

The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's Environmental and Sustainability Policy

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

Healthy Eating and Drinking Policy

Data Protection Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Records Management Policy

Finance Policy

Overview

The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School seeks to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly. We are committed to educating our children about caring and respecting our planet.

We take every opportunity to teach the children to reflect about how our actions impact in the sustainability of planet and how our behaviour can make a difference. We work to empower our pupils to take the lead in our Eco Projects in accordance with the Eco School Programme.

We want our school community to have a clear understanding of the current global issues and to be part of the solutions. By mobilizing our pupils with the requisite knowledge, skills and desire to affect positive change, we also hope that the younger generation will become the creative problem-solvers of the future.

Specific Policy Aims

To ensure a whole school approach about caring for the environment

To link environmental issues to the curriculum as much as possible

To develop pupil's decision making skills

To give pupils responsibilities and promote team work

To develop an awareness of environmental and global issues

To improve our structure to implement the Eco School programme consistently throughout the Federation.

To minimize the procurement and use of non-renewable and environmentally unfriendly resources (which includes new builds and refurbishment of existing buildings) and encourage recycling throughout the whole school.

To raise awareness of pupils and staff about key environmental issues and by doing so encourage them to take an active role in environmental projects/topics.

To develop relationships with external organisations to promote environmentally friendly behaviour both within and outside of school.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Staff

We expect all staff to be positive sustainability role models. By encouraging our staff to reflect upon their personal and professional practices, we want them to support our environmental agenda and to make positive changes wherever possible e.g. minimising the wasteful use of resources; using reusable water bottles and reusable cups; eliminating single-use plastics; reducing paper usage in printing and photocopying; using public transport or sharing lifts or walking or cycling to work.

Pupils

As with our staff, we expect our pupils to act in a way that demonstrates concern for the environment and shows a commitment to sustainable living. Through environmental education teaching and eco schools programme we seek to inspire our pupils to be reflective and pro-active sustainability champions. In addition, we hope that some of our pupils will pursue careers in the green technologies, becoming innovators and creative problem solvers of the future.

Parents and carers

We encourage parents and carers to engage in the environmental projects undertaken by our schools. We value their role in encouraging the children to lead an eco- friendly life style at home.

We ask them to:

- encourage the children to join in the actions identified by the Eco School Committee.
- encourage their children to walk or cycle to school when possible.
- recycle at home and ensure that their children understand how to recycle.
- reinforce the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

SLT and Eco Lead

SLT and Eco Lead must work collaboratively with the Eco Committee and Eco Guardians to decide on which three eco areas the school will focus on each year.

Senior Leadership Team and Eco Lead, will work collaboratively with the local community to ensure the development of meaningful relationships and implement actions that will have a positive impact on the local environment. Wherever possible, we aim to add capacity to existing community initiatives and to share best practice with - and learn from - our partner schools.

Role of the Subject Leader

The subject lead is responsible for ensuring that the children's voices is heard and develop their eco leadership skills. The subject leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in their teaching, for being informed about current developments in the subject. The lead will be present at Eco Guardians and Eco Committee meetings and guide the children on sharing responsibilities and implementing their plan of action. The subject leader is responsible for establishing working relationships with other local Eco Schools.

The governing board

The governing body will oversee the implementation of this policy and ensure that the staff is a positive eco role model to the school community. The governing board is responsible for:

Monitoring and reviewing the school's energy usage.

Identifying, with the site manager, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this, such

as installing motion sensor lights.

Checking the environmental standards of suppliers and contractors.

Ensuring equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.

Ensuring the heating systems are monitored daily by the site team to ensure the school remains at a comfortable temperature but does not exceed 23°C.

Environmental Sustainability Education

By raising levels of sustainability literacy, we will improve our actions at school and in the community. Through following the "Eco School" programme and through a variety of learning opportunities, including outdoor education, we will strive to re-balance the growing disconnect between people and the environment: we want our pupils to enjoy and appreciate the natural world but we also want them to understand the current impact of human behaviour on our planet. Armed with knowledge, we hope that all members of our community will be inspired to take positive action by adopting 'greener' more sustainable practices.

It is also vital for us to create a sense of hope about the future; therefore, we will place positive messaging at the fore of our environmental action.

Curriculum Links

Our Federation encourages teachers to be creative and embed teaching about the environment across the curriculum making learning engaging and relevant. For example, Maths lessons might include a litter-pick and analysis of the data collected; in English, formal climate-action letters could be written to a local MP

Eco Schools requires 3 examples of how our school has incorporated environmental issues in to the curriculum every year

Eco School Programme

The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's uses the framework of the Eco School to guide their ecological activities. This is a global programme, which develops pupils' skills, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and creates financial savings for schools as well as a whole host of other benefits. The structure of the Eco- Schools process is made up of seven elements and this forms the basis of the programme. The seven elements include:

- The Eco Committee
- The Environmental Review
- The Action Plan
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Involve and Inform the Wider Community
- Eco Code

Eco Guardians and Eco Committee

We have two groups of children that lead our eco work. The Eco Committee is voted by their peers to represent them and they meet once per term. The Eco Committee is responsible for carrying out the environmental review and agreeing on an action plan for the school. The action plan includes 3 main areas that the children and staff have identified as priority for them to focus in any given year.

The Eco Guardians meets once a week after school and make posters, organize assemblies, campaigns, book sales, book swaps, second hand fayres. Most Eco Committee children are part of the Eco Guardians. The Eco Guardians

carry out the action plan and help steer the school's eco agenda.

There are 10 topics that the Eco School Programme covers:

Water

Water is our most important natural resource and the children must learn to value and preserve it.

Establish and raise awareness of simple actions that can cut down on water use substantially.

Raise awareness of water rights and the inequality of access in the world by inviting speakers in.

Take part in campaigns to raise funds to help areas in the world without access to clean water.

We will ensure that there is water available for pupils to drink from and refill their water bottles. Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles. Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled.

Energy

Identify and implement effective energy saving measures where possible and reasonably practicable which could also bring about significant savings.

Reducing energy use and investigating greener energy sources.

Staff and pupils are asked to turn off lights whenever they are not being used.

Where possible LED and/or movement sensitive lights will be installed.

Staff and pupils are asked to ensure that all computers, screens, printers, and projectors are turned off after their last use of the day. Teacher/pupils in period 6 have a responsibility to ensure that the computer in their classroom is switched off

Waste and recycling

There are three waste streams in place at each school building to reduce amount of waste going to landfill Food, Mixed Recyclable and General Waste.

There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.

We will display posters explaining important environmental considerations, for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment.

Paper:

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.

Using emails as much as possible, to reduce paper waste.

Using emails, the school's website and parent text messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.

Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible.

Only printing documents when it is essential.

Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets.

Food:

Composting food waste, both from the kitchen and food brought into school by pupils.

Encourage reducing food waste in dining halls.

Encourage pupils to reduce their consumption of plastic wrapped snacks in preference for biodegradable/ compostable snack packaging.

Books and Uniform:

Books and uniforms will be recycled through book and uniform swaps or sold at eco fayres.

Writing utensils

All pens and writing instruments are recycled through teracycle.

Transport

The school will raise awareness about the impact of transport has on the environment and people's health.

Encourage pupils and staff to commute to school using environmentally friendly methods (walking, cycling, and catching the train).

Provide adequate and safe facilities for pupils and staff cycling and walking to school.

We will encourage staff to use public transport wherever possible to attend conferences/courses.

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, where possible.

The benefits of daily exercise, such as walking to school when possible, will be promoted throughout the school, in line with the school's Healthy Schools Policy.

Litter

Reducing litter which harms wildlife and costs millions to clear every year.

All members of the school community should be involved in helping to prevent and clear litter from the School grounds.

Pupils should regard litter clearing as a positive environmental action, which will also help foster a sense of personal pride and responsibility in pupils.

Join in the community and nationwide litter pick campaigns.

School grounds

The school should use the school grounds as a source of teaching and learning opportunities for pupils.

School habitats are used by pupils to study flora and fauna and their habitat.

The School should ensure that the grounds provide for recreational use by pupils as well as provision to undertake exercise.

Develop areas of biodiversity and a strategy to encourage wildlife within the School ground.

Biodiversity

We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum.

To grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs to be utilized by the classes or selling produce.

Engage children and staff in the maintenance of our gardens

Healthy living

We will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles.

We will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that each individual has on the environment.

We will ensure pupils get at least 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day, in line with NHS recommendations.

Marine

Protection and conservation of water based eco systems

To become aware of the impact of litter in the sea, especially plastic waste.

Global Citizenship

Global citizenship teaches the children about their responsibility and rights as a member of humanity and the world as a whole.

Taking an active role in the community and making our planet more peaceful, sustainable and fair.

Equality is one of the most important aspects of Global Citizenship – that everyone on our planet should be treated equally and be given the same opportunities in life.

Encourage the use of fair trade products in the school. Raise awareness of the working conditions in developing countries and how products that have the fair trade seal work to better protect workers.

Positive and Impactful Sustainability Practice

As well as raising awareness of environmental issues, we seek to achieve outstanding environmental performance in the way that the School is run and is seen to be run. By limiting the negative impact of our schools on the environment - and by taking responsibility for and, where possible, mitigating the impact of its operation - we aim to implement effective sustainability practice.

By seeking to improve the quality of our school and local environment - and by promoting the benefits of increased interaction with the natural world – we intend to safeguard the health and wellbeing of us School and wider communities.

Sustainable procurement of goods

We will devote our time to ensuring all product procurement is done in the most sustainable way.

We will dedicate a team to purchasing, this will include the Executive Headteacher; they will be responsible for creating an inventory of current stock and ensuring that orders are not processed with unnecessary purchases listed on them.

The purchasing team will where possible ensure that produce bought is cost efficient, sourced from within the UK where possible and bought from a company with an energy efficient ethos.

We will avoid buying branded products where quality is not compromised.

We will obtain contracts with suppliers that stipulate their terms of purchase, paying particular regard to pricing, quality and their returns policy.

Office equipment

The school is committed to:

Buying energy efficient models.

Buying products which have a low impact on the environment through their life cycle.

Buying recyclable products with a long lifespan and recyclable packaging.

Buying products with a restricted amount of hazardous material.

Buying products with restricted noise emissions.

Office equipment:

Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.

Outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it via the PTA or other charities.

Cartridges from computer ink will be placed in a labelled bin and collected for recycling.

Recycling provision to be included in staff room.

Redundant computer equipment will be recycled by an authorised contractor, or alternatively, disposed of.

Furniture

The school is committed to:

- Buying furniture that is produced with environmentally friendly material and processes.
- Using materials which are partly or wholly made from recycled/renewable materials.
- Making sure that all furniture purchased is repairable and recyclable.
- Purchasing timber from legal and sustainable managed forests.
- Ensuring that packaging material is based on renewable raw materials and can be suitably recycled.
- Avoiding possibly hazardous substances in both production and surface treatment.
- Making sure the cutlery, crockery, tablecloths and glassware used are recyclable.
- Purchasing locally produced products and promoting local purchasing to parents.
- Making sure the kitchen appliances procured are water and energy efficient.

Cleaning products

The school is committed to:

- Using products produced in the UK.
- Using the recommended amounts of products and minimising use where possible.
- Using products which can be used at lower temperatures.
- Minimising the use of hazardous chemicals in cleaning and dishwashing products.
- Making sure that packaging made from recyclable materials is recycled.
- Purchasing sprays without propellants.

Gardening products

The school is committed to:

- Buying peat-free products.
- Buying products which come in packages which are compostable, recyclable or biodegradable.
- Buying organically produced plants.
- Using alternative methods of pest control to pesticides.

Energy

The governing board and the site team will monitor the consumption of energy within the school, recognising where the school is wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption, e.g. introducing motion sensitive lights.

Energy saving lightbulbs will be used throughout the school.

The governing board will monitor heating within the school, assessing whether it is at an appropriate temperature and frequency and adjusting it accordingly.

When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts and the governing board will consult an expert.

The school is committed to:

Using lighting controls to reduce energy consumption.

Replacing light bulbs with low energy alternatives.

At the installation stage, ensuring the system works energy efficiently.

Promoting the use of lamps with low mercury content.

Recycling all waste products appropriately