

Eco Schools, and RE and Collective Worship Resources

These materials for primary schools aim to link environmental issues with religious education and collective worship. They seek to support schools that implement the Eco Schools programme within Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and also provide a resource for all schools.

“**Eco Schools**” is a Europe-wide programme sponsored here by the UK government that provides free resources to help children and their schools learn about issues relating to the environment and the sustainability of natural resources.

What is in it for schools?

- Recognition and publicity through an internationally recognised award scheme.
- Financial Savings
- Enhanced curriculum provision
- Help in developing School Councils
- A way to develop community and Church links

A wealth of materials is available to help schools consider environmental issues in all areas of the curriculum, except in religious education and Collective Worship. These materials overcome this omission.

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e-mail: http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/html/contact/contact_contact.html

Web: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk>

A well designed website explaining the Eco Schools programme, providing details on how to be involved, a children’s Eco School area and links to resources.

International Web site: <http://www.eco-schools.org/>

This site explains the international dimension to Eco Schools and provides a forum for the wider Eco Schools community. You can find out what is happening across Europe and even link with other schools.

Support Materials and Further Resources:

The Resource Centre, Diocesan Office, Barton Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire. CB7 4DX. 01353 652725. email: Resources.centre@office.ely.anglican.org . Further copies of this booklet along with resource materials can be obtained from the resource centre.

REEP (The Religious Education & Environment Programme), www.reep.org a website which provides educational programmes, RE and collective worship materials connected with the environment and eco-information. A source of speakers for events connected with ecology and spirituality. It operates membership networks for those of all faiths who wish to become involved in the work of the group and has its own programme of public events and campaigns.

Education for Sustainable Development, a National Curriculum/ QCA Website: www.nc.uk.net/esd . A very useful resource but weak on RE and collective worship at the time of writing.

Environmental Education and Sustainable Development, CEEmail magazine. Anne White, Membership Services Officer CEEmail, 0118 950 2550. A very useful source of resources and information for teachers. . Nothing as yet with an RE theme.

Farming and Countryside Education (FACE) magazine, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2LZ. 024 7685 8261 Email: face@rase.org.uk Provides resources and information for teachers on farming and countryside issues. Much of the material is applicable for environmental education.

Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service (CEES), CEES Stibbington, Great North Road, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LP. 01780 782386. Email: cees.stibbington.centre@education.camcnty.gov.uk . Has field centres at Stibbington and Upwell in Norfolk and provides advice, lessons etc. on environmental education. Nothing as yet with an RE theme.

EcoTech Centre, Don Saunders, Education Officer, EcoTech Centre, Swaffham, Norfolk PE37 7HT. Tel. 01760 726114 Fax 01760 726109 e-mail dsaunders@ecotech.org.uk There is also a website at www.echotech.org.uk This is a centre for interactive environmental education with tours of an organic farm and a commercial wind turbine.

An updated and expanded list can be found on the Ely Diocesan website:
http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/2002/eco_schools/index.html

Storybooks which can be related to an Eco theme:

It may also be interesting for keen readers to make links with story books they are reading in class or from the library. Ones we like particularly are listed below, but there are many others.

The Whale's Song by Dyan Sheldon and Gary Blythe: a charming picture book for younger children with a magical atmosphere. Lilly hears the magical song of the whales. A story to share with children, telling of the wonders of the natural world.

The Old Man and the Tree by Vicki Wisenfeld is a magical parable about a tree that only grows when good use is made of the wood. A book on the theme of sharing and caring – short enough to read aloud to the class.

Several of Michael Morpurgo's books deal with the natural world and man's duty to love and care for it. The **Butterfly Lion** is a fairly short, and very moving story about a young boy's love for a white lion which he rescues in Africa and finds again in France during the first World War. It touches on themes of loneliness, love and friendship, and loyalty. **Kensuke's Kingdom** is for slightly older children. A young boy finds himself shipwrecked on an island, and gradually gains the friendship of a Japanese 'Man Friday'. He learns to live in harmony with nature, caring for the environment. Guy (Year 6) writes: "This book makes you want to read on and not put it down to eat your dinner..... If I was to rate this book I'd give it a smashing 10/10." 'Why the Whales Came' and 'The Wreck of the Zanzibar' are also popular stories on similar themes.

Elizabeth Hawkins **Sea of Peril** reminds us that the water can be dangerous as well as life-giving, as Jesus and St Paul both found. Alex (Year 4) writes: "Sea of Peril is a story, based on a true life experience, about a group of children, evacuated out of 1940's London to Canada. They are torpedoed by a German U-boat. The story is about their survival on a lifeboat, for 8 days and nights on very stormy seas. I liked the book because sometimes it was a real cliff hanger and sometimes sad sometimes really happy but sometimes normal". He rated it 9½ out of 10.

Tim Bowler's **River Boy** is a poetic 'ghost' story about the river Dart. Beautifully written, it touches on many images connected with a love of the environment and deals sensitively with the subject of the death of a grandparent.

Eva Ibbotson's '**Journey to the River Sea**' is a superb tale of adventure, involving the escape of an orphan from terrible foster parents in the Amazon, mistaken identity, and an emphasis on living with the natural world and accepting other ways of life.

Other books include: Marcus Sedgwick '**Floodland**', which deals with the Fenland in the future.