# **Guardian Project Recognition Rubric**

#### Part 1 - Whole-School Criteria

Criteria	Silver (Emerging) Tier Foundational Commitment	Gold (Committed) Tier Community Impact & Peer Coaching	Platinum (Exemplary) Tier Systems Change & Shared Leadership	Model Schools Transformational Model
Commitment to the Guardian Vision	School joins the network and launches at least 1 project aligned with one Promise; basic participation in network opportunities.	School integrates 2+ Promises into school initiatives; staff and students understand and use Guardian language in daily practice.	Guardian values and Promises are strategically embedded in policies, programs, and leadership structures.	All <b>Five Promises</b> and <b>four focus areas</b> are part of the school's identity and strategic plan.
Vision Alignment & Framework Implementation	Awareness stage: initial projects align with purpose-driven education.	Guardian frameworks guide planning and instructional design in multiple subjects.	Guardian frameworks inform strategic and cultural transformation across the school.	School serves as a model and mentor, co-developing and piloting Guardian frameworks globally.

Faculty Engagement & Peer Learning	A small group of educators leads projects; collaboration is emerging.	Faculty participate in peer coaching and Guardian learning events, sharing promising practices.	Educators provide regional leadership, hosting site visits and supporting other schools.	Faculty lead <b>global collaboration</b> , co-author frameworks, and mentor schools internationally.
Community Impact & Partnerships	Initial partnerships support Guardian-aligned projects.	Sustained, reciprocal partnerships create measurable impact in at least one focus area.	School becomes a regional hub for collaboration, hosting multi-stakeholder initiatives.	Global partnerships drive systemic change across Environment, Health, Society, and Economy.
Recognition & Sharing	School shares stories internally (assemblies, newsletters, internal reports).	Impact shared in  Guardian webinars  and case studies;  supporting peer  growth.	Recognized in regional/global forums and Guardian platforms.	School becomes an <b>Exemplar</b> , shaping global policy and practice through leadership and mentoring.

#### **PART 2 - The Guardian Promises**

Student
Engagement &
Real-World
Application

Students participate in **projects or events** tied to at least one promise, exploring real-world issues and solutions.

Students co-lead projects, engage with local and global partners, and show evidence of applying learning to community or global challenges.

Students are changemakers and co-designers, with sustained pathways for internships, apprenticeships, and impact-driven community projects.

Students lead initiatives regionally and globally, shaping projects that inspire **systemic impact** and global collaboration.

Global Perspective & Stewardship Early-stage projects show a focus on sustainability or global citizenship. Sustainability and stewardship are embedded across disciplines, with active student leadership in environment or economy-focused initiatives.

The school influences regional/global conversations in stewardship, sharing expertise and student impact broadly.

Recognized as a global leader in **stewardship** and **sustainability**, modeling innovation and solutions in all four focus areas.

Civic		
Engag	ement	&
Social	Justic	е

Students engage in early actions or awareness campaigns tied to social justice or civic responsibility.

Students and faculty co-lead advocacy and service-learning projects, partnering with community stakeholders for measurable impact.

Civic and social justice leadership is institutionalized, driving systemic change within and beyond the school community.

The school is recognized globally for social justice innovation and advocacy, mentoring other schools in building equitable systems.

# Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Future-Focused Learning

Students explore design thinking and creative problem-solving connected to ethical and sustainable innovation.

Entrepreneurial programs support student solutions with measurable economic or community impact.

The school fosters a culture of ethical innovation, where students consistently design and launch scalable, sustainable solutions.

The school is a hub for future-focused education, shaping models that are studied and emulated globally.

#### Solution-Oriente d Mindset & Project-Based Learning

Projects are emerging that apply positive problem-solving in at least one focus area (Environment, Health, Society, or Economy).

Interdisciplinary, solution-oriented projects address multiple focus areas, connecting student learning to tangible outcomes. Systems thinking and iterative design cycles are integrated across the curriculum, with school-wide engagement.

The school is a recognized center of excellence for project-based, systems-thinking education and impact.

Faculty Engagement & Peer Learning	A small group of educators leads Guardian initiatives; collaboration is emerging.	Faculty participate in peer coaching and network events, sharing and refining best practices.	Educators take regional leadership roles, hosting site visits, coaching other schools, and contributing to Guardian frameworks.	The faculty acts as a global thought leader, co-developing frameworks and mentoring schools internationally.
Community Impact & Partnerships	The school begins building partnerships that support Guardian-aligned projects.	Partnerships are sustained and reciprocal, producing measurable impact in one or more focus areas.	The school becomes a <b>regional hub</b> for collaboration, uniting stakeholders in systemic impact initiatives.	The school leads multi-stakeholder, global partnerships, driving measurable transformation in Environment, Health, Society, and Economy.
Recognition & Sharing	The school shares project stories internally to build community awareness.	The school's impact is highlighted in Guardian webinars and case studies, supporting peer schools.	The school is regularly featured in publications and regional/global forums.	The school is a <b>Guardian Exemplar</b> , shaping policy and practice across the global network and beyond.

## **Guardian Recognition Tiers**

Requirements & Benefits
1+ project aligned with one promise: access to member events, frameworks, and foundational network resources.
2+ projects aligned with two promises; one collaborative team formed; invitations to present at network events.
3+ projects aligned with three promises; public exhibition; mentoring another school; hosting a Guardian Gathering.



Full integration of all five promises and four focus areas; recognized globally as a model Guardian School; leadership in mentoring and network-wide initiatives.

Transformational Model

#### **Guardian Educator Badges**

Individual educators may earn badges in one or more areas of expertise based on leadership in Guardian-aligned work:

- Culture & Identity Affirming identity, celebrating culture, fostering belonging.
- Civics & Social Justice Inspiring civic engagement and advancing justice.
- Stewardship & Global Issues Protecting the planet and addressing global challenges.
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation Cultivating creativity and ethical problem-solving.
- Engaged Changemakers Empowering learners to take initiative and create meaningful change.

#### **OUR 5 PROMISES**

The following rubrics provide specific pathways for growth and excellence in each of the five Guardian Promises.

#### **Promise 1: Student Engagement**

Nurturing voice, leadership, and agency for every learner.

Criteria	Silver (Emerging) Foundational Commitment	Gold (Committed) Community Impact & Peer Coaching	Platinum (Exemplary) Systems Change & Shared Leadership	Model Transformational Model
Student Leadership	Students participate in at least one Guardian-aligned project and reflect on its impact.	Students <b>co-lead</b> initiatives and collaborate with peers and teachers.	Students hold <b>formal leadership roles</b> shaping sustained initiatives and programs.	Students lead multi-school or global networks, mentoring other learners.
Voice & Choice	Opportunities for limited input in project design or selection.	Students influence decision-making in project planning and reflection.	Student voice shapes school-wide initiatives and policies.	Student voice is institutionalized, with learners co-designing systems and curricula.

Pathways	Emerging opportunities for leadership (clubs, events, exhibitions).	Leadership pathways tied to Guardian projects are consistent and accessible.	Structured programs (internships, councils, apprenticeships) are embedded in the model.	Pathways are <b>recognized globally</b> as best practice models for student agency.
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#### **Promise 2: Global Perspective & Stewardship**

Building a generation of stewards for the planet and global citizens.

Criteria	Emerging Foundational Commitment	Committed Community Impact & Peer Coaching	Exemplary Systems Change & Shared Leadership	Model Transformational Model
Awareness	Students explore sustainability and global citizenship topics in early projects.	Sustainability and stewardship are embedded in multiple subjects.	The school drives cross-disciplinary programs with measurable environmental and social outcomes.	The school <b>leads global initiatives</b> in stewardship and global action.

Application	Small-scale environmental or global projects are underway.	Students lead community impact projects addressing sustainability.	Partnerships and systems support large-scale initiatives and policy changes.	Students and faculty are recognized globally for stewardship leadership.
Integration	Focus areas are project-based, not systemic.	Environmental, health, and economic stewardship are strategically aligned.	Stewardship is part of strategic planning and leadership priorities.	Stewardship is a <b>core identity</b> , influencing regional/global policy and practice.

## **Promise 3: Civic Engagement & Social Justice**

Empowering advocacy and equity for all communities.

Criteria	Emerging Foundational Commitment	Committed Community Impact & Peer Coaching	Exemplary Systems Change & Shared Leadership	Model Transformational Model
Awareness & Action	Students participate in awareness campaigns or early advocacy projects.	Students lead action projects addressing civic or social justice issues.	Students and staff co-design systemic equity initiatives.	School is recognized for <b>global leadership</b> in equity and social justice.

Partnership s	Initial connections with community partners.	Sustained partnerships amplify impact and advocacy reach.	Deep collaborations influence policies and systemic change.	School partners with <b>regional</b> and global advocacy networks.
Impact	Impact limited to immediate community awareness.	Tangible improvements or changes in community practices or awareness.	Demonstrable outcomes influence community systems and structures.	Measurable systemic transformation across communities and regions.

#### Promise 4: Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Fostering ethical creativity and sustainable solutions.

Criteria	Silver (Emerging) Foundational Commitment	Gold (Committed) Community Impact & Peer Coaching	Platinum (Exemplary) Systems Change & Shared Leadership	Model Transformational Model
Innovation Culture	Students engage in early design-thinking activities.	Innovation and entrepreneurship programs produce practical solutions.	Students drive system-wide innovation projects with sustainable outcomes.	School becomes a recognized hub of ethical innovation globally.

Ethical Practice	Initial focus on ethics and sustainability.	Students integrate sustainability and ethics in innovation projects.	Ethical entrepreneurship influences school-wide decisions and external partnerships.	Students model <b>global leadership</b> in responsible innovation.
Scalability	Projects are small-scale and internal.	Solutions scale within the school community.	Solutions scale to regional partnerships or industry collaborations.	Innovations reshape systems globally, with the school as a leader.

### **Promise 5: Engaged Changemakers**

Turning learning into meaningful, sustained impact.

Criteria	Silver (Emerging) Foundational Commitment	Gold (Committed) Community Impact & Peer Coaching	Systems Change & Shared Leadership	Model Transformational Model
Agency	Students show initiative in a single project.	Students collaborate across grades or teams to create broader impact.	Students co-design institutional practices and programs.	Students lead regional or global collaborations and train peers.

Collaboration	Early collaboration within classrooms or clubs.	Cross-grade and cross-community collaboration emerges.	Multi-stakeholder collaboration supports long-term systems change.	Networks of changemakers are <b>globally recognized</b> .
Sustained Impact	Projects end after single cycles or events.	Projects show evidence of reflection and iteration.	Initiatives are institutionalized and scaled.	Initiatives produce regional/global change with measurable impact.

## The Guardian Project Recognition Rubric

Criteria

Silver Tier 
Project Implementation & 
Student Engagement

Gold Tier 🏆
Community Impact & Peer
Coaching

Platinum Tier �
Systems Change & Shared
Leadership

Commitment to the Guardian Vision (Benefits and general agreements) dsajdkla

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Vision
Alignment &
Framework
Implementation

The school has launched initial projects aligned with at least 2 of the 5 Guardian Pillars (Culture & Identity, Civics & Social Justice, Stewardship & Global Issues, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Apprenticeships & Internships). Educators are beginning to integrate future-focused learning.

Guardian Pillars are actively embedded across multiple grade levels and subject areas. Evidence shows intentional planning toward the Guardian holistic framework with future-focused learning goals.

Guardian Pillars are embedded at the **strategic**, **policy**, **and leadership level**, driving **whole-school transformation** toward future-focused education and systems change.

Student Engagement & Real-World Application Students participate in **project-based learning** that connects to real-world community issues. Some students engage in **internships**, **apprenticeships**, or local partnerships.

Students co-lead projects, participate in apprenticeships/internships, and demonstrate real-world application of their learning, reflecting on environmental, economic, societal, and health impacts.

Students are positioned as changemakers and co-designers, with institutionalized internship/apprenticeship programs and community-based learning pathways integrated into the school's educational model.

Global Perspective & Stewardship	Early focus on environmental sustainability and global issues, with some projects addressing these themes.	Global and environmental issues are integrated across disciplines. Students engage with sustainability projects aligned with the Environment and Economy aspects of the Sustainability Model.	The school leads regional/global initiatives in stewardship and sustainability, with students consistently applying learning across Environment, Economy, Society, and Health contexts.
Civic Engagement & Social Justice	Students participate in projects that raise awareness or take early action on civic and social justice issues (Society Pillar).	Students take on advocacy roles, engage in service learning, and partner with community stakeholders to address social equity and civic responsibility issues.	School-wide leadership in social justice education, with students and faculty co-leading initiatives that address systemic societal challenges both locally and globally.
Innovation, Entrepreneurshi p &	Students participate in <b>design thinking</b> and <b>problem-solving</b> activities. Emerging focus on	Entrepreneurship and innovation programs encourage students to develop	The school cultivates a <b>culture</b> of ethical innovation, entrepreneurship, and

solutions with sustainable and

ethical economic impact.

economic sustainability, with

student-driven solutions impacting real-world

systems.

Future-Focused

Learning

ethical and sustainable

innovation (Economy Pillar).

Solution-Oriente d Mindset & Project-Based Learning Initial projects encourage positive problem-solving and real-world application, connecting to at least one aspect of the Sustainability Model.

Students engage in interdisciplinary, solution-oriented projects, drawing from Environment, Economy, Society, and Health perspectives.

The school fully integrates solution-based learning and systems thinking, with student projects addressing all four Sustainability Model domains through design cycles and iterative improvement processes.

Sustainability
Model &
Comprehensive
Wellness
Integration
(Environment,
Economy,
Society, Health)

School projects show emerging connections to at least one domain of the Guardian Sustainability Model. There is early attention to student well-being, with some initiatives promoting physical or mental health.

The school designs learning experiences that intentionally address multiple domains of the Sustainability Model.

Well-being for all stakeholders (students, staff, community) is actively supported through targeted initiatives.

Full curricular and cultural integration of the Guardian Sustainability Model. The school shows evidence of balanced, interconnected focus on Environment, Economy, Society, and Health, with measurable outcomes in student well-being, community health, environmental stewardship, and sustainable economic practices.

Faculty Engagement & Peer Learning	A small group of educators leads Guardian projects. Educator collaboration is in its <b>early stages</b> .	Faculty teams engage in peer coaching, share best practices, and participate in Guardian network learning experiences (webinars, case studies).	Faculty play a regional leadership role, hosting site visits, leading professional development for others, and mentoring schools in Guardian implementation and sustainability education.
Community Impact & Partnerships	School is developing early-stage community partnerships to support Guardian projects.	School maintains sustained, reciprocal partnerships with community organizations, showing evidence of impact across multiple Sustainability Model domains.	School is recognized as a regional hub for community collaboration and impact, with multi-stakeholder projects producing systemic change across Environment, Economy, Society, and Health areas.
Recognition & Sharing	School shares project stories internally (school website, assemblies, etc.).	School presents work through <b>Guardian webinars</b> , publishes case studies, and <b>supports peer schools</b> .	Recognized as a Guardian Exemplar School, featured in Guardian publications, network visits, and regional/global forums. Acts as a mentor site for others.