

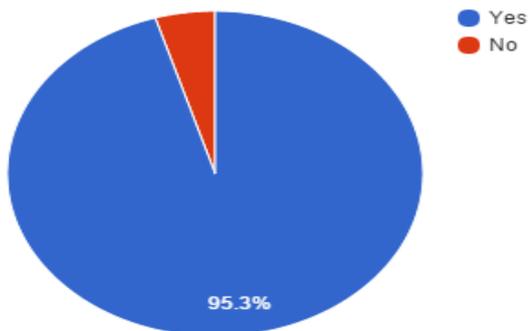
Green leaders

Green Leaders is an initiative organised in our school, St. Thomas More College Zejtun. These are selected students who have a very important role to play in our school. Their job is to keep the school and classes organised, spot clean but also to help reduce the environmental impact of our school.



In order to do the latter, these appointed students make sure that that lights, fans and interactive whiteboards are switched off when not in use; such as at the end of a school day and in between breaks. In addition, they ensure that waste is thrown away in the appropriate bins and that the curtains are open during the day to allow natural light to be used instead of artificial light. Once a month an inspection is done by these students and their findings are recorded in special record sheets, in order to identify the shortcomings and thus improve over the situation.

Percentage of windows opened

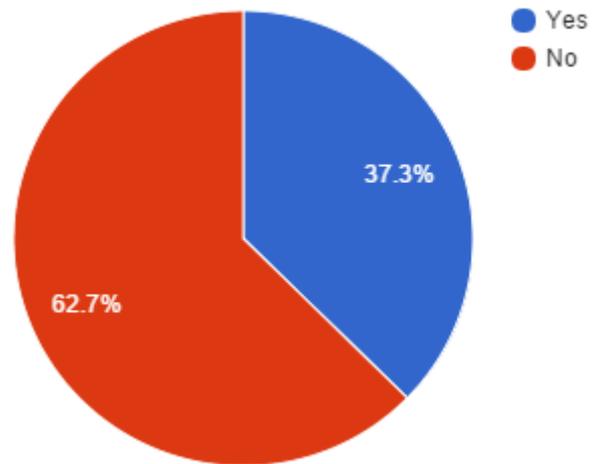


One of the investigations being done during the inspections is to check whether the windows are open or close during the day. As seen from the pie chart 95.3% of the windows were left open during the months, November and December. There are a number of advantages of the windows being left open. The more air present in the room, the less the chance of students and teachers being sick. This is because air is

continually being circulated. However, there are also environmental benefits. Light is allowed to enter from the windows which therefore decrease the use of artificial light. In addition, especially in summer, rooms are much cooler and so the usage of fans is decreased. Both will help in energy conservation which eventually leads to less air pollution.

Another investigation carried out in our classes was to check whether the electronic devices like; interactive whiteboards, neon tubes and fans were switched off when they were not in use. As the pie chart shows 37.5% of the classes do in fact care about the environment as these were switched off. However a high percentage of 62.7% left the electrical devices on.

Percentage of electrical devices switched off



In addition, this year our school is taking part in a campaign called 'Save the Polar Bear' campaign. This encourages students to switch off the devices, in order to decrease carbon dioxide emissions. This causes greenhouse effect which eventually cause global warming and leads to the melting of ice caps in the North and South Poles which is the polar bear's habitat.

We believe that green leaders, or something similar, should be introduced in each and every school in Malta. This would surely lead to the decrease of schools' carbon footprint but also to foster initiative in students to pursue and help environmental problems. Above all, to form future sustainable citizens.

Bernice Mifsud and Sarah Mifsud