

Edenhurst Preparatory School

Environmental Policy

Updated November 2017

Introduction

This policy document is a statement of aims, principles and strategies for promoting environmental awareness and sustainability within Edenhurst Preparatory School. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure relevance, effectiveness and practicability.

What is sustainable development with regards to the environment?

Sustainable development is a way of thinking about how we organise our lives and work - including our education system - so that we don't destroy our most precious resource, the planet. From overfishing to global warming, our way of life is placing and increasing burden on the planet, which cannot be sustained. Things which were once taken for granted such as a secure supply of energy or stable climate do not look so permanent now. We need to help people in all parts of the world to find solutions that improve their quality of life without storing up problems for the future, or impacting unfairly on other people's lives. Sustainable development means much more than recycling bottles or giving money to charity. It is about thinking and working in a profoundly different way.

(National Framework for sustainable schools/ teacher net)

Why do we need sustainable schools?

Here are three important reasons;

New skills and behaviours

Children need new skills if they are to become part of the solution to challenges like climate change, not part of the problem. Listening, expressing points of view, weighing evidence, cooperating, thinking critically, tackling real problems, participating in decisions, making informed choices - these are the skills cultivated by sustainable schools.

School efficiency and improvement

It is quite clear that sustainable schools are efficient schools that consume less energy, water and materials, and produce less waste - a win-win between efficiency and sustainability. They are also effective schools that recognise the power of sustainability issues to motivate pupils, engage them in learning and boost their achievement, behaviour and well being.

Sustainable Communities

As places of learning, schools can demonstrate good practices to pupils, staff, parents, governors, suppliers and other schools, and engage them in activities that create positive change in communities. It is difficult to envisage a sustainable community without a sustainable school at its heart.

(National framework for sustainable schools/ teacher net)

Aims

To become a sustainable school Edenhurst Preparatory School must address the key issues relating to the eight doorways of becoming a sustainable school;

- **Food and drink** contributes to obesity and poor pupil concentration. Healthy, ethically sourced food can offer nutritional benefits while protecting the environment and supporting local producers and suppliers.
- **Energy and water** Rising demand for energy and water is storing up problems for future generations. Energy and water conservation can tackle this problem while saving the school money.
- **Travel and traffic** Rising vehicle use adds to congestion, road accidents and pollution, including carbon emissions. Car-sharing and public transportation helps to ease these concerns, while walking and cycling also boost fitness and well-being.
- **Purchasing and waste** Waste, and the throw-away culture that encourages it, can be addressed through sustainable consumption. Schools can reduce costs and support markets for ethical goods and services at the same time.
- **Buildings and grounds** The design and management of the school estate affects its environmental performance, and its ability to help pupils learn sustainable living. A well designed and cared for estate provides a rich resource for learning and play - not only about the environment but more widely - benefiting pupils' wellbeing and behaviour.
- **Inclusion and participation** Schools can promote community cohesion by providing an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere that values everyone's participation and contributions. They can challenge prejudice and injustice in all its forms.
- **Local well-being** With their central locations, facilities and extensive networks, schools can act as hubs of learning and change in their communities. Problems on their doorstep offer relevant and engaging opportunities for pupils to learn, and a means of strengthening local relationships.
- **Global dimension** Growing interdependence between countries changes the way we view the world, including our own culture. Schools can respond by developing a responsible, international outlook among their pupils, based on an appreciation of the impact of their personal values and behaviours on global challenges.

To achieve these aims:

All members of the school must adhere to the following systems already in place and be adaptable to new systems as they are introduced:

Food and Drink

- Breakfast club is offered to pupils between 8 and 8.30 each morning providing a healthy and suitable breakfast (for a small additional cost) to start each day.
- Milk is provided at breaktime. For those who do not drink milk, water is encouraged.
- Pupils bring a fruit snack for morning break (optional).
- School lunches are prepared on site and encourage variety and healthy eating. There is a varied menu (pupils make contributions to menu choices through the school council). All dietary needs are catered for to ensure a balanced diet. All pupils and staff eat the food that is prepared by school, reducing waste and excess packaging.
- Food is sourced where possible from local suppliers and orders are well planned/ scheduled to reduce unnecessary food waste.
- During waiting class (3.25 - 4pm) Prep Prep pupils can eat a healthy snack (from home).

- Pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Drinking water is also provided during lunchtime and pupils have access to a drinking fountain outside during break times.

Energy

- The school investigated the use of alternative energy from Solar power. This was deemed financially unviable due to essential routine maintenance needing regular access to the roof space where the panels would have been sited.
- The school have also recently purchased Chromecasts and books to replace laptops and desktops. These are more energy efficient and the chromebooks are charged at one central location.
- Eco monitors for each class check lights and other appliances are off when not in use and will monitor the classroom temperatures. The data may result in heating costs being reduced.

Water

- Promote water conservation by using save-a-flush bags in all toilet cisterns (where possible) and ensuring all taps are turned off when not in use. Leaks should be reported immediately.
- All pupils are encouraged to drink water at school. As part of the school policy, all pupils are given a school water bottle on joining the school. The water bottle is supplied by Fish Hydration:

Activ-R is a revolutionary water bottle, which is perfect for any school that wants to make a statement about their commitment to the future of the planet.

Activ-R is made entirely from I'm Green Medium Density Polyethylene, which is 100% biobased.

The bottle is derived from Brazilian sugarcane ethanol, which has zero impact on the Amazon rainforest or food production. For every ton of "I'm Green" plastic produced, 2.5 tons of CO2 is captured and locked away. (The technical position on this is verified by ASTM D6866).

- Bottles can be recycled by the company when they need replacing and new, low cost leak proof caps can be ordered to increase the lifespan of the bottle.
- New bottles and lids can be purchased through the school office when required.

Travel and traffic

- The school operates two school minibuses. These are used to transport pupils to and from school, to sporting fixtures and educational visits. The school have promoted the bus service to parents to reduce the amount of traffic on the roads and around the school on a daily basis.
- Car sharing has also been suggested on the school Eco notice board and will be promoted routinely through parent communications.

Purchasing and waste

- Recycle all waste paper or re-use where possible.
- Staff are encouraged to use double sided photocopying wherever possible and only print what is necessary.
- Pupils are only able to print through a staff computer to reduce waste.
- All staff and pupils store computer generated work online where possible through suitable, password protected storage drives.
- School communications are sent wherever possible by email to reduce the need for printed letters.
- Recycle waste glass, metal, batteries and plastic.
- Centralised resource rooms - to reduce over ordering and promote resource sharing.

- Where financially viable resources will be purchased that are from sustainable sources.
- The school now provide paper straws instead of plastic straws for milk cartons at morning break.
- Metal teaspoons are now provided for yoghurts instead of plastic spoons.
- Pupils are provided with reusable plastic cups during meals times rather than disposable cups.

Buildings and grounds

- Plant and maintain class vegetable and flower planters throughout the year, harvest crops and decide how to use or what to do with produce.
- Promote learning in the outdoors/ care of the outdoor environment and animals - through school trips, use of school grounds, vegetable/ flower garden, offsite school allotment, outdoor shelter and Forest Schools base or any other outdoor area that can safely be used for outdoor learning. All pupils in Pre Prep forms have school waterproof and wellington boots to promote outdoor learning in all weathers (when deemed safe by staff).
- The school field houses three chickens in a secure 'Eglu' cube with a walk in run. There is also a fenced area of grass for the chickens during the school day. Pupils from Prep 4 -Prep 6 feed the chickens and collect eggs daily (on a rota). Chickens are checked daily by staff and soiled bedding is changed as necessary. During holiday periods 'Edventures Holiday Club' and the school caretaker (Mr Box) are responsible for the chickens.
- The school have an anti litter policy. Staff and pupils are responsible for keeping the school grounds free of litter.

Inclusion and participation

- All pupils regardless of their gender, ethnic background or special educational needs, have the right to be given opportunities to promote and partake in environmental/ sustainable projects to the maximum of their abilities.
- All pupils are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities relating to Eco schools through lessons and extra curricular activities.
 - Pupils from Reception - Form 2 will take part in Forest Schools.
 - Pupils from Prep 3- Prep 6 will all take part in the allotment project.
 - Pupils from Prep 3 - prep 6 will all take part in the bushcraft camp (unless on foreign residential).
 - Pupils are invited to join the Beaver and Cub packs at an appropriate age (after school)
 - Pupils from Reception - Prep 6 are invited to join gardening club (after school).
 - Prep 6 - visit Condover Hall for a 2 day outdoor activities residential.
 - Pupils are invited to join extra curricular activities such as Duathlon Training, football, golf, skiing, Judo and dance to promote health and well being.
- Where necessary, adaptations or support may be provided to enable all pupils to participate.

Local well being

- Pupils are actively involved in helping in the local community.
- The school take part in three litter picks and a minimum of 2 community planting sessions each school year with the local council. All opportunities presented the the school are considered.
- Pupils take part in council led workshops to make bird boxes and hedgehog homes. These are then used around the school site or at the allotment.
- Pupils take part in bulb planting workshops led by the council.

- The school also have an allotment plot off site as part of Lyme Valley Allotments. They visit the site to plant and encourage wildlife to the plot and learn sustainable skills.
- The allotments enter 'Newcastle in Bloom' each year to promote our environmental work.

Global citizenship

- Pupils take part in lessons that cover important areas of global citizenship. During September 2017 all pupils took part in the World's largest lesson covering
 - Poverty
 - Life Below Water
 - Climate Action
- Pupils also actively raise money for charities around the world. Recent support has been for Jeans for Genes, Operation Christmas Child, Morning Star, Children in Need, The Donna Louise Trust, The Dougie Mac and Toilet Twinning.
- Topical information is also shared through the Eco notice board. This is changed regularly to maintain interest.

Resources and funding

- All resources required for environmental and sustainable projects will be provided as necessary. Where a cost is involved this will wherever possible be covered by the school or the 'Edenhurst Friends Association', where possible Eco fundraising events will be held to increase available funds.
- Proceeds from video and photo sales for the school productions also fund Eco projects.
- Clothing collections will be scheduled once per year; the school encourage pupils to bring in unwanted items as advised by the charity. The school then receive a sum of money per kilogram collected. This encourages recycling and fundraising for future eco projects.
- Donations or sponsorship may be sought in consultation with the head teacher if appropriate.

Eco Council

The school eco council will:

- Meet at least once every half term to review and amend the school action plan, as well as to look at ways of achieving the school's environmental aims.
- Include representation from years 2 -6 and a member of teaching staff.
- Welcome representatives from the community, governors, administration staff etc.
- Will promote environmental awareness through assemblies and where possible staff will promote though all curriculum subjects and year groups.
- The Eco council is supported by the Edenhurst Friends Association
- Four members from the Eco Council will be selected to attend the local annual Eco Forum run by Newcastle Borough Council and Tesco (Farm to Fork) to share and learn good practise and experience adult led workshops.

Eco School Status

At the time of this policy being revised the school has achieved the 'Silver' award and is working toward the 'Green Flag' award. In November 2017 the school were also awarded 'Best Eco School' in the Newcastle in Bloom awards.

The allotment was awarded 'silver gilt' in 2016 and 2017 in the Newcastle in Bloom awards.