

Using the Schools' Global Footprint Resource

Case study Kildrum Primary School, Cumbernauld

No. of pupils	340
Local Authority	North Lanarkshire
Teacher	Karen McBride (coordinating)
Pupils involved	P6 going into P7

How Kildrum Primary tackled its food footprint

Kildrum Primary School began working on its school's food footprint to build on achievements of the *Hungry for Success* initiative (which aimed to improve the quality of school meals) and to raise awareness of the concept of footprinting throughout the school. The P6 class used the Schools' Global Footprint Resource to calculate its food footprint and then decided to reduce it by growing their own vegetables as well as reducing waste associated with food.

1 Introducing the idea

Children were introduced to the concept of footprinting through activities from the Schools' Global Footprint teachers' materials. They discussed issues in small groups and were left with a strong desire to raise wider awareness about the global impact of every day actions and about the large size of Scotland's footprint compared to other countries.

2 Measuring the school's food footprint

A small team of P6 pupils used food diaries to collect information about how much food is consumed by pupils in the class over the 40-week school year. The online footprint calculator was used to find out the class' baseline food footprint. The team explained its results to the rest of the class.

It became clear during class discussion that there is a connection between food and other elements of the school's footprint - particularly waste. The school canteen threw out 10 black bags of rubbish a day.

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The pupils also became interested in the concept of food miles after finding that much of the food from the school canteen came from as far away as the USA.

3 Creating and implementing an action plan

Pupils decided to tackle their food footprint by growing locally-produced, seasonal and organic food in the school grounds. They also decided to reduce the amount of food-associated waste the school produces. Work started in February by

creating an action plan and sharing their ideas with the rest of the school through leaflets, posters and presentations. Information was also shared during the project through an open day held for parents and the wider community in June, and in September pupils attended the *Scottish Learning Festival* at the SECC in Glasgow to tell delegates about their results.

The organic vegetable garden

As well as using the internet to research how to grow vegetables, the pupils made use of the expertise of volunteer Kenny MacGregor from the Cumbernauld Allotment Association. In April and May, the pupils prepared the ground, sowed seeds



Pupils work together in the school garden



KILDROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

and tended the seedlings. During the summer holidays, the janitor, teachers and a pupil holiday club watered and cared for the growing plants and by the new term pupils started to harvest the vegetables weekly.

A pupil-run finance committee was set up to track expenditure and income of the project - the prices of selling spare plants and vegetables to parents were set according to the costs of seeds, materials and compost bins.

In the autumn the pupils - now in P7 - used the vegetables to make delicious soups: potato and onion, beetroot borsch, bean, curried potato and marrow.

Reducing waste

Linking in with the vegetable garden, the pupils set up a school-wide composting scheme. Vegetable peelings were collected daily from the school canteen and fruit peelings and cores from all classes, the staff room and the dining room. These ended up in a compost bin in the garden.

The pupils also did a school-wide survey of packed lunch containers. The information was graphed and used to explain why using reusable



Left: Pupils share their findings

KILDROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Right: Kenny MacGregor answers the pupils' questions on gardening



packed lunch boxes and drinks bottles is so important.

Lastly, realising that some actions to reduce waste were beyond their control, pupils wrote to the Council to ask if food packaging could be reduced in the canteen.

of the class' food footprint. Footprint and packed lunch leaflets made by pupils will be distributed to P1 parents. Next, the school plans to use the Schools' Global Footprint Resource as part of Eco Schools work on energy and waste.

their individual and group ideas. Pupil confidence was boosted because they could see the results of their actions and how they can make a difference, however small.

"The staff saw the benefits of engaging children in guiding their own learning, involving them in decision-making relevant to their own health and lifestyle choices, and in real life issues, both local and global. Working with others from the wider community and learning from their expertise, like that of Kenny's, was also invaluable".

Karen McBride,
Acting Depute Head

"We have noticed all of the food in the cafeteria is packaged. Why can't you put the food on a plate?"

P6 pupil

What were the benefits?

All aspects of teaching and learning gained through the footprint work support the ethos of *A Curriculum for Excellence*. Pupils were involved in active, healthy, outdoor learning while being introduced to new ideas, foods and hobbies. Cross-curricular work allowed children to collect information and use it to solve problems and promote

Next steps

Food footprint work is continuing at Kildrum, including the re-calculation

TIME RESOURCES

The project was approached as a discrete topic in the two P6 classes. Time was initially provided through the school's regular enterprise/ environmental studies P6 topic *Our School Grounds*. Later, the vegetable patch was maintained through Friday "Golden Time", which pupils from all classes could sign up to.

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Download resources from www.LTScotland.org.uk/schoolsglobalfootprint

Schools' Global Footprint Resource

Resources and training are available to help schools to examine, measure and take action to reduce their impact on the environment locally and globally as part of the Eco Schools programme.

For more information visit www.LTScotland.org.uk/schoolsglobalfootprint

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Islay House
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Local Footprints Project

The purpose of the Local Footprints Project is to help local authorities and schools make an effective contribution to reducing Scotland's global footprint through the use of footprint analysis to inform policy and practice, to raise awareness, and to change behaviour.

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