



Greenfields Primary School

GREENFIELDS SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
"KEEPING GREENFIELDS GREEN"

Approval

Signed by Head teacher / Chair	<i>Kate Day</i>
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Date of review	June 2023

Aims of this document

Greenfields Primary School is committed to educating its children about the importance of respecting the environment, locally and globally. The school recognises that it has a duty to prepare its children with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution to improving its local area of South Oxhey. We therefore aim to develop environmentally-conscious habits amongst children and staff alike.

This document provides direction for our school's activities and projects. It has been developed jointly by the school staff and governors. Its implementation and periodic updating will be monitored by the Governing Board. The document will be made available on the school website and parents / carers will be encouraged to provide their support in achieving its aims.

Curriculum

Environmental education is directly referred to in the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 in Science, Geography and PSHCE. At Greenfields Primary School, environmental protection is not taught in isolation, but is linked to many areas of the primary curriculum.

We will:

- Ensure that we teach the basic principles and practices for environmental protection
- Ensure that these practices are consistently followed by staff, children, parents and contractors whilst in the school.
- Use the school grounds, including the bio-dome and the wild area, as a source of teaching and creative learning opportunities for our children.
- Educate the children in the terms of Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, so that they understand the need for this ethos and become lifelong environmental champions.

Our Forest School provides additional opportunities for children from each year group to identify and participate in eco-friendly activities and projects. These children become our environmental ambassadors and share their learning / experiences with the rest of the school.

Control of School Consumables

We will aim to reduce the amount of paper and printing ink we use by:-

- Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Minimising the use of photocopies wherever possible.
- Filing photocopies for use at a later date.
- Where possible, laminate documents used frequently, especially outdoors.
- Where possible, ask pupils to share worksheets or put the work on the interactive whiteboards.
- Using appropriate text messaging services and smart phone apps to inform parents.

- Optimising the use of the school website for information / documentation.
- Providing each class with a labelled paper recycling bin.
- Distributing electronic pre-read documents for meetings, e.g. Governing Board.
- Investigate online assessment opportunities and adopt where possible.
- Reduce the laminating of unnecessary items.
- Using electronic communications between school and home and only providing paper copies where a response is needed.

Waste Management

We will collect and recycle waste as follows:

- Paper, cardboard, glass bottles/jars, cans, foil, rigid plastics, drinks/food containers and aerosols, as permitted for routine collection by the local authority (black wheelie bins).
- Food waste, also for routine collection by the local authority (brown food bins).
- Cartridges from computer ink and photocopiers, batteries and fluorescent light tubes will be collected and periodically sent to the local authority recycling centre.
- Redundant IT equipment will be removed for recycling by our IT contractor.
- Gardening waste will be collected by the local authority (brown garden waste bin) or composted.
- Fabrics / clothing materials by organised bi-annual collections
- Furniture repaired wherever possible and safe
- Encouraging the use of second hand uniform by holding sales and requesting donations from parents
- Working with other local schools to recycle equipment and furniture or selling on rather than sending to landfill.

Children and staff who bring packed lunches to school are encouraged to take home their waste for domestic recycling / disposal. We will introduce “Plastic-free days” and seek to extend the practice

Water

We will aim to minimise our use of mains supply water by:

- Not leaving taps running.
- Ensuring toilet timed flush systems are turned off when not required.
- Repairing / replacing leaking taps promptly.
- Using water butts where possible.

We will only use mains supply for drinking water and will not purchase bottled water unless for use off site on trips. Parents / carers will be discouraged from issuing single-use plastic drink bottles for their children in favour of reusable drink bottles.

Energy

The energy efficiency of the main building has been significantly improved by the recent replacement of all windows and doors in double glazed design, by complete replacement of the heating system, and by replacement of the fluorescent lighting in LED. To further improve performance we will submit a capital bid to HCC for the upgrading of the roof to an insulated design.

Additionally, we will:

- Continue to switch off lighting when not in use
- Continue to remind staff to switch off electrical equipment when not in use.
- Continue to remind staff and children to close doors, especially in the winter months or when H&S advice allows.

- Monitor utilisation of energy (cost of gas and electricity) as the projects referred to above come to fruition.

We will investigate the feasibility of installing solar panels within the school grounds. (The likelihood of any such scheme gaining planning permission, whether roof-mounted or ground-mounted, is probably low due to the Grade II listing of the school building and grounds. Additional problems with the roof-mounted option include the strength of the roof and maintaining access for roof repairs).

Chemicals

We will aim to:

- Ensure all cleaning and other chemicals used within the school are as environmentally-friendly as possible and are stored, used and disposed of using best practices.
- Use organic gardening methods, avoiding pesticides and chemical fertilisers.

Transport

We will:

- Continue to encourage parents /carers and children to walk or scoot / bike to school.
- Continue to restrict vehicular access into the school to justifiable cases for drop-off and pick-up.
- Continue to take part in cycling proficiency schemes.
- Encourage staff to share transport, or walk to work, where possible.
- Investigate/monitor the feasibility of installing charging points for electric vehicles in our car park.

Purchasing Policy

We will aim to:

- Check environmental standards of suppliers and contractors.
- Endeavour to purchase paper and other stationery that is recycled or from sustainable sources.
- Support local businesses for purchasing wherever possible.

The Outdoor Environment

The school has an excellent flat outdoor space of over 2 hectares, comprising hard surfaced play areas, but mostly grass and with 40 mature trees, largely surrounded by hedging. We are committed to maintaining this asset in good condition and as a natural habitat to many forms of wildlife which the children can study and enjoy.

We will:

- Plant additional fruit trees and plants to encourage wildlife
- Work with local charities to develop the outdoor learning spaces
- Use the bio-dome and surrounding area to grow flowers and vegetables from seed to attract birds and insects, and for use in the kitchen and for public display.