

Green Flag 2026

School Name

St Nicolas CofE
Academy

Award Level:

Distinction

Focus Topics:



Your Greatest Overall Success:

The school has built up such a strong culture around biodiversity and waste reduction! The allotment, orchard, rewilding area and herb garden have all grown into something much bigger than individual projects, and it is wonderful to see pupils taking part in practical work that is improving the school grounds in a lasting way. Achieving the RHS School Gardening Award and the Woodland Trust Silver Tree Award is a real credit to everyone involved!

We Also Loved:

- We loved the Year 2 geography work on litter pollution and marine life, which gave pupils an early understanding of how plastic affects oceans and wildlife. Learning that plastic breaks into microplastics and can then be eaten by fish clearly helped children see why these issues matter and what humans need to do to reduce the problem.
- Great work on the school allotment, especially the new 1000L water butt that has helped make the project more sustainable. It is lovely to see practical growing being supported in such a thoughtful way, with pupils able to experience how water can be collected and used responsibly.
- We were really pleased to see the orchard develop with eight fruit trees, including the graft from the Cubbington Pear tree. That is a memorable and meaningful addition to the grounds, and it gives pupils a real sense that their school is actively contributing to biodiversity.
- We also appreciated the rewilded field area and the planting of seven trees and the new herb garden by the mud kitchen. These are all excellent examples of the school making space for nature, while also creating places that can support outdoor learning and exploration.
- We were impressed by the range of reuse and recycling activities, from clothing collections and battery recycling to the preloved book, produce and uniform sales. These are practical, community-minded initiatives that help reduce waste while also making good use of items that still have value.
- We loved the way the school has looked carefully at transport too, from encouraging park and stride to reducing coach journeys where possible and using the local area more often. The Junior PCSOs and the attempt to extend the Park and Stride campaign show real ambition to make safer, more sustainable travel part of daily life.

Next year, why not try...

You have made some really positive progress this year, especially with the allotment, orchard and wider biodiversity work. It is great to see how much has already been achieved, even with the limits around money and procurement. Next year, perhaps you could keep building on that success by giving the Park and Stride idea one more clear push to parents and KS2 pupils!