

At the UN conference on Environment and Development in 1992 a need was identified to involve young people in finding solutions to environmental and sustainable development challenges at the local level. As a result the Eco-Schools programme was developed in 1994 by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and introduced into the UK in 1995. The Eco-Schools programme in Wales is managed by Keep Wales Tidy.

Eco-Schools are distributed throughout all 22 Welsh Local Authorities and include a broad range of pre school, Primary, Secondary and Special schools. There are presently over 90% of Welsh schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme.

More information on the programme can be found at <http://www.eco-schoolswales.org/>

What we mean by sustainable in this context?

The use of the word sustainable in the title of the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme refers to consideration of issues of environmental sustainability as part of this work. In Wales sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations.

The Welsh Government Sustainable Development Scheme 'One Wales: One Planet' sets out the vision of a sustainable Wales and explains how the different elements of sustainable development, fit together. This includes environmental sustainability, which includes protecting local environments and using resources sustainably.

Health issues are also a key element of sustainable development and it is hoped that linking health issues and environmental sustainability issues will enable settings to develop a better understanding of sustainable development as a whole.

Our Healthy Future

The Public Health Strategic Framework for Wales, Welsh Government 2009, highlights the importance of promoting good health in the early years: 'The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and the decisions they, their families and others make can promote and/or detract from their health and wellbeing. Adopting a lifelong health and wellbeing approach will therefore be essential if Our Healthy Future's aims are to be achieved. Tackling risk factors for lifelong health and wellbeing in the early years and building children's resilience to adversity will be central in giving children and young people a good start in life that supports their long-term health and wellbeing.'

