

Correspondence with Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills (October 2019)

The Issue:

During the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting on the 25th September, Councillors discussed the issue of litter and schools.

There was some concern that pupils are littering in and around school, which affected the natural environment.

The Panel requested that the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills be asked to advise if there was a general policy covering all schools regarding litter, or whether each school would have their own, which they would implement individually.

An email was sent to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Panel by the Scrutiny Team.

Response from Cabinet Member Councillor Jennifer Raynor:

Many schools have very active and successful eco committees that lead on environmental issues including litter. A large number of our schools have done a lot to increase the amount of recycling that they do.

I am sure individuals who have concerns would be more than welcome to contact individual head teachers on this issue and potentially meet with the eco committee to offer support and guidance.

Although this is a matter for each individual school, the local authority has provided schools with advice and checklists for this specific area and we would encourage all members of governing bodies to play an active part in this part of a school's life:

Governing Body Site Safety Check List – Half Termly asks:

- Are litter bins secure and undamaged?
- Is the site free from litter, glass or any other dangerous object?

The caretakers/ site managers check list which has been developed to support all premises managers in maintaining a safe working / teaching environment for all employees, pupils and visitors, suggest that daily duties should include:

- Litter pick – all areas