



St Columb Minor Academy Sustainability Policy

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Statutory or Optional policy	Statutory
Appendices	Yes

Meeting your communication needs:

We want to ensure that your needs are met, if you would like this information in Braille, large print, any other format or interpreted in a language other than English, please contact the school, telephone: 01637 873958 or email: scminor@kernowlearning.co.uk

Introduction

St Columb Minor 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 believe that a deep understanding of global learning and sustainability will underpin the core principles and values that our children will need as they become the adults and leaders of tomorrow.

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. 'Think global, act local' promotes our outward facing collaboration and partnerships which will ensure we have an outstandingly aspirational school built on mutual respect, a developing understanding of multiple perspectives and compassion as well as pupils who become trail blazers, connecting with each other and the living world to ensure a better future for all.

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.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and guidance 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'

Principles

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. The school already has an authentic green and sustainable agenda woven in to all aspects of curriculum and everyday life. The children are pro-actively engaged in a sustainable education for the future through a curriculum that goes beyond recycling and conserving energy to developing values and attitudes that inform and transform understanding and action. This is exemplified in the Eco Code that the Eco council developed.

Our outdoor learning approach is also key to the children's learning experiences, which will lead to significant benefits for their health, happiness, well-being and development; in their relationship to nature and each other.

Education

- Raising community awareness through thought-provoking engaging displays, activities, and experiences such as the G7 summit and COP26 meetings (2021)
- Educate children and families through our schools and educational programmes that encourages careers that work with and within nature.
- Promote sustainability through informal learning at all levels, and community engagement - locally, regionally and nationally

Consistency

- Ensure sustainability is embedded in all we do; our curriculum and policies
- Drive a consistent approach to sustainability in all areas of our operation including services and purchasing.
- Spread understanding, responsibility and accountability for sustainability improvements across our school and community

Measurement

- Identify social, economic and environmental measures of sustainability within St Columb Minor Academy and develop processes to capture information that will act as indicators of our sustainability
- Set improvement goals and measure our progress against these goals
- 'Publish' information on our sustainability performance regularly internally and externally

Behaviour

- Develop projects that actively explore alternatives to fossil fuel based energy production
- Pursue reduction of our use of energy
- Pursue overall reduction of waste and increase amount of waste that is recycled rather than sent to landfill
- Promote sustainability through our supply chain by rigorous examination of sustainability of what and how we purchase, for our own use and for retail sale, and the sustainability of our suppliers
- Enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services at St Columb Minor Academy.
- Promote sustainable water management on site
- Promote transport methods that minimise our carbon footprint
- Ensure accessibility and inclusion for the widest possible audience
- Promote the health and wellbeing of staff at work
- Ensure that our impact on the local community and our region is always positive
- Promote the regional economic sustainability through use of local suppliers
- Our staff to act with sustainability in mind through all working practices

Roles and responsibilities

The Trust is responsible for:

- Considering environmental impacts where any new buildings or refurbishments are being planned.
- 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:

- Reviewing the environmental and sustainability policy
- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability. (See Eco Policy)
- 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.

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, not leaving taps running.
- 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.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons across the curriculum
- 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 outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.

Our Eco Council

Our Eco Council/Eco Warriors consist of pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. The Eco Warriors meet at least once each half term to discuss ideas and campaigns. Minutes from

each meeting are to be recorded by the Eco Schools Coordinator and ideas fed back to the rest of the school and the wider community.

The Eco Council/Eco warriors' are responsible for

- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school through making representations at school (LAB) and local (Local council/ MP) and community (parents/ carers) level.
- Monitoring any litter problems in the wider community and address any problems.
- Promoting a litter free environment to other pupils.
- Promoting the Eco Code across 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, encouraging pupils to share worksheets wherever possible.
- Using emails as much as possible, to reduce paper waste. Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Using emails, the school's website and online communication messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- Composting food waste from the kitchen.
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible.
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.
- Encouraging pupils to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles.
- Recycling any disposable plastic bottles that are brought into school.

- Clearly labelling bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.
- Displaying posters explaining important environmental considerations, for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment.
- Teachers will encourage pupils to partake in weekly litter picking around the school grounds as well as a monthly litter pick in the local area. Litter picking volunteers will be in groups no larger than 10 and will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.

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

Littering

The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. It also understands that fines may be incurred where individuals deliberately litter the premises.

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.

Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly.

Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in a bin.
- Using the appropriate recycling bins.
- Using resources thoughtfully.
- Reusing resources where possible.
- Assisting the site manager and eco warriors with the cleanliness of the premises.

The Eco-Council/Eco Warriors will:

- Promote awareness of anti-littering throughout the school
- Monitor the school's anti-littering procedures.
- Listen and respond to questions from the school committee.

The Site Manager takes the main responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises. The Site Manager arranges and coordinates waste disposal from the premises and ensures that items are disposed of correctly.

Waste disposal bins are provided throughout the school, with additional bins provided in eating areas, to ensure sufficient availability for waste disposal.

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.
- 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

- Kernow Learning Trust 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 when lighting is being replaced.

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 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.

Sustainable farming and fishing

- We will teach pupils where food comes from as part of the PSHE lessons, including giving them first hand experience of growing their own fruit or vegetables.
- School meals will be designed with due regard to seasonal produce and locally sourced food.
- Where possible, we will approach local food suppliers for their produce to be used in school meals.
- Pupils will be taught about the importance of sustainable fishing and farming, and any fish products used in school meals will be sustainably sourced.

Energy

We will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term.
- 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.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.

Sustainable procurement of goods

- We will devote time to ensuring product procurement is done in the most sustainable way.
- Our purchasing team will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient and sourced as sustainably as possible, 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.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually. For all monitoring of local policies, we adopt a rigorous and reflective approach. We take into account multiple perspectives on the effectiveness and success of the policy and procedures in question.

Appendix A

