



# Media Release

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**\*photo opportunity – see below**

## **SCHOOLS INVITED TO GO ECO FRIENDLY**

Teachers from around the district have been invited to the first major Eco-Schools Teacher Training event being held on 26 May at the Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens, to find out exactly how eco-friendly they can go.

Eco-schools is an internationally recognised award scheme promoting awareness of environmental issues including energy, waste, water, litter, school grounds, transport and healthy living.

Pupils at Boroughbridge Primary School will showcase their work at the event. They will show how they are becoming eco friendly warriors who are mounting their own war on waste. Pupils from right across the school have been identifying energy waste and have turned investigators to finding solutions to such things as ‘The Case of the Hungry Appliance’.

Chris Robinson, Environmental Projects Officer in the council’s Local Agenda 21 explains this fun and educational project. She said: “The school’s special energy investigators are the driving force behind the school’s bid to become an eco-school. They are working on campaigns covering the whole school in a bid to save energy. They then plan to grow their own vegetables by creating a special veg patch with the money saved on energy bills.

”Boroughbridge School is doing so well that we have asked some of the pupils to present their findings to a special eco-schools’ training event to be held on 26 May. Supported by ENCAMS, the charity running the eco schools award scheme.”

“In the face of growing environmental problems, it is important that children learn in a school that respects and enhances the environment, added Chris. “Eco-schools is a great way of initiating action and also rewarding good work that has already taken place.” ENDS

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES: Wednesday, 26 May 2004, the Sun Pavilion, Cornwall Road, Harrogate.**

- A) Presentation by Boroughbridge Primary school pupils to teachers from 12.20pm – 12.35pm after which there will be photo opportunity with children and Eco-school coordinator and teachers during lunch break**
- B) Various workshops commence from 2.00pm- 3.30.pm from organisations able to assist schools – RHS Harlow Carr, Schools’ Waste Action Club, Eco-Footprinting etc.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Chris Robinson 01423 556909**  
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**Notes for Editors:** Eco-schools is a programme for promoting environmental awareness in a way that links to many curriculum subjects, including citizenship, personal, social and health education (PSHE) and education for sustainable development. It is also an award scheme that will raise the profile of the school in the wider community.

The Eco-Schools process is holistic. It works by involving the whole school (pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff and governors) together with members of the local community (parents, the local authority, the media and local businesses). It will encourage teamwork and help to create a shared understanding of what it takes to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.

Eco Schools offers schools:

- an opportunity to make environmental issues a part of the life of the school
- an opportunity to help develop young people's decision-making skills
- curriculum materials and ideas for projects and events
- access to a network of support agencies
- links with other schools in the UK and Europe
- a prestigious award
- opportunities for local and national publicity
- potential for financial savings.

It requires:

- the support of the head teacher and governors
- a willingness to involve pupils in decision-making and action at every stage
- active involvement of staff and the wider school community
- a willingness to take action to instigate long-term change.

Local Agenda 21

Energy efficiency is one of the council's key environmental action areas for addressing Local Agenda 21. The Local Agenda 21 plan is part of Harrogate Borough Council's commitment to sustainable development in which it continuously improves its services, policies and practices to contribute to a better quality of life for everyone now, and for future generations.

The other key environmental action areas are waste and recycling, the local surroundings/biodiversity, transport and water conservation. One part of the action plan is concerned with engaging the local community and includes raising awareness of environmental issues with a range of organisations including schools.