



# School Safety

## Sustainability Audit

This guide will help you actively engage with the theme of School Safety in your school grounds. Go out, explore, be critical and start your Eco-School actions!



# EXPLORE SCHOOL SAFETY WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

The School Safety theme empowers learners to understand and address a wide range of risks, from everyday concerns to the challenges posed by climate change and natural hazards. Eco-Schools play a vital role in promoting safety by fostering a culture of resilience through education on emergency planning, risk assessment, and preparedness. This includes conducting drills and developing strategies to reduce vulnerabilities. Through this theme, you will explore proactive safety measures, ensuring a healthier and more secure future for everyone.



For this step, also have a look at our free *Climate Resilience and Schools Safety Handbook* available under:

<https://www.ecoschools.global/climate-resilience-school-safety>.



Your Eco-Committee can choose to focus on the theme School Safety or explore several themes at once. Forming sub-groups within the committee ensures continuity, with each group taking responsibility for a specific theme and developing expertise over time. Use the Eco-Schools Seven Steps to explore and weave the theme throughout every part of your school.

## SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

### Local Practices and Culture

- What are we already doing well to keep everyone safe at school (learners, staff, visitors)?
- Where do safety issues happen most often (places, times, activities), any patterns?

### Risks in and Around the School

- Which areas of the school feel least safe (e.g., corridors, toilets, playgrounds, entrances), and why?
- What are the most common risks to health and well-being in our school (injuries, hygiene issues, bullying, stress), and how are they addressed?

### Preparedness and Response

- If an emergency happens, does everyone know what to do?
- Who might be more vulnerable in an emergency or everyday situations, and what support or adjustments are in place to keep them safe?



Challenge assumptions, slow down, and really observe your surroundings. Your school has its own unique challenges and solutions that only sharp, curious minds will discover. Record what you see - notes, sketches, photos, or simple counts - at different times and seasons.

Ask critical questions: *What's here? What's missing? Why is it like this? What could change?* Use these insights to understand the current situation and move towards high-impact actions for Climate Change at your school.



# School Safety Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
<b>Access</b>		
Locate and map out the main and all emergency exits from your building.		
Are the exit signs visible and easy to follow?		
How easy is it to move around the school if someone is in a wheelchair or on crutches?		
<b>Emergencies</b>		
What are the safe gathering points outside the buildings for emergencies?		
Where can you find maps, floor plans, or evacuation posters, emergency kits, defibrillators, first aid boxes and are they clear, accessible and up to date?		
Does your school have an emergency response team? If yes, who is part of it?		
Has your school ever organised a safety drill or evacuation simulation?		
Map out the location of the fire alarms, extinguishers, smoke detectors and emergency lights in your school building		
<b>Community</b>		
Are there community organisations that support resilience (Red Cross, councils, local emergency services)?		
Who helps manage school safety and risk plans and who do you need to contact in case of emergency?		
Has you school taken part in any local community climate risk reduction initiatives? If yes, in how many?		



## School Safety Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
<b>Weather</b>		
What are the signs of damage caused by weather? <input type="checkbox"/> cracks <input type="checkbox"/> leaks <input type="checkbox"/> erosion <input type="checkbox"/> rust <input type="checkbox"/> mould <input type="checkbox"/> other		
How many days was your school closed this year due to extreme weather?		
What happens to your school during heavy rain, storms, or high winds?		
Identify which areas could flood or collect water after rain		
Which parts of the school are protected from wind, sun, or flooding? How are they protected?		
How many trees, shades, or roofs there are in your school grounds that help protect people from extreme weather?		
Does your school have any drought-resistant plants or green spaces that might help manage heat or rain?		
<b>Protection</b>		
Can you identify in which outdoor areas in or around your school fire could spread easily such as dry grass, leaves, litter?		
Does your school have a disaster management and/or contingency plan? If yes, when and by who was it established? How often is it revised?		

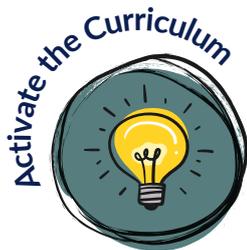


## School Safety Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Your questions		

# Choosing *School Safety* as a key theme for action?

## Follow these next Eco-Schools steps...



What knowledge or skills do you still need to start putting your ideas into action? Take some time to identify what's missing and discuss it within your Eco-Committee. Then, reach out to your teachers and tell them what you'd like to learn more about, whether it's disaster preparedness, emergency response, or understanding climate change and community action. Together, you can build the knowledge and confidence needed to start real change!

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Use what you've learned from your lessons, your Eco-Schools activities, and your own observations, to take action! Work together to turn your ideas into real change by creating an Action Plan for School Safety. Mobilise your Eco-Committee, teachers, school staff, parents, and the wider community to help you reach your goals. You could:



Carry out fire safety checks



Carry out risk mapping



Maintain the emergency kit



Establish an emergency response team

Whatever actions you choose, make sure they are realistic, measurable, and long-lasting, so your Eco-Committee's work continues to grow year after year.

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Monitor your actions to see the difference you have made!

Use your Action Plan to check what's changed in your school and community. Have you practiced evacuation simulations? Have there been less injuries or reported safety concerns? You could compare before-and-after pictures, or note how many people joined your activities. Measuring your impact helps you celebrate success and plan even better actions for the future!

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Make sure the whole school and local community are part of your School Safety journey. Share your findings and actions through assemblies, newsletters, posters, or social media. Invite teachers, students, parents, and local experts to join activities or share their knowledge. By including different perspectives and experiences, your Eco-Committee will build stronger, more creative solutions that last.