

Max's Muncher: Pupil-Led Advocacy and Sustainable Change

Some examples of courageous advocacy develop collaboratively over time. This project began with the vision, determination and leadership of one pupil.

Max, a Year 3 pupil and passionate Eco Warrior, identified an issue within school life that he believed needed addressing. Through careful observation, he recognised that we were not making best use of our food waste and that this did not align with our shared values around responsibility and care for the environment. Crucially, Max did not stop at recognising the problem; he felt a strong sense of personal responsibility to bring about change.

This project was entirely pupil-initiated and pupil-led. Max independently researched composting and explored different composter models that would be suitable for a primary school context. He considered cost, practicality and long-term use, demonstrating impressive critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Once he had identified a viable solution, Max turned his attention to implementation.

Understanding that resources were required, Max independently devised a fundraising plan. He organised sponsored cycle rides and undertook a range of odd jobs, clearly communicating to those supporting him the purpose behind his actions and the wider environmental impact he hoped to achieve. His determination, perseverance and sense of agency were evident throughout. Through his own efforts, Max successfully raised the funds needed to purchase a composter for the school.

The impact of Max's advocacy has been both practical and lasting. The composter is now used regularly and has transformed how food waste is managed across the school. Pupils engage actively with the composting process, developing a deeper understanding of sustainability, environmental stewardship and responsible living. Learning in this area is no longer abstract; it is visible, meaningful and embedded in daily practice.

In recognition of Max's leadership and to ensure his contribution is honoured and remembered, the composter has been named "Max's Muncher." This acts as a constant reminder of the power of pupil voice and the difference one child can make when supported to act on their convictions.

This project exemplifies our school's commitment to courageous advocacy. It demonstrates how pupils are empowered to identify injustice or imbalance, to take action, and to see themselves as agents of change. Max's journey reflects our values in action: noticing need, responding thoughtfully and creating sustainable change for the good of the community and the wider world.

Max's Muncher stands as a powerful example of child-led advocacy with real impact. It shows that when pupils are encouraged to lead, their actions not only enrich school life but also shape a culture of responsibility, care and hope.

