



## Case Studies: Schools & Young People

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The following case studies are from nurseries, primaries, secondaries, youth groups and uniformed associations for young people, which participated in National Spring Clean 2009.

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### Pre-school/Nurseries

1. The children and staff at **Hummingbirdhouse Nursery** had a litter pick at a local green area. They put on their tabards and took plastic bags to collect the rubbish. They filled one bag of general rubbish, three of drinks cans, six of paper, four of plastic bottles and one of textiles. The children enjoyed helping to keep their community clean and the responsibility that goes with it, and they have decided to always put their litter in a bin.

2. **Apple Tree Nursery** did four litter picks over two days. They took out groups of four to seven children at a time (aged 3-5 years). On the first trip they went to Skeoch Woods where the children used litter grabbers to pick up the litter they found. One of the adults wore latex gloves to pick up pieces of broken glass, which the children pointed out and spoke about the dangers.

On the next trip they took a trip in to Rothesay town centre and along the shore but they didn't find much litter as someone from the council keeps it clean. The final two trips were in the area surrounding the nursery. They found lots of crisp and sweetie packets, cigarette packets and cans. The children really enjoyed this and a few of them were able to tell me what bag each thing could go in. They say they will continue to do litter picks now they know how easy it is and because they want the areas that they visit to be clean and safe.

3. The children of **Harrysmuir Nursery**, assisted by Primary 7 pupils, enjoyed a clean up around their playground and perimeter. Although in many cases the litter pickers were taller than the children this did not stop them turning in a grand performance to match the pupils from the 'big school'!

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## Primary Schools

1. On Thursday 30th of April the P6 class at **Wormit Primary School** did a litter pick for National Spring Clean on a nearby footpath. It is the path they walk down to go to their local church and they noticed that it was covered in litter. The **Clean-up Pals** group wanted to tidy the footpath because it was so messy and they didn't want people who walk along it to be trailing in litter. They also wanted to help the animals that live there. They collected two black bin bags of rubbish, one clear bag of glass bottles, one of plastic and one of cans. They recycled everything they could and learned a lot about recycling.

2. As part of their **John Muir Trust Award**, **Broxburn Primary School**, in conjunction with British Waterways and West Lothian Council's Environmental Wardens, removed enough rubbish from the nearby canal towpath to fill 25 black bags, as well as an old armchair and a kitchen table.

3. All the pupils at **Alvie Primary School** spent a Thursday afternoon investigating their playground and surrounding access road for litter. They found loads of litter in the small woodland opposite their playground and also just off the A9. Being such a busy road, people just throw their litter out of the cars not realising that the school is just above the bank. The litter blows about and reaches their play areas as well as their wildlife areas. The school is proud of its hard work.

4. 15 young people from **Glengowan Primary School** joined the **Machan Trust** youth project to clean the areas around Glengowan Primary school and the main street one afternoon. They collected two bags of recyclable rubbish and six bags of general waste - mostly cigarette ends and chewing gum. The young people commented, "It was great when people in the street noticed what we were doing and said well done and encouraged us to keep going", "Too many people still smoke and keep dropping the fag ends on the street". Many of the children found it hard work picking up the litter and got annoyed if they saw people dropping any - the exercise was very beneficial in raising awareness.

5. **Roslin Primary School** cleaned up their school grounds and surrounding area. The Nursery and infant classes cleaned the school grounds. The middle classes cleaned the local park and around the community centre. The top classes went into the community and cleaned the main grassy areas. While on the litter picks pupils did an alphabet competition of litter found and of natural objects/plants. Parents and volunteers from the community also helped on the litter picks. The whole day and events were organised by the school's **Eco-Committee**.

6. Rain did not stop play or dampen the enthusiasm of the kids at **Seafield Primary** as they worked around the school area and surrounding woods. They thoroughly enjoyed the event and felt a sense of importance in being able to do something for the planet!

7. The kids at **St John Ogilvie Primary School** had a whale of a time, enjoyed the fresh air, gained some exercise and collected a fair amount of litter from their school grounds and surrounding area. They also passed on their knowledge of the environment to the adult helpers and explained that they were helping to correct the mistakes and clean up the mess older people had made of looking after the planet!

8. The whole of **Whitdale Primary** tackled the litter issues both within the school and the surrounding streets. The area around the derelict old primary school was targeted by the older pupils who managed to collect 19 bags of rubbish as well as two bike frames, several car tyres, carpets, a toilet seat, some guttering and what appeared to be an old side board!

9. Although small in numbers and size, **Blackridge Primary** volunteers did the school proud as they tackled a waste ground area in front of the school. Some of the pupils were allocated responsibility for glass (three bagfuls), others plastic (four bagfuls of plastic bottles) and the rest general waste (18 bagfuls). They were encouraged in their efforts by passing motorists who honked their horns in appreciation.

10. As part of their enterprise topic, Primary 3 at **Glencoats Primary** worked with **Clean Renfrewshire** to tidy up their school grounds. They used their Keep Scotland Beautiful tabards and council litter pickers to make sure they stayed clean and safe and everybody worked very hard. They had a great time participating in the event, even although it was a wet day! To continue their topic they are going to run a campaign in their school to encourage everybody to keep their environment clean and tidy. They are also hoping to find ways of raising funds to buy more bins for their school playgrounds.

11. P6 pupils at **Law Primary** made up an educational flipchart for the rest of the school indicating the litter in their playground, which came to light by using the **Litter Assessment** survey download from the National Spring Clean website. They also took photographs of litter and full bins in the playground, and made up questions about litter for the rest of the school to discuss. The rest of the school used the flipchart to discuss the litter in the playground and recycling in general and then took part in the school's Spring Clean Week by collecting litter from the playground throughout the week.

Most of the classes agreed that most of the playground was satisfactory or good but they did have a few areas which were unsatisfactory or poor. They enjoyed using the Clean Up Kit and used the tabards as many times as they could: they even had some left over for their next litter pick! On the Friday of Spring Clean Week P6 pupils carried out an inspection of the playground and photographed the same areas to see if there was any improvement. In nearly all areas there was a positive change: a great success!

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## Secondary Schools

A total of 48 volunteers from **East Kilbride Rotary Club**, local residents and first year pupils from **Calderglen High School** met and cleaned the north end of Calderglen Country Park of 80 bags of general litter, 15 bags of drinks cans, eight bags of glass bottles and four bags of plastic bottles. The event was publicised in the East Kilbride News and in the District Rotary magazine along with photographs and was well received by all concerned. Among the more unusual items retrieved were one set of temporary traffic lights, a street lamp post, 12 metres of drainage pipe and a garden centre trolley.

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## Special School

At **Greenview Learning Centre** the pupils and staff wholeheartedly engaged in litter picking the streets around them. Many of the elderly residents came out to say thanks and passers-by wished them well and said what a great job they were doing. Everyone had a great time although it was hard work! Pupils agreed that it would be much better and easier to use bins than to throw your litter on the street. They had a beautiful day for their event and they agreed that the treat from Greggs was just marvellous!

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## Joint School Initiatives

**1. Haghill Park Primary and Parkhill Secondary School** carried out a very successful tidy up of nearby Alexandra Park. Armed with litter pickers and black bags they set off to discover their wild side as they ventured into the woods to removed ten bags of bottles, cans, paper, and polythene bags. Parkhill **Eco Schools** Co-ordinator said, "We aim to teach the children the importance of keeping Scotland beautiful and to appreciate the attractive surroundings we have on our doorstep."

After the tidy up the pupils were joined by **Eco Co-ordinator for Glasgow Schools**, who helped to stage an anti-litter demo on the busy Cumbernauld Road. For weeks beforehand, the pupils had been busy making a big banner, placards, anti -litter pledges and fliers to hand out to passers by. Passing motorists were very supportive and tooted their horns, much to the children's excitement.

**2.** During a week-long Spring Clean all 150 children at **Hill of Beath Primary School** and 30 in the **Nursery** were involved with the event, organised and lead by the school's **Eco Committee** and the nursery's **Green Team**. While the nursery children worked to improve the environment at Dalbeath Marsh, Primary 1/2 to P3/4 went Easter egg rolling up and litter-picking up Hill of Beath and the older children looked after the school playground and village community field. P6 and 7 pupils even worked alongside their Irish pen-pals (who were visiting on an exchange trip that week) to do a small scale litter pick at the group's accommodation at Fordell Firs scout camp. Overall they collected 16 black bags of rubbish.

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## Youth Groups & Uniformed Associations

1. Local **Scouts** had a tremendous time when they cleaned up Dedridge Pond - and were not hindered by the cold wind or rather arduous water! As well as the usual collection of cans, crisp bags, plastic bottles and glass they managed to retrieve the remains of a garden shed, guttering and down pipes from a shrub bed. They also used their knot tying skills to rig up a rope hook system to remove tree branches from the pond area.

2. A small number of **Rainbows** (aged 5-7 years) helped with the Spring Clean of Killearn Village. When they started they didn't find much to pick up as their village is generally pretty clean. Then they discovered some cigarette butts and they could not have been busier. They enjoyed the challenge of picking up the smallest piece of rubbish and once they got started there was no stopping them! To the girls it was a brilliant game, however the adults explained that the litter should not have been there in the first place and how selfish it was for people to drop it. They all agreed that it is not a nice thing to drop litter of any sort and have passed the message on to their families and friends.

3. Once again the villagers of Menstrie turned out on a glorious day to help the **Community Council** and **Scout** group clean up some of the eyesores in the village created by dumping and litter bugs. They were pleasantly surprised at how little litter was collected in comparison with the previous year but it still amounted to 30 bags of general rubbish, 100 bags of drinks cans, 50 bags of glass bottles and one bag of paper! A local MSP assisted the Vice Chair in cleaning up the railway crossing at Eastmains and in total around 30 bags of rubbish were collected. A great time was had by all at the BBQ which followed at The Burnside Inn."

4. Children from the **Machan Trust Drama Group**, along with youth workers and volunteers collected litter from the streets of Larkhall. One small grassed area resulted in eight Buckfast bottles, three whisky bottles and Subway drinks cartons being removed for recycling. Over 200 cigarette ends were found between a wall and a post box – it looked as if it had never been cleared – but it looks great now!

