



## who has got energy for life?

### name

**Mr. Whitehead**

### occupation

**Headmaster**

### organisation

**Newbury Park Primary School**

[www.newburypark.redbridge.sch.uk](http://www.newburypark.redbridge.sch.uk)

### introducing Mr. Whitehead

Mr. Whitehead has been headmaster at the Primary School since 1994 and has overseen the school's tripling in size from 300 pupils in 1994 to 900 pupils today.

“preparing children for the future, not for the world as it is now, but when they are adults, that is the challenge”

“We take children from 3 to 11, all of who are very worldly as we serve a really culturally diverse community. 91% are from an ethnic minority and 85% of our pupils speak another language other than English, with a total of over 40 different languages spoken.”

“**We run a global citizenship programme** covering the similarities and differences between our ways of life around the globe and **dealing with issues of global poverty, water shortage and issues around the environment.**”

“**These are not only issues that are important for the future but as far as the children are concerned they are issues for them to come to terms with now.** When someone on the news says that the icecap is going to melt and it will be the end of the World that is an anxiety for a child so we discuss it, to put it into context.”

**With regards to climate change “I don't think you can simply assume that children are just going to be bystanders.** They do appreciate and like engagement on those issues that they see as real, they want to express an opinion themselves and know that those opinions really matter.”

“Recently we started an eco club where children volunteer to promote conservation issues in the school; they have a budget to think up initiatives. At the moment they are looking at a compost heap and redoing the school's garden, they will also be taking responsibility to remind people to turn off computers and lights and to generally raise awareness of what can be done.”

In 2004/2005 the school building was extended and the decision was taken to incorporate Solar Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the new classrooms to provide green electricity.

“There was a lot of interest at first; we have talked in assemblies about what they do and how they work now the children accept them as part of the building.”

“**Children are adaptable they see things on their own terms; they haven't got constraints of thinking about mortgages and all the other things that hold up our lives.** They approach issues on their own terms, it is a bit black and white, but I suppose it makes them open to the more radical ideas and concepts for resolving the challenges of tomorrow.”

For anyone considering renewable energy on their building Mr Whitehead's advice is; “just go for it!”

“I don't think you can simply assume that children are just going to be bystanders”

## Newbury Park Primary School

In 2004/2005 the school building was extended and the decision taken to incorporate Solar Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the new classrooms to provide green electricity.



### solar photovoltaic solutions

Retrofit over tiled roof

### area (sqm)

80

### size (kW)

10

### project details

Customer

London Borough of Redbridge

Type of building

School

Date completed

2004/2005

Location

East London

### carbon saved / energy generated

Annual carbon saving

3.4 tonnes

Lifetime carbon saving

120.4 tonnes

Annual energy generated

8000 kWh

For further information on other innovative ways of incorporating renewable energy in your building see our Solution Sheets.

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