



# An East Sheen Story: The Environment



## Our Story

A strategic objective of the school is to help children to become environmentally intelligent. This is about the whole school and community becoming green at a holistic level in a desire to protect the school and its environment. It goes beyond the excellent recycling and energy saving efforts of the school's pupil-led 'Green Team' and the ongoing pollution monitoring to use the latest scientific data, debating skills and academic research to help children evaluate and suggest responses to the environmental crisis. Did you know that efforts with the green wall project show that the pollution levels in the school playground are similar to those in the centre of Richmond Park (reducing the NOx levels by between 50% and 75% from the roadside to school-side, with the front playgrounds 60% cleaner than the Sheen Lane crossroads)? The Year 6 children have been out in the community tackling waste and littering, and recently, the school recycled 12.7kg of pens!



## What Our Teachers Say

'It is inspiring to hear the children talk about the challenges facing the environment and seeing them use their thinking skills to look at scientific data to propose ways to reduce their carbon footprints, understand the valuable roles within ecosystems and look passionately for ways to educate and help others! We have enjoyed embedding environmental issues across the curriculum.' - Harry Page, Year 6 Teacher

## What Children Say

'It's really important to consider how we can change our behaviour so that we protect the planet from excess waste.' - Year 5 child

'I have really enjoyed using our thinking skills to look at how we can make sure the food we buy is sustainable.' - Year 4 child

'It is important as we now know what is happening and we can make small changes to help!' - Year 6 child



## What Are We Doing Next?

The school has designed a curriculum that promotes high-quality thinking and discussion around the environment, evaluating data and leading research. The governors and headship team will shortly take part in a strategy day to help determine next steps in our efforts to become an environmentally intelligent school. This will include discussions around how we can work with industry, leading academics and suitable organisations outside of our immediate community to ensure that this strategy is of maximum benefit to all pupils.



## Thinking Schools—Habits of Mind

The environmental initiatives and education we are embedding into the curriculum at ESPS are great for using our 'new ideas' Habit of Mind. The children are encouraged to look at some of the problems both locally, globally, in the present and in the future and use innovative and creative ideas to think of solutions and ways to improve the situation.

*An accredited Thinking School (such as ESPS) shows excellence in taking an explicit, evidence informed, whole school approach to developing pupils' cognitive capability and intelligent learning behaviours that serve beyond the school-life and curriculum.*