

# Environmental Policy



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# Environmental Policy

## Introduction

The Governing Body of Highfield School is committed to encouraging the best possible environmental practices in order to control and reduce the school's direct impact on the environment.

## Aims and Objectives

It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax.

In order to do this, we will:

- Consider the environmental impact of activities and the carbon footprint they create, and use these considerations to inform decisions on school purchasing and activities.
- Follow the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle as far as is practically possible.
- Ensure that environmental concerns and considerations are taught across the curriculum, to develop a sound base of knowledge, understanding and skills that children will need to make sense of environmental issues.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to **reduce** the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, **recycle** and **re-use** materials wherever possible, **restore** what is deemed to have been destroyed and **respect** our neighbours and our environment.

## Current Activities

### Reduce

- Switch off lights when they are not in use.
- Switch off equipment when it is not in use.
- Turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
- Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Parental text message, website or Class Dojo message as an alternative to letters home.

### Re-use

- Compost straw and hay from the animal unit.
- Compost gardening waste.
- Folders and files re-used instead of buying new.
- Highfield School will try to find uses for donated materials. Where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it.
- Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.

### Recycle

- Paper and card are recycled, collected fortnightly by the Local Council.
- Fluorescent tubes are collected by CEF as and when required.
- Batteries are collected and disposed in a local battery recycle bin.
- Unclaimed lost property is recycled at the end of the academic year.

### Restore

- We have a wildlife and pond area on the site for children to investigate and explore living things and their habitats.

- Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.
- Areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will if possible be restored to its original condition.
- Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.

### **Respect**

- Our first and most important school rule is that we will respect one another. This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.
- We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.

### **Outdoor Environment**

Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. These grounds are the one external environment to which all children have regular access, and for some of our children, they provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They may provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play.

Highfield School has a substantial number of trees, a wildlife area, a pond area, two animal units and multiple horticulture areas.

### **National Curriculum Environmental**

The following activities take place to support the school environmental impact policy:

- Environmental awareness delivered through Geography.
- Environmental awareness delivered via Citizenship.
- Horticulture BTec.
- Animal Care BTec.

### **Planning**

- Examine cost/budgetary savings through reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Increase in recycling points across the school.
- Publicise available means of recycling.
- Examine other means of recycling e.g. mobile phones, photocopier cartridges.
- Reduce use of disposable items.