



POLICY FOR ECO-SCHOOL

Pickhurst Academy

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Reviewed:

Eco-School Coordinator: Jennie McCaughin



Document Purpose

This policy document sets out the school's aims, principles and strategies for Eco-School. The children, staff, parents and governors of Pickhurst Academy are committed to developing their care of the environment. We realise the importance of caring for the environment both for current and future generations. We aim for this policy to become a fundamental part of the school's culture and clearly demonstrate that the school is taking seriously its role as part of the wider and global community. We take very seriously our responsibility to keep our school free of litter, reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill and increase the amount of materials we recycle.

Audience

This policy document, having been presented to and agreed upon by the whole staff, is distributed to all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff and the Governing Body. It will also be available on the school's shared drive system.

Our eco-intent:

Our aim is for the whole school community to be involved in reducing the impact we have on the environment both local and global. Within our commitment to being eco-friendly we provide the opportunities for the pupils and the wider community to be curious and critical thinkers who ask questions in order to challenge the status quo and improve our environment.

At Pickhurst Academy, we believe in being eco-friendly and following the three R's:

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle



Implementation of our commitment to the environment:

- Gardening materials are put into compost bins whenever possible.
- We monitor the amount of paper used for photocopying and printing and we reuse paper when we can.
- Each class is provided with a recycling bin specifically for paper. These can also be found in all offices.
- Each class has an energy monitor who switches the lights off, turns the interactive whiteboard off and closes any doors/windows when the room is empty. The eco-warriors then carry out a regular classroom inspection and give each classroom an energy rating.
- We ask staff to ensure that any electrical equipment is shut down when not in use.
- We promote the protection of marine life by using sustainable fish in the school kitchen and we no longer purchase non-environmentally friendly glitter. By the end of Summer 2022 we will have created a mural of an endangered marine animal using plastic bottle lids.
- We ensure that regular environmental education is undertaken in our school, with workshops and projects run to ensure knowledge and awareness amongst students and the wider community – for example, walk to school initiatives.
- We encourage cycling to school through cycling proficiency schemes. Cycle racks have been built for staff and children both in the main and back entrance.
- Where car use is unavoidable, we encourage car sharing for staff and parents bringing pupils to school as well as encouraging parking further away and walking the final section of the school journey, where possible.
- We have a dedicated Eco-Warrior team who collect the paper recycling on a weekly basis and promote the environmental message in their classrooms.



Our Eco-Warriors:

Our Eco-Warriors are elected by their class and they attend meetings to discuss their roles and ways of making Pickhurst Academy eco-friendlier. They regularly monitor the energy use in school, litter pick in the playground, encourage the recycling of as much waste as possible and think of new ways the school can be more sustainable. They actively promote environmental awareness throughout the school and have regular discussions with their class.

Role of the Eco-School Coordinator:

- Coordinate the creation of an Eco-Committee each academic year.
- Facilitate Eco-Committee meetings (minimum once every two weeks).
- Oversee the implementation of the Eco-Schools process methodology including:
 - o Conducting an annual environmental review of the school
 - o Creating an action plan
 - o Implementing the monitoring of actions
 - o Evaluating the impacts of actions
 - o Creating or reviewing an Eco Code for the school
 - o Recording evidence of actions undertaken
- Facilitate communication with various members of school community (teaching staff, office staff, site management, parents etc.) and coordinate involvement where applicable.
- Collate evidence highlighting the application of the Eco-Schools seven step process within school.
- Complete online application for Eco-Schools Green Flag award (every two years).
- Although the Eco-Schools Coordinator acts as the point of contact for setting up and maintaining the Eco-Schools programme at the school, there is a



requirement for members of the senior management team and other members of staff to engage with the Eco-Schools programme and provide a network of support for its long-term success.

Impact:

Working together, with perseverance and determination, we can make our school and the world in which we live a better place – this is the impact that as a school we are determined to have on our environment. Pupils will gain a far greater understanding of the impact of their actions on the environment and the importance of individuals' choices. The children are empowered to be proactive in their actions and have the courage to stand up for their beliefs and values, through this pupils will develop their critical thinking.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall