Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School

Sustainability Policy

Date: July 2024

Signed:

Nicola O'Connell – Headteacher

Jane Bisseker – Chair of Governors

Statement of intent

Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so that they can apply this to their lives and adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle. We encourage both pupils and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment. Effective use of this policy will ensure pupils are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for:

• Reviewing the environmental and sustainability policy

• Consider environmental impacts where any new buildings or refurbishments are being planned.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

• The overall implementation of this policy.

• Ensuring that teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach pupils about environmental concerns.

• Ensuring that staff and pupils understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use.

• Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and pupils to follow.

• Ensuring that catering staff understand the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably.

• Ensuring that the Site Manager understands their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds

• 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.

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

The school is responsible for:

• Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.

• Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations.

• Sharing good practice with pupils, parents and the community, and encouraging them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy.

• Promoting awareness of climate change through cross-curricular activities.

• Sharing the responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practising policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

• Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.

• Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

• Ensuring that lights are switched off when they are not needed.

• Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the Headteacher and in turn the Governing Body

• Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.

Our 'House' Teams, Blue, Green, Red and Yellow all have a specific Eco focus

- The 'House' Teams meet each half term to discuss ideas and campaigns.
- Minutes from each meeting are to be recorded and ideas fed back to the rest of the school and the wider community.

Our 'House' teams are responsible for

• Monitoring any litter problems in the wider community and address any problems.

• Promoting a litter free environment to other pupils.

• Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school

Pupils are responsible for:

• Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school.

• Walking or cycling to school, when possible.

• Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running.

• Be responsible for keeping our classrooms, school and grounds clean and tidy.

• Eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don't come in paper or plastic packaging.

• Use the right bins so that we can recycle and compost our waste.

Parents are responsible for:

• Promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle at home.

• Encouraging children to walk or cycle to school, when possible.

• Recycling at home and ensuring that their children understand how to recycle.

• Reinforcing the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

Waste and recycling

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.
- Composting food waste, both from the kitchen and food brought into school by pupils.
- Ensuring selective waste collection and organic waste treatment for composting and mulching.
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible.
- Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.
- Set up an equipment recycling bin at school

- Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.
- Run our pre-loved uniform shop, making recycling uniform, coats and shoes the 'norm'
- Take part in a 'recycling' clothes initiative with the HSA to normalise recycling whilst raising funds for the school

We will also:

Pupils are given a new reusable water bottles each year to use in school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles.

• Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school at lunchtime will be recycled.

• 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.

• Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Teachers will encourage pupils to partake in weekly litter picking around the school grounds.

Litter picking volunteers will be in groups no larger than 10 and will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.
The school raises awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through dedicated assemblies, PSHE lessons, staff training days and additional resources, such as leaflets and posters

Transport

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.

• We will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days.

• We will produce informative material, such as posters and leaflets, regarding the impact of the carbon emissions produced by personal vehicles and public transport on the environment, which will be displayed and distributed around the school.

• We will have suitable and safe storage for staff and pupils to store bicycles and scooters.

• We recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, we will organise road safety lessons in PSHE.

School grounds

The site manager 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. we have introduced motion sensitive lights

• When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts

Energy

- We will reduce our energy usage by:
- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather and installing draught excluders so that warm air is retained.
- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors and interactive white boards, when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Conserving water by ensuring that plugs are available in all sinks
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the site manager.
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term.
- Ensuring that the school's heating system is an energy efficient system
- Displaying information around the school and in classrooms to ensure that pupils understand the importance of switching off lights, computers and taps when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjusting procurement arrangements accordingly.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.
- Appointing an individual, e.g. the site manager, to ensure that these measures are carried out.
- We will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight, for example, in the school foyer.

Reducing Carbon emissions

We are committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Implementing renewable technologies that export surplus energy to the national grid.
- Encouraging pupils and/or staff to reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling or taking public transport to school.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.
- Promoting the benefits of recycling.
- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.

Healthy Living

• We will promote an ethos of environmental understanding. Pupils will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment.

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

• We will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, as healthy lifestyles often lead to a sustainable lifestyle, for example, walking instead of driving.

• We will ensure pupils complete the daily mile exercise each day.

Sustainable procurement of goods

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

• Our School Business Manager will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient and sourced from within the UK or locally where possible

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

Curriculum

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

Our school will become a member of the Eco Schools programme. This is an international initiative that:

- Encourages pupils to engage with environment and sustainable development issues.
- Provides a highly structured system for the environmental management of schools. (www.eco-schools.org)

The structure of the Eco-Schools process is made up of seven steps and this forms the basis of the programme. The seven steps include:

- Eco Committee
- Environmental Review
- Action Plan
- Linking to the curriculum
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Involving the whole school and the wider community
- Eco Code