

Integrating the Global Goals Book Club into your Green-Schools work: A Guide for teachers

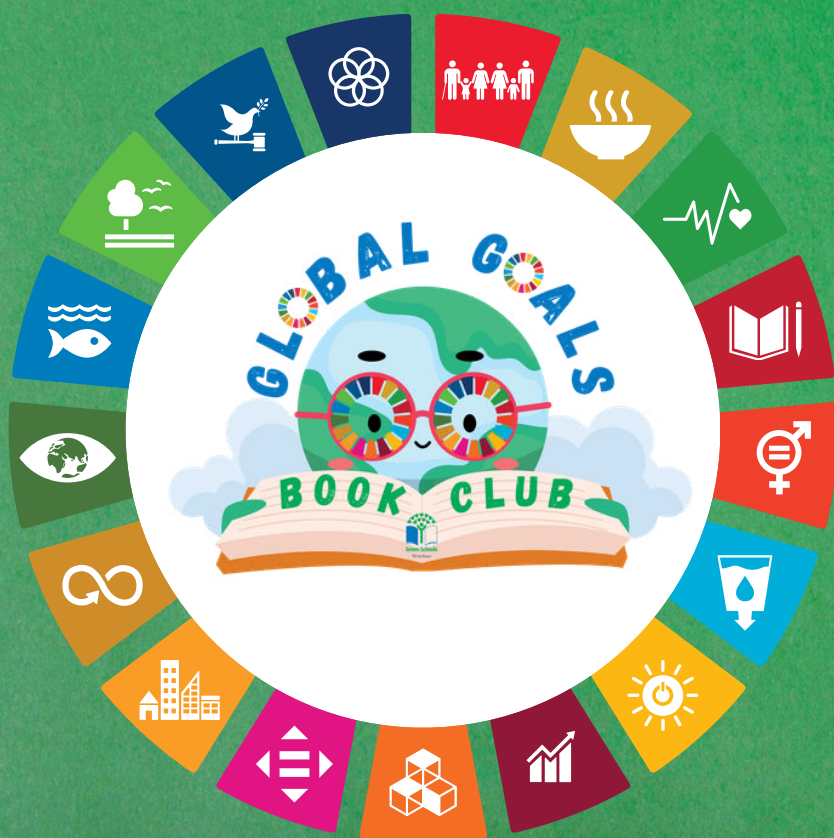
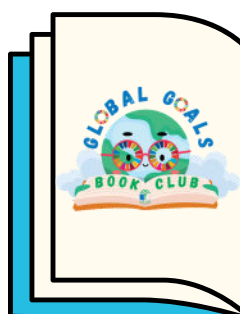


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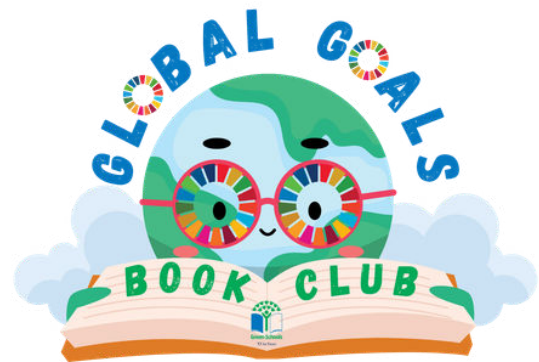


**READ
LEARN
INSPIRE**



What is the Global Goals Book Club?

The Global Goals Book Club is a fun and engaging way to bring the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to life in your classroom through the power of stories. Each book in the collection has been carefully chosen to connect with one of the 17 Global Goals, making complex global issues accessible and meaningful for children of all ages.



When you choose a book from the Book Club, you'll also have access to ready-to-use teaching resources. These include:

- Discussion questions to spark critical thinking.
- Worksheets and activities that link the story to real-world action.
- A video reading of the book (so every class can join in, even without a copy on hand).

The Book Club supports your Green-Schools work by helping pupils explore environmental and social themes in an age-appropriate way. Stories encourage empathy, imagination, and connection, as well as giving students the chance to reflect on how their own school projects and actions link to global challenges and solutions.

By using the Global Goals Book Club, your school can:

- Embed the SDGs into your curriculum and literacy work.
- Strengthen your Green-Schools Action Plan with creative, story-based approaches.
- Give pupils a deeper understanding of how their everyday choices and school projects contribute to building a fairer, greener world.

Check out the Global Goals Book Club by scanning the QR Code here:



Where is the Global Goals Book Club?



The Global Goals Book Club is available online and in libraries across Ireland, making it easy for schools to get involved in a way that suits them best.

Teachers can access the Book Club anytime through the Green-Schools website, where you'll find a wide range of resources to support classroom learning. By becoming a member, you can unlock additional materials, competitions and opportunities for further engagement.

We've also brought the Book Club to life through in-person events, including sessions with Irish author Leona Forde, giving students the chance to connect directly with authors and stories.

More recently, we've partnered with libraries to make the Book Club even more accessible. Schools can now borrow full sets of Global Goals Book Club titles from Kildare, Fingal and Cork County Libraries, allowing children to engage with the books in a hands-on way.

If you're based near one of these libraries, we encourage you to get involved, and stay tuned, as we hope to expand to even more locations in the next school term!



Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Tom O'Leary, joined students from Gael Scoil Na Mara to celebrate this exciting initiative.



Global Citizenship Education Officer Siobhán Hughes with Irish Author Leona Forde at our World Book Day event.

How do I use the Global Goals Book Club?



Use this guide to get a better understanding of the Global Goals and which ones you might decide to work on.

1. Review

Review the list on the next page named **'How do the SDGs link to my Green-Schools theme?'**

2. Select

Select your theme and note which SDGs we have connected to the theme (there are many others that you find may connect well too - don't let our list be exhaustive!)

3. Visit

Visit the Global Goals Book Club webpage (www.greenschoolsireland.org/the-programme/projects/global-goals-book-club/) and explore the books that we have carefully curated for your selected goals.

4. Download

Download the accompanying resources where you can listen to the story online and engage your classroom with activities and worksheets.

5. Learn

If you are finding it difficult to engage your classroom with the Global Goals, you will find child-friendly definitions of the Global Goals towards to end of this resource

6. Connect

If you are struggling to connect your theme to a Global Goal, email the Global Citizenship team at globalcitizenship@eeu.antaisce.org and we will be happy to help!

How do the SDGs link to my Green-Schools Theme?

Green-Schools Theme	Linked SDGs	How they connect to Green-Schools Theme	Primary Curriculum Links
Litter and Waste	     11, 12, 13, 14, 15	Reduces pollution; promotes recycling and sustainable communities	• SESE: Science (Materials), • SESE: Geography (Environmental Care), • SPHE (Citizenship) • Visual Arts (Recycled materials)
Energy	   7, 12, 13	Promotes clean energy, efficiency, and climate action	• SESE: Science (Energy & Forces), • SESE: Geography (Weather, Climate), • SPHE (Sustainability)
Water	    6, 12, 13, 14	Supports conservation, access to clean water and protection of aquatic life	• SESE: Science (Living Things), • SESE: Geography (Water Cycle), • SPHE (Resource care)
Travel	   3, 11, 13	Supports sustainable and active transport, improving health and air quality	• PE, • SPHE (Safety & Wellbeing), • Geography (Transport), • Maths (Distance/time)
Biodiversity	   13, 14, 15	Preserves habitats and species, supports ecosystems and links to climate resilience	• SESE: Science (Living Things), • Geography (Habitats), • SPHE, • Visual Arts

How do the SDGs link to my Green-Schools Theme?

Green-Schools Theme	Linked SDGs	How they connect to Green-Schools Theme	Primary Curriculum Links
Global Citizenship Litter and Waste	      1, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15	Links inequality, justice and sustainability through local waste action	• SPHE (Rights and Responsibilities) • SESE: Geography, • English (Report writing)
Global Citizenship Energy	    7, 10, 12, 13	Explores access to energy, inequalities in energy use and clean energy for climate justice	• SESE: Science (Energy), • Geography (Climate, global connections), • SPHE (Fairness, equity), • Maths (Data)
Global Citizenship Marine	    6, 12, 13, 14	Connects pollution and marine conservation to global citizenship	• Science (Marine ecosystems), • Geography (Coastal zones), • CSPE
Global Citizenship Travel	    3, 10, 11, 13	Promotes equity, safety, and wellbeing in transport	• PE, • SPHE (Equality), • Geography
Global Citizenship Food & Biodiversity	      2, 3, 13, 14, 15	Links food systems, health, biodiversity and local food production	• SESE: Science (Plants, Living Things), • SPHE (Healthy Eating), • Geography (Farming), • Visual Arts (Nature)

Using the Global Goals Book Club to Support the 7 Steps of Green Schools



Using this Guide

These ideas are designed to support you in linking the Global Goals Book Club with your Green Schools work, but they do not need to be followed step-by-step. Instead, use them as a flexible guide to inspire how the Book Club can support different stages of the Green Schools process. You might choose one idea, adapt another or build your own approach based on your class and school priorities. The aim is simply to help you get started and to show the many ways stories can inspire meaningful environmental action in your school.

1. Green-Schools Committee

What you can do:

- Use stories to build leadership and understanding
- Read a short book at each committee meeting
- Use the story to explore a theme (waste, water, energy, fairness)
- Assign roles inspired by the story (e.g. "Lorax Litter Monitors")

Book-based ideas:

- The Lorax → discuss responsibility for waste in the school
- The Water Princess → explore fairness in access to water
- Malala's Magic Pencil → encourage student voice and leadership

Go deeper:

- Create Book Ambassadors, students take responsibility for one book and share its message with the school (this also supports Informing and Involving!)

2. Environmental Review

What you can do:

- Investigate your school through the lens of stories
- Use a book to introduce the issue
- Turn the story into an investigation question
- Carry out a simple audit (waste, water, energy, travel)

Book-based ideas:

- The Lorax → carry out a waste audit
- The Mess We Made → focus on plastic use in lunches
- The Water Princess → check taps, water use
- Iqbal and His Ingenious Idea → review electricity use

Go deeper:

1. Compare your school to the situation in the story
2. Ask: Is our school part of the problem or the solution?



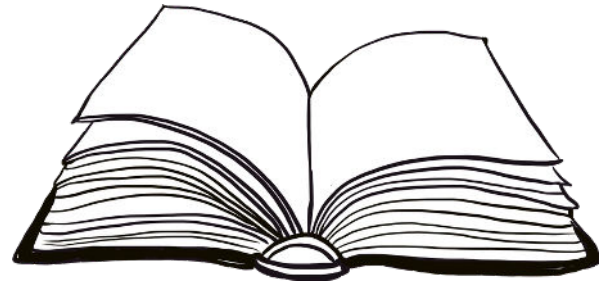
Using the Global Goals Book Club to Support the 7 Steps of Green Schools



3. Action Plan

What you can do:

- Turn stories into meaningful action
- Choose 1-2 actions inspired by your book
- Keep actions simple and achievable
- Link each action to a Global Goal



Book-based ideas:

- The Lorax → reduce classroom waste
- Stone Soup → grow food / reduce food waste
- Last Stop on Market Street → promote sustainable travel
- Seeds of Change → plant pollinator-friendly areas

Example Action:

- After reading Greta and the Giants, plan a Climate Action Day where pupils create posters encouraging families to protect nature and reduce emissions. (Also supports Informing and Involving)

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

What you can do:

- Measure change and reflect on impact
- Record data before and after actions
- Use simple charts, graphs or tallies
- Revisit the story to reflect on progress

Book-based ideas:

- The Lorax → track reduction in waste
- Iqbal and his Ingenious Idea → monitor energy saved
- The Water Princess → measure water use changes

Go deeper:

- Create a "Before and After" display wall with photos and student reflections. Share this with parents and wider school to support Informing and Involving.

Using the Global Goals Book Club to Support the 7 Steps of Green Schools



5. Curriculum Work

What you can do:

- Teach through stories across subjects
- Use the book as a starting point for cross-curricular learning.

Book-based ideas:

- I Am Peace → SPHE (mindfulness activities)
- Malala's Magic Pencil → English (creative writing, persuasive letters)
- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind → STEM (design projects)
- Manfish → Science (marine life)

Example Action:

- Students write their own Global Goals books with an environmental message
- Display in a class or school library (supports Involving and Informing).

6. Informing & Involving

What you can do:

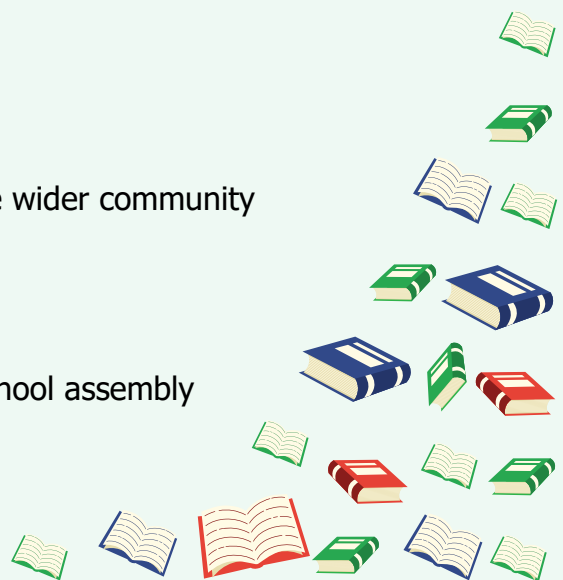
- Share learning and inspire action
- Share work with other classes, parents and the wider community
- Use creative, student-led approaches

Book-based ideas:

- Greta and the Giants → poster campaign or school assembly
- Children of the World → Global Goals display
- The Lorax → awareness week

Creative Ideas

- Book Ambassadors present to other classes
- Host a Book Club Showcase Day
- Host a School Book Swap
- Host a 'Write Your Own Book' activity. Display student books in the school and invite parents in for story readings and activities



Using the Global Goals Book Club to Support the 7 Steps of Green Schools



7. Green Code

What you can do:

- Create a shared vision inspired by stories
- Use key messages from books to create your Green Code
- Make it student-led and meaningful

Book-based ideas:

- The Lorax → “Speak for the trees”
- Greta and the Giants → “Stand up for our planet”
- The Water Princess → “Save water, share resources”



Creative Idea:

- Create a Global Goals Green Code display with student artwork and SDG symbols

We hope this guide supports you on your Green Schools journey and helps you see the many simple and meaningful ways the Global Goals Book Club can be woven into your practice. At its heart, the Book Club is about nurturing a love of reading, while also encouraging children to be curious, creative and willing to think differently about the world around them.

Through stories, students can step into the lives of children in other countries, building empathy and understanding, while also reflecting on the issues they see in their own communities. Inspired by their favourite characters, they are empowered to imagine solutions and take small, positive actions that make a real difference.

There is no one “right way” to use this resource, every class and school is different. By engaging with these stories and ideas, you are already supporting children to grow as thoughtful, informed global citizens. We hope this approach makes it easier to integrate Global Citizenship Education naturally across the curriculum and that it brings enjoyment, creativity and curiosity to your teaching and learning.

Global Goals Book Day

Each class reads a different book linked to a Global Goal and presents learning through art, drama, song or posters.

Supports: Global Citizenship, Litter & Waste, Climate Action

Book Swap Shop

Students bring gently used books to swap instead of buying new ones.

Link to:

- SDG 12 Responsible Consumption
- Stitched Up
- The Lorax

Read in Nature Day

Take books outside and read in the school garden, local park or biodiversity area.

Books:

- Seeds of Change
- Here We Are
- Cloud Babies

Supports: Biodiversity, Wellbeing

Equality & Inclusion Day

Books:

- Children of the World
- The Lost Homework
- The Pavee and the Buffer Girl

Activities:

- Friendship walls
- Diversity celebration
- Cultural sharing day

Supports: Global Citizenship, Travel

Water Awareness Day

Read The Water Princess and host water-saving challenges like:

- Measure dripping taps
- Water poster competition
- Refill bottle challenge

Supports: Water Theme

Fashion Revolution Day

Use Stitched Up to host an upcycling workshop and prevent waste.

Activities:

- Sewing skills
- Repair old uniforms
- Eco-fashion show

Ocean Literacy Day

Use Manfish and marine books to inspire different actions around the school and community:

- Plastic-free lunch challenge
- Beach clean-up
- Sea creature art

Supports: Marine Environment

Mindfulness Reading Morning

Books:

- I Am Peace
- Cloud Babies

Activities:

- Guided breathing
- Gratitude journaling



Ideas for Ongoing School Actions to support your Action Plan



These ideas for simple ongoing actions help embed the Global Goals and Green-Schools themes into everyday school life, encouraging students to lead positive change through reading, creativity and meaningful action.

1. **Global Goals Book Corner**

Create a dedicated reading area with your books linked to Green-Schools themes.

2. **Environmental Book Club**

Lunch club where students read sustainability books and plan eco-actions.

3. **Write Your Own Story Competition**

Students write stories about:

- saving water
- helping nature
- reducing waste
- fairness and equality

Winning stories displayed in school/library.

4. **Poster Campaigns**

Use books to inspire awareness posters:

- Save Water
- Walk to School
- Protect Pollinators
- Buy Less, Reuse More

5. **Global Goals Assembly Series**

Each month one class presents one Goal and one book.

6. **Book Repair Team**

Train students to repair damaged books.
Supports reuse culture.



How can I support my classroom to understand the Global Goals?



The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a vital framework for creating a fairer, safer, and more sustainable world. However, as important as they are, many of the goals, and the language used to describe them, can be difficult for children to fully grasp.

That's why we've developed a child-friendly version of the 17 Global Goals:

- With simple, age-appropriate titles (marked in **Green**)
- One-sentence explanations that make the goals more accessible
- And practical, real-world actions children can take at home, in school, and in their local communities.

Why Child-Friendly SDGs?

- To help teachers introduce the Global Goals in a meaningful and manageable way
- To ensure that learners of all ages can connect with the values and ideas behind sustainable development
- To integrate the SDGs into Green-Schools activities and the wider curriculum (SPHE, SESE, Wellbeing, etc.)

We hope these adaptations will help make the SDGs engaging, relatable, and relevant for your pupils and support you in bringing global citizenship to life in your classroom.





1: No Poverty → **Everyone Has What They Need**

Description: Make sure all people have enough food, clothes, and a safe place to live.

Action: Plan a “No-Money Day” in class where students explore alternatives to buying, such as sharing, swapping, or making things at home. Link to SESE geography by mapping local resources and discussing community support systems.



2: Zero Hunger → **No One Goes Hungry**

Description: Help everyone have enough healthy food to eat every day.

Action: Read Stone Soup and explore how sharing food can help others. Students could plan a small “food share” in class or draw recipes to share.



3. Good Health and Well-being → **Stay Healthy and Happy**

Description: Help people stay safe, healthy, and feel good in their bodies and minds.

Action: Read I Am Peace or Cloud Babies and practice mindfulness or breathing exercises. Students could write or draw their “happy place.”



4. Quality Education → **Learn and Help Others Learn**

Description: Make sure all kids get a chance to go to school and learn.

Action: Read Malala’s Magic Pencil or Lulu’s First Day and discuss why education is important. Students can create a “dream school” poster.



5. Gender Equality → **Boys and Girls Are Equal**

Description: Make sure boys and girls are treated the same and have the same chances.

Action: Read Bright Sparks or Malala: My Story and discuss women innovators. Students could design a poster celebrating girls and boys achieving their goals.



6. Clean Water and Sanitation → **Clean Water for Everyone**

Description: Make sure all people have clean water to drink and toilets to use.

Action: Read The Water Princess and explore ways to save water. Students could make a “water-saving pledge” chart.



7. Affordable and Clean Energy → **Energy That's Good for the Earth**

Description: Use power that doesn't harm the planet, like sunlight and wind.

Action: Read Iqbal and His Ingenious Idea and brainstorm ideas for using clean energy at school. Students could design solar-powered inventions.



8. Decent Work and Economic Growth → **Good Jobs for Everyone**

Description: Help make sure people can work in safe jobs and earn enough money.

Action: Read Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type and discuss teamwork and jobs. Students could create a “class job chart” showing responsibilities.



9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure → **Build a Better World**

Description: Create things like roads, schools, and inventions that help everyone.

Action: Read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and invent a classroom gadget. Students can sketch or build models of their own ideas.



10: Reduced Inequalities → **Be Fair to Everyone**

Description: Make sure everyone is treated fairly, no matter who they are.

Action: Read *The Lost Homework* or *Last Stop on Market Street* and discuss fairness. Students could share stories of times they helped someone feel included.



11: Sustainable Cities and Communities → **Safe and Happy Places to Live**

Description: Make towns and cities nice places where everyone can live safely.

Action: Read *The Lorax* or *Greta and the Giants* and make a "green school plan" poster. Students could plant seeds or design eco-friendly classrooms.



12: Responsible Consumption and Production → **Use Wisely, Waste Less**

Description: Don't waste food or things we use — reuse and recycle instead!

Action: Read *Stitched Up* and try an upcycling project in class. Students could turn old clothes or items into something new.



13: Climate Action → **Protect the Earth**

Description: Help stop climate change by taking care of our planet.

Action: Read Milly McCarthy is a Complete Catastrophe, Greta and the Giants, or Manfish. Students could make climate action pledges or posters.



14: Life Below Water → **Keep Oceans and Rivers Clean**

Description: Take care of fish and all the animals that live in water.

Action: Read Manfish or Little People Big Dreams: David Attenborough and explore ways to keep water clean. Students could create "save the ocean" artwork.



15: Life on Land → **Care for Plants and Animals**

Description: Help protect forests, animals, and all nature.

Action: Read Seeds of Change or Little People Big Dreams: David Attenborough and discuss how to protect nature. Students could map a "nature rescue plan."



16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions → **Be Kind and Fair**

Description: Help everyone live in peace and follow fair rules.

Action: Read The Pavee and the Buffer Girl, or the Well of Lost Wishes, and discuss kindness, fairness, and helping others. Students could write a "peace promise."



17: Partnerships for the Goals → **Work Together to Make a Difference**

Description: People around the world need to team up to help each other.

Action: Read *Children of the World* or *The More We Get Together* and plan a class collaboration. Students could create a “global friendship map” showing how everyone can help each other.

We hope that these child-friendly descriptions of the Global Goals help make them more accessible, relatable, and easy to explore in your classroom. Our aim is to support you in bringing global citizenship education to life in a meaningful way for your students.

The Global Goals can be easily woven into the teaching and learning already happening in your classroom. By using stories from the Global Goals Book Club, teachers can explore important themes like fairness, sustainability and wellbeing through reading, discussion and creative activities.

Each book provides a natural starting point for meaningful conversations and simple actions, allowing students to connect what they learn in class to the wider world. With minimal extra planning, the Global Goals become part of everyday learning, helping to develop informed, empathetic and active global citizens.



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

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