

Charlestown Primary School

Health & Safety - Criterion 8

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Healthy School Validation 2004

Charlestown is a primary school in the leafy suburb of Carlyon Bay in St. Austell. At present there are 210 pupils from the St. Austell and surrounding area.

We had already validated in criterion 1, 2 and 6 and next chose to work on criterion 8. Buildings and Grounds. Health and Safety. Wider Environment Issues.

We wanted to use our spacious grounds in a way that would involve all the pupils and stimulate an interest in the environment. We hope the projects will encourage them to look after the grounds.

The steps we have taken have been both successful and frustratingly slow! We have stated the HUFF and PUFF scheme and drawn a Heart Track and other games in the playground. We have purchased outdoor furniture, a climbing wall and a wooden galleon. We do Wake and Shake in the playground before school and allow drinking water in class.

We have started a recycling scheme with the Rag and Bone Company too/1

The school forum and playground Chums help make the playground a happier, safer place to play. They are beginning to take more responsibility for their play and press for changes if things go wrong! They have suggested ways to reduce incidents in the playground and helped supervisors come up with a sanctions and reward scheme.

The school was given a large field to cultivate as an environmental area. We called on the Cornwall Wildlife Trust to advise us and an exciting, ambitious plan was drawn up. We made a start, but it soon became clear that we didn't have the man power or finances to achieve it. We were lucky enough to have a lot of help from Imerys. They cleared the field, fenced it off and dug a big pond for us. We used their clay to line it but unfortunately it did not hold the water. After this set back we decided to apply for a grant from Volvo. This paid for a liner. We managed to get it in with the help of the trust. However with the constant turn over their staff and our helpers we lost impetus and expertise to finish the job.

We are now trying to get a new keen group of workers together to concentrate our efforts on the pond path and surround.

We have now applied for more grants to establish a small orchard near the pond and to zone the infant playground.

The whole school community has been involved in achieving this criterion and we hope to sustain interest and momentum to continue with our plans.

By improving the school grounds and looking for health and safety we hope to motivate pupils into becoming more responsible and caring citizens of the future.

Useful addresses:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/trees/ad-deozr.htm

www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cornwall