

St Thomas More School

Environmental Policy for Sustainability



2017 - 2018

Objectives

St Thomas More School aims to undertake and promote sustainable environmental practice both within our school and the local community. In doing so, we hope to instil a sense of duty for individuals to care for each other, their immediate environment and the planet. By empowering children through knowledge to make positive environmental decisions from an early age we hope to form habits that contribute to good sustainable practice for the rest of their lives.

The school recognises its responsibility to:

- Care for pupils, staff, governors, parents, neighbours and the wider community to the best of our ability through our faith and the teachings of the bible.
- Provide opportunities within the curriculum to teach pupils and adults the importance of sustainable practice and the positive impact this has on the environment.
- Embed the Eco Schools Curriculum within the school learning framework at all levels.
- Empower children to respect and care for the school environment through their contributions to the School Council and Eco Committee.
- Share and promote ideas for sustainable living with parents, pupils and the community and encourage them to adopt them as their own.
- To expose children to the experience of planting, nurturing, harvesting, preparing and eating food from the school garden.
- To manage the school garden in an environmentally sensitive way and not use harmful chemical fertilisers or pesticides.
- To educate pupils to respect their environment, care for local habitats and protect them from harm.
- To communicate that littering is not tolerated at the school or anywhere else, that it is harmful to the environment and an eye sore for the local population.
- To organise regular litter picks by the pupils, monitor any litter problems and propose solutions to ensure a litter free school.
- To monitor consumption of water, gas and electricity and explore ways of reducing usage thus minimising the school CO2 emissions.
- To ensure staff minimise consumption of consumable goods, reuse materials wherever possible and correctly recycle whatever can not be reused.
- To promote awareness of all materials that can be recycled to pupils, staff and families and actively recycle all possible materials within the school.
- To act as a recycling collection point for appropriate materials within the community (e.g. textiles, batteries, printer cartridges).
- To actively pursue purchasing policies that have the least environmental impact and minimise waste.

The school aims to reduce the environmental impact of its activity and undertakes to:

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
RESTORE

St Thomas More School will respect its neighbours and environment

- Our schools ethos is to respect one another. This permeates in all we do – whether discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities or dealing with each other on a daily basis.
- We extend this respect to all creatures and habitats by giving clear guidelines on how to care for the environment.
- Staff and pupils should take responsibility for looking after the school environment including the grounds, equipment, tools and other resources. Staff should lead by example at all times.

REDUCE

- Staff and pupils will switch off all lighting and electrical appliances when not in use.
- Staff and pupils will keep doors and windows shut when heating is on.
- Thermostats in each room will be turned down/off before opening windows or removing jumpers. Jumpers will be put on before the heating is switched on in classrooms.
- Photocopying and printing will be double sided or reduced in size wherever possible to minimise paper consumption.
- Documents will not be printed unless necessary. “THINK BEFORE YOU PRINT”.
- Exercise books will not be replaced habitually each year but instead used over multiple years until full.
- Information and communication between staff and with families should be electronic wherever possible to reduce paper consumption.
- Taps will be turned off when not in use and sinks plugged and filled for washing up rather than washing under a running tap.
- Children and parents will be encouraged to walk, scooter or cycle to school or to use shared transport to reduce carbon emissions and congestion. Road safety and bikeability training will be undertaken at appropriate ages to support this.

REUSE

- Scrap and spoiled paper will be retained for reuse, crafts or wet play activities.
- Damaged items at school will be repaired wherever possible.
- Recycled materials will be used to support learning wherever possible.
- The Eco Enterprise scheme will focus on upcycling redundant household items to make items to sell at school events.
- Each child will have a sturdy plastic mug or bottle at school to refill with water daily to promote hydration.
- The kitchen will not use disposable plates, cups or cutlery but instead will provide washable, reusable items for serving lunch. Washable clothes will be used rather than disposable paper towels to clean up spills.
- Outgrown school and P.E. uniforms will be donated to the school thrift shop for reuse by other families.
- An annual shoe collection will be undertaken to support the Abel and Cole Shoes for Malawi scheme to reuse the community's outgrown shoes in the Starfish Orphanage, Malawi.

RECYCLE

- All classrooms and offices will be provided with a labelled recycling bin.
- All pupils and staff will be aware of Uttlesford's District Councils recycling policy and sort waste into the recycling bins as appropriate.
- Food waste and recycling bins will be available in the playground.
- Waste monitors will be appointed in every class room to ensure recycling is taking place.
- A member of staff will be designated to monitor waste recycling and report on areas where recycling is not effective.
- All garden waste will be used to make compost, leafmould or vermicompost to make soil improvers for the school garden. All children will be informed about these processes during eco club.
- Kitchen waste will be recycled into the school compost heap or wormery where appropriate. Remaining kitchen waste will be collected by the council as food waste.
- Children are encouraged to recycle books in the "Take and Donate" book scheme set up by the school council.
- The school will act as a recycling point for textiles, batteries and printer cartridges and will explore more recycling opportunities in the future.
- Every school fair will have a "Bring and Buy" sale to recycled unwanted toys, games, films and books.
- Wherever practical and cost effective, products made from recycled materials will be purchased by the school.

RESTORE

- Children will be encouraged to return any flora and fauna they investigate to their natural habitat.
- Any school environment disturbed by the development of school or neighbours infrastructure be returned to its previous use.

Policy Effectiveness

The effectiveness of this policy will be determined by:

- Observation of the behaviour of staff, children and parents at the school.
- Monitoring of gas, electricity and water consumption.
- Monitoring of litter picked up from the school grounds.
- The variety of wildlife observed and enjoyed within the school grounds.
- The contribution made by children to the school council and Eco Committee concerning the environmental impact of the schools activities.
- The pride taken by staff, children and families in the both the School's buildings and grounds as well as its spiritual conduct and ethos.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and all stakeholders will be given the opportunity to contribute towards its development.

It will be available to view on the schools web site. Parents are welcome to comment on it and exchange ideas at any time during the school year.