crispie cakes in the energy efficient kitchen
- § A Treasure Hunt around the Eco House and garden
- § Making a renewable energy collage using scrap materials in the meeting room upstairs

***"The pupils from both the secondary and primary school thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this exciting and innovative project"*** Jim Nixon, St Helens MBC