



**Woolgrove School
Special Needs Academy**

Sustainability Policy

Policy agreed by SLT

January 2025

Review date:

January 2028

Woolgrove 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 increasingly eco-friendly lifestyle.

We encourage 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 Woolgrove School 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;
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013;
- Sustainability and Climate Change: a strategy for education and children's services – December 2023.

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Holding senior leaders to account for environmental sustainability;
- Receiving reports on the school's energy usage;
- Receiving reports on the use of sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable (or reusable) cups for water rather than plastic.

Woolgrove School is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the value of environmental sustainability;
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers, and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations;
- Sharing good practice with pupils, parents/ carers, 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 Governors/School Leaders are 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 are aware of the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably, although overall responsibility for ensuring this would be via their employer;
- Ensuring that all staff understand their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

Teaching and learning staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons;
- Promoting recycling of waste materials in school;
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use;
- Wider reading or CPD on environmental sustainability.

School Site team (including the Admin Team) are responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed; ☐ Recording energy use and reporting any waste to senior leaders.

Woolgrove School will look to introduce an Eco Council consisting of pupils from different year groups. They meet at least each half term to discuss ideas and campaigns.

Notes from each meeting are recorded and ideas fed-back to the rest of the school and the wider community.

Sustainability Lead is responsible for:

- Monitoring any litter problems in school and raise awareness of any issues in the wider community;
- Promoting a litter-free environment to pupils;
- Discussing ways to recycle and avoid unnecessary waste;
- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school.

All pupils are responsible for:

- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school;
- Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running;
- Helping to keep our classrooms, school, and grounds clean and tidy;
- Trying to eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don't come in paper or plastic packaging;
- Using the right bins so that we can recycle and compost our waste where possible.

The policy encourages parents/carers to be responsible for:

- Promoting eco-friendly ways/ ideas at home;
- 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 (rather than written notes) as much as possible, to reduce paper waste;
- Using emails, the school's website and electronic newsletters 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 and only the amount of sheets needed;
- 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, only laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use; ♻ Recycling old IT equipment.
- Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles;
- Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school 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;
- Staff will encourage pupils to partake in weekly litter-picking around the school grounds, sometimes, where appropriate, extending into the local area;
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (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;
 - Interactive whiteboards.
- Senior leaders, in collaboration with IT support will find a suitable partner, to dispose of WEEE safely. IT support will contact the agreed contractor for more information and guidance, where necessary.
- Before disposal, IT support will ensure data is securely deleted or backed-up in accordance with the GDPR: Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

Littering

The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence.

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 with the cleanliness of the premises.

All staff have responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises.

Transport

- 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

School grounds

- The Senior Leadership Team 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.
- Energy saving lightbulbs, or more energy-efficient lighting will be used throughout each 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 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;

Sustainable farming

- We will teach pupils where food comes from as part of the PSHE/Food lessons, including giving them first-hand experience of growing their own fruit or vegetables;

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 where possible
- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors, and interactive white boards, when they're not in use;
- Site team to monitor the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly;
- 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;
- We will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight, for example, in the school foyer;
- We are committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions.

Emissions will be reduced by:

- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally-friendly around school;
- Promoting the benefits of recycling;
- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.

Sustainable procurement of goods

- We will attempt to ensure procurement is done in the most sustainable way;
- Our finance team will endeavour to ensure that produce bought is cost efficient and sourced from within the UK or locally where possible;

Curriculum

- We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within areas of our curriculum. Individual school curricular will outline how the topics are embedded.