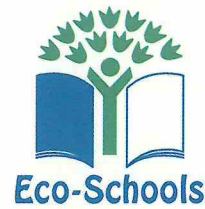


# Eco-Schools Lifetime Achievement Award



## Lifetime Achievement - Canon Burrows Church of England Primary School

1ST GREEN FLAG SCHOOL IN ENGLAND



### Canon Burrows achieved their first Green Flag over 20 years ago in 1998 and since then have achieved ten Eco-Schools Green Flags!

Teacher and Eco-Coordinator, Andy Clark started at Canon Burrows in 1987 (years before Eco-Schools was even a twinkle in Keep Britain Tidy's eyes!) In his first weeks, Mr Clark was delighted to find that an established teacher, Mrs Nickson, would take groups of children into an adjoining school field to undertake environmental management work. Mrs Nickson had been doing this since at least 1977! When Mrs Nickson retired, Andy took on her role and expanded it to various environmental projects, for which they won many awards. It was in 1997 that the Eco-Schools team took note of the eco-work going on in Canon Burrows and contacted Mr Clark to see if the school would be interested in applying for an Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Eco-Schools and Canon Burrows were a natural fit, both understanding that education is the key to creating future citizens, who understand the need to care for the world they live in.

After Canon Burrows signed up to the Eco-Schools programme, the biggest change in their school was the introduction of an Eco-



Committee. The Eco-Committee allowed pupils to have a voice within their school and was a key driver for the realization of the importance of pupil-voice (now an established part of school-life in the UK).

**“School children 30 years ago knew of the importance of caring for their world, this has not changed.”**

In October 1998, Canon Burrows gained their first Green Flag (the Eco-Schools Bronze and Silver awards did not exist yet) leading to an active period of green activities:

- **1999** Andy Clark was a finalist in Tetra Pak Environmental Teacher of the Year Award.
- **2000** Canon Burrows won the David Bellamy Award and are awarded their second Eco-Schools Green Flag.
- **2001** Canon Burrows started composting and plant 3000 bulbs in a day.
- **2002** Ken Hulme visited Canon Burrows as do teachers from as far away as China. Canon Burrows are awarded their third Eco-Schools Green Flag.
- **2003** Andy Clarke helps launch the Manchester Environmental Education Network and Canon Burrows features in a Times Newspaper article about the Eco-Schools programme.
- **2004** Canon Burrows gain their fourth Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, again featuring in the Times Newspaper. 40 Canon Burrows pupils perform 'War and Peace' at the Manchester Cathedral for Green Fair.
- **2005** Activities included Energy Saving, Walking to School and Bulb Planting weeks.
- **2006** Canon Burrows weekly Eco-Club begins and children perform at Tameside Eco-Conference.
- **2007** Canon Burrows are finalists of Sustainable School of the Year Award.
- **2008** Canon Burrows wins Ashton School Gardens competition and Andy Clarke leads a workshop at Eco-Friendly Schools Conference in London.
- **2009** Solar panels are fitted, and 'Power Perfector' installed, HRH Duchess of Cornwall attends Canon Burrow's Eco-Day and their fifth Eco-Schools Green Flag is awarded.
- **2010** Walk on Wednesday begins and Mr Clark is invited as a guest to a civic dinner with Prince Charles. Staff and pupils are also invited to attend the Royal Garden Party. Twenty Japanese teachers visit the school to see Canon Burrows eco-work.

- **2011** Canon Burrows win an award for the most effective eco-committee, they achieve their sixth Eco-Schools Green Flag and gain Eco-Schools Ambassador status.
- **2013** Canon Burrows gain a seventh Eco-Schools Green Flag award.
- **2014** Year 5 and 6 children present on energy saving in schools at Manchester Cathedral.
- **2015** A woodpecker visits the school gardens, the Eco-Committee present their Walk on Wednesday project to Living Streets in Manchester and Canon Burrows achieve their eighth Eco-Schools Green Flag.
- **2016** Canon Burrows trial their new action Happy Shoesday.
- **2017** They are awarded their ninth Eco-Schools Green Flag.
- **2018** Eco-Committee blogs go online, Canon Burrows attend the Mayors Green Summit.
- **2019** A year 6 Eco-Committee member appears on CBBC, the Eco-Committee attend Manchester Environmental Education Network meeting and their tenth Eco-Schools Green Flag is awarded.

Over the past 25 years, Canon Burrows have completed an incredible amount of Eco-Schools work, but their highlights have been:

- Simple, whole-school activities: litter picking, bulb planting and Green Fairs.
- Listening to children's wonderful ideas throughout many Eco-Committee meetings.
- Welcoming visitors from around the world and teaching them how their schools can be more eco.
- Seeing former pupils maintain their passion for the environment including one former pupil who now holds a senior position at Natural England.

Eco-Coordinator Andy has also noticed some changes: ten years ago his Eco-Committee were passionate about introducing free-range eggs into their schools, now single use plastics are high on the eco-agenda. However, what Andy says has stayed the same, is the passion of young people to protect their environment, this has only grown.

