



Spindle Point Primary School

Climate Action, Environmental and Sustainability Policy

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Overview

Spindle Point Primary School is committed to being a sustainable and environmentally friendly School. Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint and to implement practices which will help to create and foster an awareness and understanding of the environment for both pupils and staff and to encourage all members of our School community to recognise their role in tending to the future of the planet.

We recognise that we, as a School, have a duty to educate our pupils with the knowledge and skills to help to make environmentally friendly choices, and feel empowered by their positive role in helping to protect our world. As citizens of this world, our pupils will be taught to take an interest in and show respect and understanding of the environment and nature around them (both locally to them, and globally).

The way the School environment is managed and maintained should provide an example to pupils of how to respect and care for their environment. Wherever possible pupils and staff should be encouraged and expected to adopt sustainable practices.

Specific Policy Aims

- To minimise the procurement and use of non-renewable and environmentally unfriendly resources and to continue to review and improve practice.
- To encourage reduce, reuse and recycle practices throughout the whole School, running events in School to raise these values and the profile of sustainability.
- To raise awareness for pupils and staff about key environmental issues and ultimately encourage them to take an active role in environmental projects and to make environmentally friendly choices every day.
- To develop relationships with external organisations to promote environmentally friendly behaviour and to increase awareness, as a School, of our environment and how we can best protect it.
- Use a catering provider that sources (where possible) and uses seasonal and locally produced produce, and is committed to reduce food waste.

- To join the National green spaces 'Nature Park' initiative, and to continue to improve our school site to improve the biodiversity of our outside spaces and to incorporate outside learning where possible.
- To continue to demonstrate our commitment to being a sustainability-focused school, by continuing to be a part of the Eco-School programme.

Curriculum

- We aim to provide all pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum.
- We encourage children with a passion for helping the environment, to be a part of our School eco-team. These children have a key input in deciding and contributing to projects to benefit our School, and to ensure we are continuing to have a positive environmental impact.
- We are active members of the Eco School's programme. This is an international initiative that encourages pupils to engage with environmental and sustainability issues. It provides a highly structured system for the environmental management in Schools, and encourages us to monitor our impact on the environment as a School, to create an plan of action to maintain sustainability best practice and to involve the whole School and wider community in our environmental action. It also encourages us to continually monitor and evaluate the impact of our actions and eco-projects.

Inside the School buildings

Paper

- Staff are encouraged to use electronic devices or online resources where possible, instead of paper.
- Staff are asked to print double sided whenever possible, and to print only necessary pages/sections of documents.
- Staff and pupils are to re-use paper where possible, and all classrooms should use a 'scrap-paper tray' for children and staff to easily access.
- Staff and pupils are to use recycling bins for any paper that cannot be used as scrap paper.
- Staff, pupils and parents are asked to use email/text message service wherever possible, to transfer documents or communicate important information to avoid unnecessary printing.
- Newsletters and notices to be sent via email/online via the School website, where possible, to avoid unnecessary printing.

- Homework in Year 6 to be set online, using the Sats Companion application, to avoid unnecessary printing. Further platforms for younger year groups will be trialled as they become available.
- Try to reduce the use of paper towels with the costing of hand dryers in all bathrooms, where possible. Reduction in size of paper towels still in use (by 50%).

Computers

- Staff and pupils are asked to ensure all computers, screens, printers, smart boards and projectors are turned off after last use of the day.
- Where possible, School electronic equipment has energy saving mode activated so that when not in use they are using less electricity.

Lighting

- Staff and pupils are asked (and reminded) to turn off lights whenever they are not in use.
- Energy efficient LED lights have been installed.
- New classroom lights set to sensors which turn off when classrooms are empty.

Water

- Remind children to turn off taps with notices in bathrooms.
- Raise and establish awareness of simple actions that can cut down on water use (both in School and at home).
- Use water storage butts to conserve rainwater for plants on site.

Energy

- Energy consumption to be monitored and evaluated each year and official signage displayed.
- Make all members of the School community aware of the link between energy use and financial cost and impact on environment.
- Identify and implement effective energy saving measures where possible and reasonably practicable.
- Consider and investigate the use of alternative sources of energy, and implement if possible.

- Ensure all future new build and refurbishment buildings are built with environmental concern (where financially possible). For example, energy efficiency being taken into account.
- New LED lighting recently installed is energy efficient.

Recycling

- Recycling to be promoted in the classroom (as part of behaviour and also educationally), in assemblies, and also through the School newsletter.
- Paper recycling boxes to be easily accessible and encouraged to be used in every classroom.
- Recycling provisions to be provided in the staff room (paper, plastic, metal and glass).
- Encourage pupils to reduce their consumption of plastic wrapped snacks in School lunches and for break time, in preference for reusable or biodegradable packaging.
- Children to bring in reusable water bottles for use in School.

Books, Equipment and Uniform

- Encourage parents to use Spindle Point Primary School's PTFA reuse and swap group for getting rid of unwanted School uniform, toys and books.
- Run second hand swap or charity events throughout the year to allow parents to get rid of or swap unwanted items (for example books and clothes) during school PTFA events.
- Redundant equipment refurbished and reused where possible or disposed of appropriately where necessary.

Outside of the School buildings and in the wider community

Transport

- The School will raise awareness of the impact of car transport on the environment, and encourage parents and children to walk to School where possible.
- Raise awareness of (and try to reduce) the dangers of car pollution and idling cars on the environment and health of our School students, staff, parents and visitors.
- Provide adequate and safe facilities for pupils and staff cycling and scooting to School.

- Encourage staff to use public transport, car share, or walk/cycle to work when possible.
- Introduce staff 'cycle to work scheme' to encourage reduction of car transport to and from work.
- Run the 'Walking Bus Initiative' at least once per year.

Litter

- All members of the School community to be encouraged to be involved in helping to prevent and clear litter from the School grounds.
- Children to be educated about the impacts of litter, and to regard litter clearing as positive environmental action, to help foster a sense of pride in their School, and responsibility for their environment.
- Regular litter picking scheduled as part of student council and eco-team duties.

School grounds

- The School is to use the School grounds as a source of teaching and learning opportunity for pupils.
- School habitats are used by pupils to study flora and fauna and habitats.
- Develop areas of biodiversity and areas to support and encourage wildlife within the School grounds.

Review and monitoring of policy and sustainability practices

The School's sustainability lead will monitor our sustainability practices throughout the year, and report annually to the Head Teacher and Governors.