

Eco-Schools was established in Denmark in 1994 by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. Today, it is the world's largest international accreditation and education for sustainable development (ESD) programme. Eco-Schools empower students and schools to adopt sustainable practices while fostering proactive, environmentally conscious global citizens.

Eco-Schools follow a Seven-Step Methodology, providing a structured framework that engages the entire school community. Students play a key role in shaping and implementing the programme through the following seven steps:

Form an Eco-Committee – Establish a dedicated team to drive sustainability efforts.

Conduct a Sustainable Development Audit – Assess the school's environmental impact.

Create an Action Plan – Develop strategies for improvement.

Monitor and Evaluate – Track progress and make necessary adjustments.

Link to the Curriculum – Integrate sustainability into learning.

Inform and Involve – Engage the wider school community.

Create an Eco-Code – Develop a set of values guiding sustainable actions.

Objectives of the Programme

Eco-Schools aims to:

Promote real-life, experiential, and outdoor learning to encourage sustainable practices.

Empower students to take an active role in their communities.

Foster inclusivity by uniting the school community around a shared environmental goal.

Enhance the school's ecological footprint and overall sustainability performance.

The programme aligns with the four pillars of education:

Learning to Know – Encouraging critical and systemic thinking.

Learning to Be – Developing self-reflection and emotional competencies.

Learning to Do – Applying knowledge to real-world challenges.

Learning to Live Together – Cultivating collaboration and responsibility.

The Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award is a prestigious recognition granted to schools that demonstrate excellence in sustainability and continuous environmental improvement. It signifies a school's commitment to integrating eco-friendly practices, such as waste reduction, energy conservation, and biodiversity enhancement, into daily operations and the curriculum. Achieving the award fosters hands-on learning, encourages responsible citizenship, and inspires future generations to take meaningful environmental action.

The Westminster School, Dubai, is actively working towards earning the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. This marks a significant milestone in the school's journey towards sustainability. However, obtaining the award is not the final goal—it serves as a launchpad for ongoing environmental commitment and continuous improvement in education for sustainable development