

Good practices in Hungary

29/2020

Title: ECO SCHOOL
Owner: Andor Ilona Baptist School
Contact: <http://andor-ilona.baptistaoktatas.hu/okoiskola---andor-ilona-iskola> ;
<https://divany.hu/szupertanar/2019/07/25/okoiskola-toth-maria-interju/>;
<https://ofi.oh.gov.hu/okoiskola>

Good practice for: Reduce waste campaign, eliminate single use plastic, environmental education, dissemination, awareness raising, important of role model

Description: The Andor Ilona Baptist School in the heart of Budapest not only focuses on cultural and musical education, but in 2007 it was awarded the title of “ECO SCHOOL”. They educate young students in accordance with the spirit of this title, the main goal is to promote the upbringing of a generation with a radically different approach to nature. The director of the school who was nominated as a ‘super teacher’ believes that any further deterioration of our environment can only be stopped by a new generation that loves and respects nature and ‘subordinate’ its lifestyle to the laws of nature. Instead of one-way methods, they facilitate situational teaching, activities for students with the opportunity to shape their environment positively; they encourage critical, reflective thinking rather than accepting everything without any thinking, and the inclusive participation of students to form general educational requirements.

But is not only the educational materials and system that is reflecting eco values. The director also pays attention to have a lot of plants in the corridors, classrooms of the school. Recycling was introduced in the school in 2006, way before other institutions. Students collect paper waste continuously and an annual class-level competition is organised for them as well. Students are involved in many activities to keep the school nice and tidy, looking after the compost heap, do some gardening. These activities are coordinated by a volunteer student group (Ökomúkusok). The school also makes sure, that water, energy is used consciously and they use Eco-friendly products for maintenance work and cleaning. Since November 2014, solar collectors have been operating on top of our school. They raise awareness of healthy eating as well as announced "Say no to the plastic bag!" action, joined waste collecting campaigns and started a plastics-free FRIDAY initiative in 2018.

Some of these projects are also addressing the parents of students and achieving a greater dissemination.