

**28 January 2019**

## **SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT VISITS WILBERFORCE PRIMARY**

Environment Secretary Michael Gove today visited Wilberforce Primary to speak about plastic and food waste and to find out about the steps the pupils are taking to protect the environment.

The London primary school is currently participating in environmental project 'A Future Without Rubbish' which seeks to educate school children about sustainability and the importance of protecting the planet. As part of the project, the pupils are being encouraged to reduce their use of single-use plastics and cut food waste, and to think of ways they can minimise their impact on the environment.



Speaking to the primary school children, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP said:

“We want to leave our environment in better state than we inherited it, and it’s great that young people at Wilberforce Primary School are playing their part.

“I’m delighted the next generation are being inspired join the fight against unnecessary food and plastic waste and help us tread more lightly on the planet.”

Head Teacher of Wilberforce Primary, Claire Macfie said:

“We were delighted to welcome the Secretary of State to Wilberforce Primary today and to show him how we are teaching pupils about the environment.”

Luke Douglas-Home of *Association A Future Without Rubbish (AAFWR)* said:

“Wilberforce Primary is certainly blazing a new trail in what it teaches its pupils and improving its own environmental impact. What the school is doing as part of *A Future Without Rubbish* should be the model for most schools regarding food and plastic waste. We call upon DEFRA’s newly-appointed ‘Food Waste Champion’ to learn from this school and the project *A Future without Rubbish* for us all, nationally and internationally.”

Robert Patterson from ReFood, which collects the food waste from Wilberforce Primary, said:

“ReFood are delighted to be working with AAFWR and Wilberforce Primary to ensure their waste food is recycled in ReFood’s state of the art Anaerobic Digestion plant in London. The waste food is used to produce gas for homes and fertilizer for farms.”

**Notes to Editors:**

- 1. Wilberforce Primary is part of United Learning. It was judged ‘Good’ by Ofsted in March 2018.**
- 2. Association A Future Without Rubbish is a members’ association that runs the project in the UK. It is part-funded by Westminster Council.**
- 3. Further information on Clear Public Space or ‘A Future without Rubbish’ is available from Luke Douglas-Home on 077 15 65 88 49, or Anna Lemer on 020 3006 5890.**