

Environmental Sustainability Policy



North Road Academy, North Road Centre For Exceptional Children & North Road Nursery

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Statement of intent

At **North Road Academy, North Road Nursery, and North Road Centre for Exceptional Children** we are 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 eco-friendly lifestyle.

We encourage both 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 the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

1. 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
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Behavioural Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Health and Safety Policy

1. Roles and responsibilities

The school is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations.
- Sharing good practice with pupils, parents 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 headteacher is 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 understand the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably.
- Ensuring that the ground workers understand their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

The board of directors is responsible for:

- Monitoring and reviewing the school's energy usage.
- Identifying, with the site manager, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this, such as installing motion sensor lights.
- Checking the environmental standards of suppliers and contractors.
- Ensuring equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.
- Ensuring the heating systems are monitored daily by the site manager to ensure the school remains at a comfortable temperature but does not exceed 23°C.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers are turned off when not in use.

The site manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the governing board.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school.
- Walking or cycling to school, when possible.
- Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running.

Parents are responsible for:

- Promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle at home.
- Encouraging children to walk or cycle to school, when possible.
- Recycling at home and ensuring that their children understand how to recycle.
- Reinforcing the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

2. 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 as much as possible, to reduce paper waste.
- Using emails, the school's website and parent text messaging procedures 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.
- 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, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.

We will ensure that there are drinking water taps available for pupils to drink from and refill their water bottles.

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 and pupils, staff and parents will be encouraged to use them at various times during the day, i.e disposing of waste packing from food items at break and lunch.

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 in the confidentiality waste bins located in designated areas within the school.

3. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

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
- Projectors

- Scanners
- Interactive whiteboards

The headteacher, in collaboration with the ICT technician, will find a suitable local partner, e.g. a producer of EEE that manufactures and sells EEE under their own brand, to dispose of WEEE safely. The headteacher will contact the LA for more information and guidance, where necessary.

Before choosing a partner to dispose of WEEE, the ICT technician and DPO review the potential partner's risk assessments and procedures to determine whether the school's WEEE and any data stored will be handled and disposed of correctly.

Once a partner is selected and WEEE is ready to be removed from the school, the ICT technician will undertake a risk assessment in collaboration with the partner to ensure all EEE is removed safely and securely from the school.

WEEE which hold personal data, or data the school needs to fulfil legal obligations, e.g. relating to safeguarding, are reviewed by the DPO to ensure the data is no longer needed or has been backed-up. Data is securely deleted or backed-up in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

4. Littering

The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. It also understands that fines may be incurred where individuals deliberately litter the premises.

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 the site manager with the cleanliness of the premises.

The site manager takes overall responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises. The site manager arranges and coordinates waste disposal from the premises and ensures that items are disposed of correctly.

To mitigate risks of littering, the school implements the following procedures:

- Designated eating areas – pupils and staff are only permitted to eat in the lunch hall and in the playground to prevent unwanted litter. Eating can take place within the classroom when there is an event taking place in the school i.e end of term party however all litter should be disposed of correctly.
- Regular emptying of bins - the cleaning staff empty the bins throughout the school everyday at the end of the school day where necessary. Staff are encouraged to inform the cleaning staff if their bin needs emptying especially

after a class activity where rubbish has accumulated. Where cleaning staff are not available to do this staff are encouraged to empty their own classroom bin.

- Positive incentive for pupils - to encourage pupils to dispose of their rubbish correctly pupils are rewarded through the use of Dojo points and classroom reward systems.
- Waste disposal – bins are provided throughout the school, with additional bins provided in eating areas and in every classroom and bathroom, to ensure sufficient availability for waste disposal.

The school raises awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through dedicated assemblies, PSHE lessons, staff training days and additional resources, such as leaflets and posters.

Any individual found littering will be disciplined in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Any staff found to be littering will be disciplined in accordance with the school's Staff Code of Conduct.

Cases of littering by parents or visitors will be handled in accordance with the relevant code of conduct, and the individual may be barred from the premises.

Any individual known to have littered the premises will be required to dispose of the litter correctly.

5. Transport

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, where possible.

The benefits of daily exercise, such as walking to school when possible, will be promoted throughout the school.

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.

We recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, we will organise road safety lessons in PSHE.

6. School grounds

The board of directors 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. introducing motion sensitive lights.

Energy saving light bulbs will be used throughout the school alongside motion-sensor LED light panels.

The board of directors will monitor heating within the school, assessing whether it is at an appropriate temperature and frequency and adjusting it accordingly.

When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts and the board of directors will consult an expert.

2. 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, for example, walking instead of driving.

We will ensure pupils get at least 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day, in line with NHS recommendations.

3. Sustainable farming and fishing

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

We will organise educational visits to food suppliers and producers to aid pupils' understanding as to where food comes from.

School meals will be designed with due regard to seasonal produce and locally sourced food.

Where possible, we will approach local food suppliers for their produce to be used in school meals.

Pupils will be taught about the importance of sustainable fishing and farming, and any fish products used in school meals will be sustainably sourced.

4. 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 and installing draught excluders so that warm air is retained.
- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors and interactive white boards, when they're not in use.

- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the site manager.
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term.
- Implementing reward systems for staff and pupils who comply with the school's energy saving ethos – to raise awareness and prevent wasteful energy usage.
- Upgrading the school's heating system to a modern, more efficient system, including a smart meter, to reduce emissions.
- Switching to high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP) (HE CHP) or CHP based on renewable energy sources, or gas-fired CHP only.
- Increasing the share of electricity from renewable energy sources or biomass.
- 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.
- Monitoring the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjusting procurement arrangements accordingly.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.
- Appointing an individual, e.g. the site manager, to ensure that these measures are carried out.

5. Reducing carbon emissions

We are committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Implementing a rewards system for pupils and/or staff who reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling or taking public transport to school.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.
- Promoting the benefits of recycling.
- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.

We will communicate with our LA and other schools to enhance our provisions and continue to develop and implement best practice within the school.

6. Sustainable procurement of goods

We will devote our time to ensuring all product procurement is done in the most sustainable way.

We will dedicate a team to purchasing, this will include the SLM, the catering manager and the headteacher; they will be responsible for creating an inventory of current stock and ensuring that orders are not processed with unnecessary purchases listed on them.

The purchasing team will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient, sourced from within the UK where possible and bought from a company with an energy efficient ethos.

We will avoid buying branded products where quality is not compromised.

We will obtain contracts with suppliers that stipulate their terms of purchase, paying particular regard to pricing, quality and their returns policy.

Paper

The school is committed to:

- Purchasing paper that is produced through a process of low energy consumption and emissions.
- Avoiding certain substances in paper production, e.g. bleach.
- Purchasing paper based on recycled paper or paper based on sustainability harvested virgin fibre.
- Ensuring that manufacturers state 'ecological responsibility' wherever possible.
- Ensuring that the paper is, at a minimum, Elementary Chlorine Free (ECF) or Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).

Lighting

The school is committed to:

- Using lighting controls to reduce energy consumption.
- Replacing light bulbs with low energy alternatives.
- At the installation stage, ensuring the system works energy efficiently.
- Promoting the use of lamps with low mercury content.
- Recycling all waste products appropriately.

Transport

The school is committed to:

- Purchasing low emission vehicles (GHG, other exhaust gases and noise).
- Procuring environmentally friendly tyres and regenerated lubricant oils.
- Ensuring the correct collection and management of used lubricant oils and tyres.
- Purchasing environmentally friendlier fuels.

Office equipment

The school is committed to:

- Buying energy efficient models.

- Buying products which have a low impact on the environment through their life cycle.
- Buying recyclable products with a long lifespan and recyclable packaging.
- Buying products with a restricted amount of hazardous material.
- Buying products with restricted noise emissions.

Furniture

The school is committed to:

- Buying furniture that is produced with environmentally friendly material and processes.
- Using materials which are partly or wholly made from recycled/renewable materials.
- Making sure that all furniture purchased is repairable and recyclable.
- Purchasing timber from legal and sustainable managed forests.
- Ensuring that packaging material is based on renewable raw materials and can be suitably recycled.
- Avoiding possibly hazardous substances in both production and surface treatment.

Food and catering

The school is committed to:

- Purchasing organic food or food from partly organic sources.
- Purchasing livestock products with high welfare standards.
- Purchasing seasonable products.
- Purchasing marine products which are sustainably produced.
- Making sure the cutlery, crockery, tablecloths and glassware used are recyclable.
- Purchasing locally produced products and promoting local purchasing to parents.
- Making sure the kitchen appliances procured are water and energy efficient.

Cleaning products

The school is committed to:

- Using products produced in the UK.
- Using the recommended amounts of products and minimising use where possible.
- Using products which can be used at lower temperatures.
- Minimising the use of hazardous chemicals in cleaning and dishwashing products.
- Avoiding phosphorous and limiting biocides.
- Making sure that packaging made from recyclable materials is recycled.
- Purchasing sprays without propellants.
- Ensuring that no substances in products are identified as 'volatile organic compounds'.

Gardening products

The school is committed to:

- Buying peat-free products.
- Buying products which come in packages which are compostable, recyclable or biodegradable.
- Buying organically produced plants.
- Using alternative methods of pest control to pesticides.
- Using low-noise, low-emission and low-consumption machinery.

Textiles

The school is committed to:

- Buying materials with an EU organic logo or the international gold standard for organic textiles.
- Buying fair trade textiles.
- Ensuring that clothes or materials purchased contain natural fibres or organic cotton.
- Buying textiles with lower residues of substances harmful to human health.
- Buying textiles with a reduced use of environmentally harmful substances in production.
- Buying textiles/materials that can be reused or which have been previously used.
- Reusing purchased items, e.g. uniforms, ties, and school bags.

7. Curriculum

We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum.

Science:

- Pupils will be taught about how animal extinction can impact ecosystems.
- Pupils will be taught about how deforestation and loss of habitat can impact species.

Geography:

- Pupils will engage in discussions about windmills and other sustainable energy sources, outlining the advantages and disadvantages.
- Pupils will be given case studies to analyse, such as looking into the effectiveness of sea defences.

English literature:

- Pupils will be given nature poetry to read, assessing how the environment is depicted and the implications of these depictions.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher, SENCO and Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with the board of directors. Any changes made to the policy will be amended by the headteacher and will be communicated to all members of staff and stakeholders. All new and existing staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction and annual re-introduction programme and refer to it when necessary.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is 01/09/2026.