

## Engaged Youth Award

### Shortlisted: Colby Primary School Eco Hub

The Colby Eco Hub is an environmental project operating at Colby Primary School which promotes awareness of all aspects of the environment, nature, wildlife and the preservation and conservation of our natural surroundings. The focus of the project is to set up the school as a centre for environmental learning at a primary education level and draws on many years of eco work at the school.

In June 2018, we launched the Green Energy Outreach Programme to teach primary school children about renewable energy, working in partnership with the green energy company Vattenfall.



*(Picture: building and testing a wind turbine)*

The programme invites children from local primary schools to visit Colby and take part in a morning workshop led by our Eco Council. At these sessions children explore why renewable energy is important to society and the environment and presentations are given on the depletion of natural resources, how different forms of electricity were produced in the past and why renewable energy is important for the future. This is combined with practical demonstrations which allow visiting children to have a ‘hands on’ experience of, for example, building and testing a wind turbine model, building electrical circuits, and experiencing being on a windfarm via a Virtual Reality headset. All the equipment used is available as a loan pack so that children can deliver these sessions back at their own school. Creating the programme has been a true collaboration between the schools’ Eco Council and staff, with technical advice and support from Vattenfall and the pupils of Colby see this as an important opportunity to share their environmental knowledge and enthusiasm with children from other schools.



We hope that this programme will be a springboard for extending and developing the eco workshops held at Colby School to include other environmental issues in the future such as food waste, food packaging, composting, farming, preservation of wildlife and the countryside. Eventually the school plans to create a purpose built learning centre, or Hub, within the school grounds to house these eco programmes on a more permanent basis. This would give us much more flexibility and capacity for holding eco workshops and related activities. We would also like the Colby Eco Hub to further engage with local projects and businesses who share our commitment to the environment.

*(Picture: building electrical circuits at GEOP works)*

We see this as an opportunity to do something very special and innovative at Colby School which not only provides a unique set of experiences and skills for our pupils, but which will also benefit the wider community in years to come. More information can be found on our website: [www.colby-ecohub.org.uk](http://www.colby-ecohub.org.uk)



*(Picture: climbing the wind turbine at The Green Britain Centre)*