



LAHC

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LAHC Certification for the ‘Green School’ Award

LAHC is launching an initiative to recognise schools’ efforts in the areas of environmental education and responsibility: the **LAHC Green School award**. This will operate, on a trial basis, during 2009, and will be subject to modification in the light of experience.

There are 3 levels of the award, called, for the time being, and until something more appropriate is suggested, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

In order to qualify for the award, a school must fulfil a specified number (according to the level applied for) of the following ten principles:

1. Be affiliated to an official national environmental organisation
2. Have an active environmental committee composed of representatives of the whole school community: management, administration, teaching staff, ancillary staff, pupils, parents. This committee is responsible for determining, communicating and monitoring environmental policy and practice
3. Give specific expression to environmental education in the written curriculum throughout the school
4. Show evidence that environmental education is given specific practical expression across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom¹
5. Have a written policy of environmental responsibility. This policy must be visibly displayed within the school, communicated throughout the community, to staff, pupils and parents, known and observed by the school community as a whole
6. Practise principles of energy and water saving, reduction, reuse and recycling of refuse and provide evidence of this
7. Show evidence that the school campus complies with all national norms of safety, security and environmental responsibility
8. Actively encourage a healthy lifestyle (e.g. through the policies and practices adopted by the school catering service, refreshment kiosk(s) etc., also through education concerning substance abuse)
9. Maintain contact and co-operation with other establishments and/or umbrella organisations (e.g. BSP, ABSCH, LAHC) for the purposes of mutual and reciprocal support, development, etc.
10. Extend its policies and practices outside the school, in care for the surrounding area, help in the local community, etc.

¹ This means both outside the classroom but within the school and by means of fieldwork, etc. outside the school campus

The procedure for qualifying for the award is as follows:

In order to qualify for the different level of the award, a school would need to comply with the following number of principles:

Bronze: 4, Silver: 7, Gold: 10

A school wishing to obtain the certificate would apply to LAHC, either via the Regional Representative or the Executive Officer. It would then be requested to complete a declaration (format obtainable from the Executive Officer: david.bamford@lahc.net) stating the principles with which it aspires to comply and how it complies with them.

An evaluator would be appointed by the LAHC Executive Committee. Ideally, this would be someone locally or, at least, conveniently situated. The declaration would be sent to this person, who would examine it and, if necessary, request supplementary information and/or documentation.

By arrangement with the school, the evaluator would visit the establishment in order to determine for him/herself the degree of compliance with the principles identified. The visit should be of sufficient length for the evaluator to satisfy him/herself as to the degree of compliance. The evaluator should, during the visit, be able to see concrete evidence of compliance with all the principles identified.

The evaluator would submit a report to the LAHC Executive Committee. The report would contain an assessment of the school's compliance with the principles and a recommendation concerning the awarding of the certificate. The recommendation would be:

- A. that the certificate be awarded
- B. that the awarding of the certificate be conditional upon the fulfilment of certain conditions within a specified timeframe
- C. that the certificate should not be awarded

The Executive Committee would communicate the decision to the Head of the school and arrangements would be made for the presentation of the certificate. Ideally, this would take place during a special assembly or some other high profile occasion.

The certificate would carry the year of issue and would be considered valid for a period of two years.

The costs of the application: paperwork, evaluation visit, etc. would be borne by the school applying for the certificate.