

Sustainability policy

Aims and Values

Longshaw Junior School is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

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.

Through effective use of this policy we will ensure pupils are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school works to become as sustainable and eco-friendly as it can be.

Roles and responsibilities

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.
- Preparing pupils for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience

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.

The Governing Body 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 Manager to ensure the school remains at a comfortable temperature but does not exceed 23°C.
- 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 are turned off when not in use.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the Governing Body.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.
- Arranging and coordinating waste disposal from the premises and ensuring that all waste is disposed of correctly.
- Maintaining the overall cleanliness of the school premises.

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.

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.

Curriculum and learning

Environmental education is directly referred to in the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 in Science, Geography and PSHCE. At Longshaw Junior School, environmental and sustainability education is not taught in isolation, but is linked to all areas of the primary curriculum, for example; Geography, Science, English, Mathematics, Art, D&T, Music, History, PSHCE, Drama and PE.

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

We aim to review each subject specific curriculum and policy on a bi-annual basis to identify areas and opportunities where environmental and sustainability education can be included.

Our school grounds provide opportunity for environmental and sustainable learning to take place outside therefore we will develop appropriate areas as outdoor classrooms.

Food and catering

The school's catering team are committed to:

- Purchase livestock products with high welfare standards that are at least Red Tractor.
- Purchase seasonable products.
- Purchase locally produced products.
- Make sure the kitchen appliances procured are water and energy efficient.

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, using the school's website, using the school's Facebook site and text messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- Once our Local Authority enable us to, we will request that HCL dispose of food waste in line with the school's Sustainability Policy at all times.
- 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.
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets.
- Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.

Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles (as opposed to disposable plastic bottles) into school that they can refill in school if needed. 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. At present, our Local Authority will only recycle paper from schools.

When it becomes available, any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled and there will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

WEEE is regulated to reduce the number of devices and equipment that is incinerated or sent to landfill sites. To reduce the school's carbon footprint and minimise the impact on global warming, the necessary steps are taken to ensure WEEE is disposed of properly. The types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) the school will safely dispose of include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Desktop computers
- Servers
- Laptops
- Monitors
- Printers
- Projectors
- Scanners
- Interactive whiteboards

The Headteacher, in collaboration with the ICT technician, will find a suitable local partner, e.g. a producer of EEE that manufactures and sells EEE under their own brand, to dispose of WEEE safely. The Headteacher will contact the LA for more information and guidance, where necessary.

Before choosing a partner to dispose of WEEE, the ICT technician and DPO review the potential partner's risk assessments and procedures to determine whether the school's WEEE and any data stored will be handled and disposed of correctly.

Once a partner is selected and WEEE is ready to be removed from the school, the School Business Manager along with the ICT technician will undertake a risk assessment in collaboration with the partner to ensure all EEE is removed safely and securely from the school.

WEEE which hold personal data, or data the school needs to fulfil legal obligations, e.g. relating to safeguarding, are reviewed by the DPO to ensure the data is no longer needed or has been backed-up. Data is securely deleted or backed-up in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

To encourage pupils to safely dispose of EEE, the school will organise an awareness month in the Summer term where pupils and staff will be asked to bring in any WEEE for them to be safely disposed of. Time will be dedicated to teaching pupils about the benefits of disposing of, and recycling, WEEE properly and in line with government guidance.

The School will display the WEEE symbol in their office and around the school to remind themselves and other members of staff, e.g. the DPO, that all EEE should be properly disposed of.

Energy

The school will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather.
- 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 installing systems that reduce waste such as cistern dams and flow restrictors.
- 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.

Transport and travel

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.

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

The school will provide storage for staff and pupils bicycles.

The school will recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, road safety lessons will be organised in PSHE.

Buildings and grounds

The Governing Body and 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. introducing motion sensitive lights. Energy saving lightbulbs will be used throughout the school where possible. The Governing Body and Site Manager 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, the school will always consider any environmental impacts and the Governing Body will consult an expert.

Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- DfE (2022) 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems'

This policy also has due regard to the following school guidance:

- Data Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Pupil Code of Conduct
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Health and Safety Policy
- Records Management Policy