

Environment and Conservation at Almond Hill Junior School 2025-2026



Subject Intent Statement

To encourage members of Almond Hill Junior School and its community to become more environmentally aware by:

- ❖ Increasing knowledge and understanding of our local surroundings and the positive and negative impact we can have on it.
- ❖ Promoting environmentally friendly behaviours that help us to reduce, reuse and recycle, protect and care for the natural spaces around us.
- ❖ Understanding that the small actions we take to look after our immediate environment can have a positive effect locally and globally.

Implementation

Through a pupil-led Environment and Conservation committee (ECO Committee), different elements of the curriculum (PSHE, Science and Geography) and membership of the ECO Schools Network, we use different forms of communication and specific activities to meet Almond Hill's ECO targets.

In 2021 we:

- Established an ECO Committee
- Developed and delivered an Action Plan.

In July 2023 we submitted an application for the ECO Schools Green Flag Award and received a flag to proudly display outside our school. We:

- Identified and focused on 3 key goals:
 - Reduce litter
 - Reduce energy use
 - Increase the nature areas in the school grounds
- In July 2025 we renewed our ECO Schools Green Flag application through lots of hard work completing our 2024-2025 action plan. We identified and focused on 3 key goals:
 - Reduce litter
 - Encourage biodiversity

- Healthy living

We also have an allotment and various plant beds around school to provide opportunities for hands on experience with nature. The children help to maintain these spaces through 1:1 or small group activities and a gardening club. They learn how to grow plants from seed, how to nurture them and in some cases harvest them (e.g., potatoes, rhubarb, herbs). This helps the children to better understand where our food comes from but also how the plants we grow nourish other animals and insects and thus, how we can play a role in looking after the nature in our local environment.

Topics/Units Across the Key Stage

Currently consistent across the Year Groups

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Action Plan/activities for the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on litter reduction, including UK wide litter picking event. - Promotion of healthy living (e.g., walk to school week, Sustran Big Walk and Wheel). - Recycling Assembly and workshops Year 3 - Recruit new ECO warriors in year 3/across school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on using and protecting our nature areas (e.g., bird watching area, allotments). - ECO lunchtime or after school club (ideas - re-establish the bird hide, gardening/planting, outdoor yoga, bird watching/feeders, small world gardens, insect research, tree bark rubbing) - Healthy living promotion (e.g., clean air day, Beans, pulses and lentils project). - Ongoing use and maintenance of our nature areas.
4			
5			
6			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular ECO Committee meetings and communications - Re-use/re-love events (e.g., uniform, books) 		

Progression of skills

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start to develop knowledge and awareness of environmental and conservation topics. - Contribute to the delivery of Almond Hill's ECO Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use knowledge and understanding to generate ideas for creating and achieving ECO goals. - Oversee areas of the ECO Action plan (e.g., Litter Picking). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use research skills (on/offline) to evolve ideas and ways to achieve ECO goals. - Lead different areas of the ECO Action plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw on cross-curricular learning to enrich and broaden the school's ECO goals. - Champion all areas of the ECO Action plan. - Lead the ECO Committee meetings/admin

In 2025/2026 the Environment and Conservation subject will be developed by our School ECO Committee carefully looking at our recently completed environmental review and deciding what and where our priorities are for the year ahead. This will form the basis of our action plan 2025-2026. We are hoping to promote water saving in our school and protecting marine life - as these ECO Schools topics are areas for school improvement. Making links with projects or schools in different countries is something we would also like to explore further. The 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign in November looks like a great whole school initiative where the children are encouraged to complete 6 simple actions connecting everyday life to reducing their carbon footprint.