

2023: School Games Mark – GOLD for the 3rd year running!



School Games Mark was given in acknowledgement of our development and commitment of competition across the academy and into the community.

Our actions and outcomes meet all the criteria demonstrating the below:

- maintaining and growing our engagement in the School Games and delivery of 60 active minutes for every child
- creating positive experiences by ensuring physical activity and competition provision is designed to reflect the motivation, competence and confidence of our children and has a clear intent
- a clear focus on transition points and how secondary schools engage in the School Games
- creating positive experiences to support character development of children and targeted groups/individuals
- being an advocate in making a meaningful difference to the lives of our children, including engaging and sharing with parents

We know that through engaging with School games and competitions our children:

- have fun and enjoy themselves
- develop friendships and meet new people
- become more determined and demonstrate resilience
- understand and demonstrate the importance of respect for others
- learn to develop self control and manage emotions
- experience being part of a team and understand your contribution to it
- win with pride and lose with grace
- learn the importance of practice and preparation
- learn how to set realistic goals and work towards achieving them
- aspire to improve and challenge themselves.

We are extremely proud of our achievements and the success within competition and events. The sporting success of the academy has taken sports teams from the 4th division to the 1st division with successful wins and positions within the top percentage of schools locally. Our children show determination, confidence and belonging at all events, achieving excellence together.



Next step:

2023: Green Flag - with Distinction for the 2nd year. The reputation of our Eco approach is highly recognised by the Eco Schools with proposals for Darlingtonhurst to continue to share best practice.



Our children and staff care deeply about environmental issues and have a strong desire to actively protect the planet. As active citizens they respond to issues such as climate change, bio-diversity, pollution and more. They are empowered and make a difference within the academy and locally through careful planning, implementation and commitment.

They engage in outdoor learning with a firm understanding of the importance of nature through a carefully mapped curriculum that ensures Environmental science, nature studies and geography are taught with an understanding of the impact on the world and living things.

We are known for our practice in Environmental science and Outdoor learning led by qualified staff in their fields. Our children engage in rich experiences within the grounds of the academy, locally in woodland, parks and beaches.

After working through the seven Eco-Schools steps during the academic year our application is submitted for consideration of renewal.

The seven steps in place are:

- Our Eco- Committee
- Environmental review
- Action plan
- Curriculum links
- Informing and involving others
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Eco – Code

Focus has been taken from the ten suggested topics to meet the needs of the academy and locality:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Global Citizenship
- Healthy Living
- Litter
- Marine
- School grounds
- Transport
- Waste
- Water

The ongoing actions of the committee and community has led to our prestigious Eco-Schools Green flag and acknowledgement of the ecological achievements of our children. It clearly demonstrates that their hard work is appreciated, and it provides them with the confidence and motivation needed to continue actively engaging with environmental issues throughout their lifetimes. Finally, it also tells local communities that Darlingtonhurst Academy is forward-thinking and promotes the importance of being effective contributors to make a difference.

Next step: To support sustainability and engagement in ecology and outdoor learning across Essex and Southend, continuing training and support to others through the Essex Schools Young Eco Protectors Group as part of UKSSN and through ASE and SETSA. Work more in-depth with the local community and become involved in more community projects.

Reduce water waste as a school and further develop our school grounds and allotment to increase biodiversity.